

Department of War: Trump Reveals America's True Face



Iran to join other BRICS countries for naval drills in South African waters

TEHRAN – The Iranian Navy is poised to play a crucial role in safeguarding global maritime security as it joins other BRICS nations for a major naval exercise hosted by South Africa.

Captain Hassan Maqsoodlou, commander of the Iranian Navy's First Naval District, affirmed Iran's commitment to the "Will for Peace" initiative during a preparatory briefing in Cape Town. He emphasized the Islamic Republic's dedication to fostering unity and solidarity amongst friendly nations.

Maqsoodlou highlighted the vital role of BRICS in promoting both economic and strategic cooperation, underscoring that the joint naval exercise aims to solidify maritime security as a bedrock for global economic stability. This participation further cements Iran's position as a key player in ensuring the safety of vital international shipping lanes.

No clash with neighbors unless they plot against us, Iranians tell senior Iraqi cleric

TEHRAN – Iran's Judiciary Chief, Hojjatolislam Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje'i, emphasized on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic maintains peaceful relations with all neighboring countries, including those occasionally aligned with Israel, but warned that Tehran will take decisive action against any nation that engages in conspiracies against Iran's security or sovereignty.

How Trump's 'drug war' masks his drive for war against Venezuela

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In the choppy seas of international intrigue, truth can sink faster than a targeted vessel. When the U.S. military destroyed a 12-meter "flipper" speedboat off Venezuela, killing all 11 aboard, President Trump hailed it as a strike against "a Venezuelan criminal organization tied to Maduro." Scratch the surface, though, and it looks less like justice than premeditated aggression.

Reporting from El Pitazo undermines the U.S. narrative: the boat, with four 200-hp engines, left San Juan de Unare for Trinidad and Tobago — a corridor for fishermen and migrants.

Eight of the dead were locals; three were from nearby towns, including the owner's son. The owner tracked the vessel by GPS and was unsure whether the cargo was drugs. Two other boats reportedly carried narcotics along the same route that night without U.S. interference.

Israel's strikes on Gaza City towers underscore policy of forced displacement

By staff writer

TEHRAN – More than 700 days into Israel's war on Gaza, Palestinian civilians continue to bear the brunt of relentless airstrikes, siege, and starvation.

Gaza's Health Ministry reported on Saturday that over 80 people were killed and hundreds wounded in the past 24 hours as Israeli bombardment ravaged the besieged enclave.

Among the dead were nearly 20 Palestinians who had been attempting to collect desperately needed aid, bringing the total number killed while seeking humanitarian relief to more than 2,350.

The ministry also confirmed that six people, including a child, died of hunger on Saturday alone. This raised the death toll from Israel's famine-induced starvation policy in Gaza to 382 since the war began. Overall, Israel's assault has killed 64,231 Palestinians and wounded 161,583 since October 7, 2023.

Israelis make mass arrests of Palestinian civilians as leverage

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Investigation reveals the majority of Palestinians kidnapped after October 2023 are civilians with no affiliation to Hamas or any resistance movement.

A joint investigation by the Guardian, +972 Magazine, and Local Call reveals that the majority of Palestinians kidnapped by the Israeli occupation regime from Gaza are civilians, not resistance fighters, and many are being held to pressure Hamas in ceasefire talks.

According to Israeli military intelligence, only 1 in 4 detainees are classified as a suspected resistance fighter. In May 2025, 6,000 Palestinians had been imprisoned under the regime's "unlawful combatants" law, yet only 1,450 appeared in the Israeli military's own database of suspected Palestinian fighters.

The rest includes teachers, doctors, journalists, civil servants, children, and the elderly, all held without charges, trials, or evidence. One prisoner, 82-year-old Fahamiya al-Khalidi, was kidnapped along with her caregiver in Gaza City and imprisoned for six weeks despite suffering from Alzheimer's.

Exports from mining sector exceeds \$4.1b in 4 months

TEHRAN – Exports from Iran's mining sector reached \$4.132 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22).

The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced the export of \$4.1 billion worth of products from the mining and mining industries sector during the first four months of this year.

According to IRNA's report from IMIDRO, during the mentioned four-month, 23,774,263 tons of various products from the mining and mining industries sector, valued at \$4.132 billion, were exported. This figure for the same period last year was 20,895,068 tons, valued at \$4.319 billion.

A comparison of these statistics indicates an approximately 14 percent increase in tonnage and a four percent decrease in export value.

Iran says calls from Japan and Australia for diplomacy 'hypocritical'

TEHRAN – The Iranian Embassy in Tokyo has harshly criticized Japan and Australia for a recent joint statement from the two nations' foreign ministers, which contained "biased," "unacceptable," and "hypocritical" remarks about Iran.

The diplomatic rebuke comes in response to a clause in the Australia-Japan joint statement that said Iran must "comply with its nuclear safeguards obligations. It must restore full IAEA access, address concerns about its nuclear stockpile and enrichment, and return to negotiations." The statement did not mention Western sanctions against Iran, nor the dangerous US-Israeli airstrikes that hit Iran's nuclear sites in June and derailed ongoing talks between Tehran and Washington.



Will the Lebanese government continue on the path of rationality?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — In Lebanon's political history, no cabinet session has garnered as much international and Arab attention as the one on September 5th that will probably shape Lebanon's future. It will determine whether the country is heading toward a settlement, chaos, or somewhere in between, like the current situation.

At the beginning of the session, the five Shiite ministers withdrew as Army Commander General Rodolphe Heikal began to discuss the army's plan to disarm Hezbollah. The ministers considered the plan based on the cabinet decision as "invalid and contrary to the national charter."

Exclusive Interview

Europe has become a 'vassal' of US in Iran policy, says Norwegian professor



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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.

The future Board of Governors meeting: the path to a resolution or interaction?

Shargh analyzed the new reports expected to be released by the International Atomic Energy Agency as well as the political behavior of its director general Rafael Grossi. It wrote: With only a few days left until the new Board of Governors meeting, all eyes are on Grossi's behavior and the stance of Western countries. If the mid-June model is repeated, we will likely witness coordinated efforts to issue a censure resolution or apply more diplomatic pressure against Iran. However, some analysts believe that Grossi and his Western supporters are contemplating two approaches: On one hand, by presenting a worrying report and raising new technical claims, they are preparing the ground for more political pressure on Iran; and on the other hand, they are keeping diplomatic channels open so that, if necessary, they can use an agreement or negotiation as a bargaining tool. Overall, the recent behavior of the IAEA Director General and some Western countries shows that the upcoming meeting could be the starting point for a new phase of pressure; a stage in which the Iran nuclear issue will once again be used as a tool for political pressure both regionally and globally. This wrong cycle will continue unless the parties return to the path of technical and professional interactions instead of making media and political hypes.

Etemad: Diplomatic power after the Russian proposal

In an interview with Dr. Majid Mohammad Sharifi, an expert on international affairs, Etemad discussed with him the Russian proposal after the European troika activated the snapback sanctions against Iran. Sharifi said: The act of activating the snapback is more political in nature than it is based on legal arguments. In such circumstances, the success of this action depends on diplomatic power and persuading other countries to join the international sanctions against Iran. The Russian proposal and the arguments put forward by China can also have a legal basis. Similarly, Iran's argument that the European action is illegitimate may also be defensible from a legal point of view. This is especially relevant after the U.S. and Israeli military attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities. The Russian proposal, while legally sound, is highly dependent on political factors. Russia's ability to persuade other countries, including China, to disregard international sanctions against Iran appears to be very difficult. Therefore, it is unlikely that Russia will have sufficient diplomatic power to garner broad

Leader's advisor says Trump following Hitler's path

TEHRAN – Ali Akbar Velayati, Senior Advisor on International Affairs to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has likened the U.S. President Donald Trump's recent foreign policies to the aggressive actions of Adolf Hitler prior to World War II, warning that history may be repeating itself.

Velayati said political analysts see Trump as pursuing a path previously tested by Hitler, who had intimidated the Western world with the outbreak of World War II in 1939. "At that time, England, France, and Italy were among the most powerful nations, yet all were intimidated by Hitler's expansionist strategies." According to Velayati, Trump is following a similar path without learning from past mistakes, a course unlikely to end favorably.

He cited Trump's Alaska Agreement, concluded without consulting Western allies, as an example of unilateralism that backfired, noting that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit quickly revealed the limitations of his approach. Trump's public congratulation of Putin, Xi Jinping, and Kim Jong-un for their stand against the United States highlighted the shifting global balance of power, Velayati said, while he hailed the SCO summit as one of the most significant international gatherings in recent history.

Velayati criticized Trump's treatment of

support from other countries in the face of international sanctions.

Khorassan: Israel and the weapon of terror!

In an analysis, Khorassan analyzed Israel's behavior in the region and the views of regional government leaders: After Israel attacked Iran in June, this regime will try to use the weapon of terror more extensively at different levels in every future war with Iran, and may wait for ripe conditions to carry out "major assassinations" and resume war. The act of Israel to start a war against Iran and its fighter jets fly over the skies of the Persian Gulf and Tehran and assassinate senior military officials will make the leaders of the regional countries more cautious towards Tel Aviv and more inactive than ever before. This will push the regional rulers more than ever towards adopting conservative policies and avoiding any risk. On the other hand, if this situation continues, it will give Israel with more opportunities in the region in the future. And if the regime is not controlled or restrained, a major event such as normalization between Israel and other countries will likely occur in the future without any concessions.

Hamshahri: The importance of Araghchi trip to Doha

In a note, Hamshahri discussed the importance of Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi's trip to Doha, Qatar. The paper said: The recent visit of the Iranian Foreign Minister to Qatar once again demonstrated Tehran's adherence to diplomatic approaches in a situation where the United States and the European troika, with their recent hostile actions, have proven that they not only show commitment to their negotiating slogans, but also create obstacles in this path. The activation of the snapback sanctions by France, Germany, and England and the disclosure of the U.S. government's attempt to impose restrictions on the Iranian delegation during its attendance at the UN General Assembly in New York in the coming days are the latest manifestations of the Western parties' lack of adherence to diplomatic approaches. This is while the U.S. and European governments are trying to throw the nuclear negotiations ball into Iran's court by creating a multifaceted atmosphere. In such a situation, the recent visit of Abbas Araghchi to Qatar was of particular importance in various aspects. Nuclear negotiations with Europe and bilateral relations between Tehran and Doh were among the main topics of the consultations in Qatar.

European allies, describing it as humiliating and dismissive, and suggested that his attempts to recreate a bipolar world akin to the post-Yalta order were increasingly ineffective. He drew parallels to Hitler, noting that Trump's disregard for established agreements and international norms echoes the actions of the German dictator before the outbreak of the Second World War.

The advisor emphasized that Iran, along with China and Russia, now plays a central role in shaping global affairs. He said the SCO summit demonstrated the growing influence of these independent powers and their ability to maintain sovereignty while countering unilateral U.S. actions. Iran, in particular, has proven its strength through regional actions, including its response in the 12-day conflict with Israel, showing both strategic capability and resolve.

Reflecting on the broader implications, Velayati said the world is moving toward a multipolar order, with the SCO and BRICS countries shaping the future. He stressed that Iran's cohesion, strong leadership, and strategic vision position it to play a decisive role in this emerging global landscape. Drawing on historical examples from the holy Qur'an and Persian history, he highlighted continuity in leadership, justice, and the pursuit of peace, portraying Iran as a steadfast and influential actor in a rapidly changing world.

No clash with neighbors unless they plot against us, Iranians tell senior Iraqi cleric



Seyyed Ammar Hakim met separately with Iran's Security Chief Ali Larijani (L), and Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje'i (R) in Tehran on September 6, 2025.

TEHRAN – Iran's Judiciary Chief, Hojatoleslam Gholamhossein Mohseni Eje'i, emphasized on Tuesday that the Islamic Republic maintains peaceful relations with all neighboring countries, including those occasionally aligned with Israel, but warned that Tehran will take decisive action against any nation that engages in conspiracies against Iran's security or sovereignty.

During an official visit to Tehran, Seyyed Ammar Hakim, head of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, met with Iran's Judiciary Chief, Hojatoleslam Mohseni Eje'i. In the meeting, Eje'i highlighted the steadfast ties between Tehran and Baghdad, noting that recent regional developments demonstrate the determination of enemies opposed to a strong and advanced Islamic presence.

"Iran has never been the initiator of war and will not be, but we will never submit to the dominance of hegemonic powers or accept imposed pressures," Eje'i said. He cited Iran's performance during the recent 12-day conflict with Israel as proof of the country's resilience and growing regional influence. "The aggressors assumed that this confrontation would cripple Iran, but our strength was on full display, earning respect across the world," he added.

Eje'i emphasized that Iran's foreign policy is guided by dialogue backed with strength. "We are willing to hear others,

even adversaries, but we will never accept threats or coercive demands. Our stance is firm: no imposed war, no imposed peace." He stressed that Iran maintains strong relations with all neighboring countries, including those occasionally aligned with adversarial powers, unless these nations engage in conspiracies against Tehran.

Hakim praised Iran's role in the recent regional conflict, noting that the 12-day Israeli attack failed to weaken the Islamic Republic and instead reinforced its leadership in West Asia. "The Zionist regime's aggression confirms that Iran was correct in labeling Israel a destabilizing force in the region," Hakim said. He also highlighted the historical, cultural, and economic links between Iran and Iraq, stressing the potential to expand bilateral cooperation.

Supreme National Security Council head calls for closer ties with Iraq

Separately, Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, held discussions with Hakim focusing on strategic cooperation and regional stability. Larijani described Iraq as a strong and friendly neighbor and called for expanding tangible, wide-ranging bilateral cooperation in light of ongoing global developments.

"The current dynamic status quo requires that Iran-Iraq



cooperation be more objective and concrete," Larijani said, highlighting joint efforts to strengthen security and economic ties. The officials also reviewed recent hostilities, including Israel's June 13 attack on Iran, which targeted senior commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians, and the U.S. bombings of Iranian nuclear sites on June 22.

Hakim described the Zionist regime's aggression as a miscalculation that ultimately enhanced Iran's power and prestige. He praised Iran's response, including missile and drone strikes and Operation True Promise III, which led to a unilateral truce by Israel on June 24. Both sides stressed that Tehran and Baghdad are committed to coordinated security, legal, and judicial cooperation, aiming to bolster regional stability and strengthen mutual resilience against external threats.

Ammar Hakim pays tribute to the late Founder of the Islamic Republic

Hakim also visited the mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Saturday to pay his respects. During the visit, Hakim also met with Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, the grandson of the late leader.

Speaking after the visit, Hakim praised the solidarity shown by both Shia and Sunni Muslims

with Iran during the recent 12-day war against Israel. He said Muslims across the region have demonstrated that "because of their deep-rooted hatred for the Zionist regime, they support any country that defends itself against Israel and resists its aggression."

The Iraqi politician emphasized that the war had not only united the Iranian nation but also dispelled longstanding accusations of sectarianism leveled against the Islamic Republic in the wider Muslim world. "The recent conflict has proven that Iran's stance transcends sectarian lines and has brought together Muslims of all denominations," Hakim said.

He also pointed to Iran's rapid recovery from the initial shock of Israel's assault, highlighting the damage inflicted on the regime's air defense systems and the surprise effect of Iranian missile capabilities. "Having suffered defeat in these areas, the Zionists are now attempting to create unrest inside Iran," he warned.

Hakim described Iran as the "frontline stronghold of the Islamic world," stressing that the security of the wider region depends on Iran's strength in the face of Israeli aggression. "Countries across the region now understand that if Iran is weakened in this confrontation, the entire region will ultimately bear the cost," he added.

Western silence on Israel's nuclear arsenal undermines non-proliferation: Araghchi



Satellite photo provided by Planet Labs PBC shows the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center near Dimona in the occupied territories, on July 5, 2025.

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has criticized the European troika and the United States for losing credibility on non-proliferation, noting their silence as Israel intensifies construction at its nuclear site in Dimona.

Araghchi made the remarks Friday in a post on his X account, following satellite imagery analyses showing accelerated work on a major new structure at

the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center. Experts suggest the facility could be either a new reactor or a site for assembling nuclear weapons, renewing long-standing concerns over Israel's undisclosed nuclear arsenal.

"This Western hysteria over nuclear proliferation in West Asia is all fluff," Araghchi wrote. "The issue is not the existence or growth of atomic weapons arsenals; it is about who is allowed to advance scientifically, even

with peaceful nuclear programs." He criticized the "deafening Western silence" over "the only nuclear weapons arsenal in our region—the nukes held by their genocidal ally." Araghchi added that the E3—Britain, France, and Germany—and the United States "may be in denial, but their silence undermines any credibility they claim on non-proliferation."

Satellite images captured on July 5 by Planet Labs PBC show significant construction at the

site, including thick concrete retaining walls and what appear to be multiple underground floors, with cranes positioned above. Israel is widely believed to use a heavy water reactor at Dimona to produce plutonium for nuclear warheads and tritium to enhance their explosive power. Both Israel and the United States have declined to comment, in line with Israel's long-standing policy of neither confirming nor denying its nuclear capabilities.

The expansion comes in the wake of Israel's unprovoked attack on Iran on June 13, which targeted and killed military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. conducted airstrikes on three Iranian nuclear sites, actions that Tehran has called a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Israel is estimated to possess between 200 and 400 nuclear warheads, making it the sole nuclear-armed power in West Asia. Despite this, it has refused to join the NPT or allow international inspections, receiving enduring diplomatic backing from the United States.

Iran says calls from Japan and Australia for diplomacy ‘hypocritical’

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The diplomatic rebuke comes in response to a clause in the Australia-Japan joint statement that said Iran must “comply with its nuclear safeguards obligations. It must restore full IAEA access, address concerns about its nuclear stockpile and enrichment, and return to negotiations.” The statement did not mention Western sanctions against Iran, nor the dangerous US-Israeli airstrikes that hit Iran’s nuclear sites in June and derailed ongoing talks between Tehran and Washington.

In its statement, the Iranian Embassy expressed deep “regret” over Japan’s involvement, accusing it of aligning with Australia—a country it described as acting in bad faith. The statement highlighted that Australia had “without any reasonable cause” recently downgraded its diplomatic ties with Iran, making its current call for diplomacy “hypocritical”.

Australia expelled Iran’s ambassador last month after accusing the country of being be-



Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Defence Minister Richard Marles meet Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Tokyo, Japan, September 5, 2025.

hind failed “antisemitic” attacks on Australian soil. Canberra provided no evidence for its accusations. Previous reports of “antisemitic” attacks in the country had proved to be fake.

The Iranian statement also pointed out that Iran was in the middle of a diplomatic process when Israel and the United States began a bombing campaign of its nuclear, military, and civilian sites, killing over 1,000 Iranians, mostly civilians, in the span of 12 days. Japan had called the attacks on Iran “totally in-

tolerable”. Iranians have traditionally viewed Tokyo as a logical and neutral actor. The Japanese government’s recent statement marks the second time it has made inflammatory remarks about Iran in recent months.

“It was the Israeli regime and America that destroyed diplomacy through their illegal attacks on Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities and should be condemned and held accountable for the current situation, not Iran,” the embassy said.

Iran’s top security official, Ali

Larijani, has said that Iran is open to kickstarting new negotiations, but the United States is making it impossible to re-engage in diplomacy by setting out unacceptable pre-conditions. Washington, Larijani said, wants Iran to discuss limitations on its missile program, something that has been a nonstarter for the country for years. Iran managed to force Israel and the U.S. to ask for a ceasefire in June thanks to the impact of its missiles that rained down on the occupied territories, as well as an American airbase in Qatar.

Exclusive: Europe has become a ‘vassal’ of US in Iran policy, says Norwegian professor

Glenn Diesen argues EU dependence on Washington leaves no room for independent diplomacy

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Glenn Diesen, a Norwegian political scientist and professor specializing in international relations, offered a critical perspective on the U.S. approach toward Iran’s nuclear program and the escalating tensions across West Asia.

Iran is currently preparing for a potential new round of U.S.-Israeli aggression while emphasizing that it will continue to operate its peaceful nuclear program. In his remarks to the Tehran Times, Diesen explored the strategic objectives driving U.S. policy towards Iran, Europe’s alignment with Washington, and the risks of a broader conflict. He also reflected on recent U.S.-Russia diplomatic exchanges, pointing to the shifting dynamics of global power.

Below is the full text of the interview:

How would you assess the current U.S. stance on nuclear talks with Iran amid escalating military actions and Iran’s firm stance on its nuclear rights?

I don’t believe the United States recognizes any inherent nuclear rights for Iran. Iran is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which prohibits them from developing nuclear weapons. However, the treaty also permits Iran to pursue all activities related to nuclear energy, and this is precisely what the United States is trying to prevent.

In my view, the core issue is that the U.S. will not concede on this point and cannot be compelled to do so. I suspect that, following the end of this nuclear standoff, another war is likely in the foreseeable future.

What political or strategic objectives do you think the U.S. is pursuing in its approach to Iran’s nuclear issue beyond non-proliferation?

If the United States’ sole objective was to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons or to establish oversight of its nuclear program, that goal could be achieved.

Iran has stated that it does not want to develop nuclear weapons and is willing to allow inspections to verify this. However, I believe the U.S. is approaching the matter dishonestly by conflating the nuclear issue with other, unrelated issues.

The U.S. not only wants Iran to sever ties with its allies in Yemen, Lebanon, and Palestine, but it also wants Iran to impose limits on its ballistic missile program. By combining all these demands, they aim to maximize coercion against Iran. Essentially, they are seeking Iran’s complete capitulation, which is unlikely to happen.

This is why I believe another conflict is on the horizon. They are not simply seeking



Glenn Diesen

transparency and limitations on the nuclear issue. I think the American public should understand this underlying motivation.

Considering European countries’ compliance with U.S. sanctions and the use of the snapback mechanism, what is your analysis of Europe’s independent role versus its alignment with U.S. foreign policy on Iran?

Well, I think one can look more on that. I don’t believe the Europeans have an independent foreign policy.

The Europeans tend to follow America’s lead, making them essentially vassals of the United States.

The key question is: how does one become a vassal? Well, if your economic well-being is solely dependent on the United States, then you become a vassal. To avoid this, you need to diversify your economic ties. The problem is that America consistently undermines European efforts to do so.

They sever economic ties with Russia, Iran, and China, ultimately forcing the Europeans to accept their dependence on the U.S. This is why America can dictate policy to the Europeans. They strategically establish economic and security dependence, making independent political action impossible.

I think the Europeans genuinely want to maintain the nuclear deal with Iran. However, America exerts pressure on the Europeans, and sadly, they won’t follow through on their promises.

How do you interpret the strategic implication of Israel and U.S. military strike targeting Iran’s nuclear sites and infrastructures?

Well, to start, it’s incredibly reckless and counterproductive. Iran gains know-how and materials from this situation.

The original intention seemed to be to convince Iran not to develop nuclear weapons. However, this action could have the exact opposite effect. Nuclear weapons are, after all, considered the ultimate deterrent.

Essentially, they’re giving Iran a strong incentive to acquire nuclear weapons. I hope Iran doesn’t, because that might provoke a similar response. Ultimately, I don’t think there’s a good outcome here.

It diminishes their security. Attacking nuclear facilities would simply make people around the world reconsider their stance on nuclear proliferation. I’m not advocating for intervention, but I think this is a crucial conversation for the global community.

It seems the goal was a decapitation strike: collapsing the Iranian government and then, ideally, installing a leader loyal to the United States.

They often face mockery, but then you see a new, robust United States. The way they embraced the Shomron regime in Syria is telling. It’s quite obvious that promoting democracy in Iran is simply how policies are sold to the public, portraying themselves as the good guys.

However, it doesn’t necessarily translate into actual policy. I believe they’re aiming for a decapitation strike, replacing the current leadership with someone who will follow Washington’s lead and not stand in Israel’s way. The Europeans can be proud of that.

What impact do you think these attacks have on the regional balance of power and the prospects for wider conflict or escalation?

The region is becoming incredibly complex. I assume the objective is also to build an anti-Iranian bloc among the [Persian] Gulf states and ensure that Iran faces significant opposition. However, I believe the last few years have been largely unproductive. We’ve seen that Iran, Yemen, and groups like Hamas in Gaza have consistently stood up.

They know they were able to fight back against America, even Yemen. Now, I think many recognize that Iran has largely won this conflict against Israel. So, again, it’s unproductive. The main objective seems to be to provoke Iran into intervening and mobilizing a larger grouping of states and regions, because there’s currently an incentive for Saudi Arabia and the [Persian] Gulf states to reconcile some of their differences with Iran. Countries like China and Russia would likely advocate for this.

However, if you’re an empire pursuing global dominance, as the U.S. does, you need to divide the region into opponents and allies, and keep the allies relatively weak. If strong actors emerge, then the U.S. or the more assertive [Persian] Gulf states would likely work to weaken Iran. Therefore, I think the primary effort is focused on further destabilizing the region and realigning their allies.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



SPORTS

Iran too adept for Guam at 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Guam 6-0 at the 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup qualification on Saturday.

Alireza Safari opened the scoring for the young Persians in the 43rd minute and Kasra Taheri completed a hat trick from 47th minute to 74th minute. With six minutes remaining, Saeid Saharkhizan made the scoreboard 5-0 at the Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi. Mohammadjavad Hosseini scored Iran’s sixth goal in the 90th minute.

Iran, who began the campaign with a 4-0 win over Hong Kong, will meet the UAE on Tuesday in their last game.

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.

Iran volleyball team arrive in Manila

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s national volleyball team arrived in Manila, the Philippines, Friday night.

Team Melli traveled to the capital of the Philippines after holding its 10-day training camp in Doha, Qatar.

Iran have been drawn in Pool A along with Egypt, Tunisia, and the Philippines.

The competition will be held in Pasay, the Philippines from Sept. 12 to 28.

Iran to face S.Korea in 2025 FIBA U16 Asia Cup fifth place

TEHRAN – Iran beat Bahrain 95-62 in the Classification 5th–8th round of the FIBA U16 Asia Cup 2025 at the M Bank Arena on Saturday.

Yasin Morovat Halabi led Iran with 23 points, while Abdulkadir Hassan Oshobuge scored 23 points for Bahrain.

Iran are scheduled to meet South Korea on Sunday for the fifth place.

The tournament is being played at the M Bank Arena and the Buyant Ukhua Sport Palace in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from Aug. 31 to Sept. 7.

Iran in Pot 3 of 2025 FIFA Futsal’s Women’s World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran are drawn in Pot 3 of the 2025 FIFA Futsal’s Women’s World Cup.

Iran have been drawn into Pot 3 along with Colombia, Poland and New Zealand, while Pot 1 will comprise Philippines, Brazil, Spain and Portugal.

Thailand, Japan, Argentina and Italy are in Pot 2 and Morocco, Canada, Panama and Tanzania are in Pot 4.

Brazil, Spain and Portugal have retained the top three spots on the FIFA Futsal Women’s World Ranking and will, therefore, join hosts Philippines in Pot 1 for the FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup™ draw on 15 September.

Spain are on a seven-game winning streak – a run that included 4-3 and 3-2 defeats of arch-rivals Portugal. Irene and Laura Cordoba, Peque, Antia Perez and Maria Sanz were outstanding as Claudio Pons’ side cruised to Philippines 2025 qualification.

Portugal also went through in emphatic style, scoring 21 goals and conceding only three across three successive victories. In Ana Catarina, Janice Silva and Fifo, they boast three of the finest players on the planet.

Thailand held off charging Japan to remain Asia’s highest-ranked team. Thanatorn Santanaprasit’s Thais beat the Japanese in the group stage of the AFC finals, only to suffer a shootout defeat to the same side in the final. Argentina, Italy, Colombia, IR Iran and Russia complete the top 10.

The first FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup will be played in Pasig City in Metropolitan Manila from 21 November to 7 December. The draw for the competition will take place on 15 September at the BGC Arts Center in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. You can watch it live on FIFA.com and FIFA+.

Draw pots

Pot 1: Philippines, Brazil, Spain and Portugal

Pot 2: Thailand, Japan, Argentina and Italy

Pot 3: Colombia, Iran, Poland and New Zealand

Pot 4: Morocco, Canada, Panama and Tanzania

FIFA President Infantino to attend 2025 CAFA Nations Cup final

TEHRAN – Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, will attend the final match between Iran and Uzbekistan at the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup.

Iran and Uzbekistan finished the group stage as table toppers with seven points and will meet in the final on Monday at the Olympic Stadium in Tashkent.

In the previous edition, Iran won the title, defeating Uzbekistan 1-0 in the final.

Infantino will also visit Uzbekistan to review projects related to further developing football there.

Ana Seabra takes charge of Iran’s women’s handball team

TEHRAN – Portuguese coach Ana Cristina Teixeira Seabra was named the new head coach of Iran’s women’s handball team.

Seabra, 48, has signed a two-year deal with the Iran Handball Federation.

She represented Portugal as a player in 215 matches and has played for Spanish club Club Balonmano Atlético Guardés as well as AA São Pedro do Sul in her homeland.

Seabra will lead Team Melli in the 2025 World Women’s Handball Championship, where Iran are drawn in Group B alongside Hungary, Switzerland, and Senegal.

Esteghlal eye ex-Barcelona forward El Haddadi

TEHRAN – Iran’s Esteghlal football club have reportedly been linked with Spanish forward Munir El Haddadi Mohamed.

El Haddadi, 30, most recently played for Segunda División side Leganés.

The forward has played for Barcelona from 2014 and 2018.

Media reports suggest that Esteghlal are set to sign the winger on a three-year contract valued at \$2.5 million, which could make it one of the most expensive and controversial transfers in the club’s history.

El Haddadi has represented the Morocco national football team 11 times and scored two goals.

Iran-Turkey trade stands at \$3.09b in 7 months



TEHRAN- The latest statistics released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) show that trade between Iran and Turkey in the first seven months of 2025 decreased by four percent compared to the same period last year, reaching \$3.09 billion.

During the same period last year, the value of trade between Iran and Turkey was reported to be \$3.23 billion.

According to this report, Iran's exports to Turkey in the first seven months of the current year reached approximately \$1.38 billion, while imports from Turkey decreased by eight percent dropping to \$1.71 billion.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$937 million to Turkey during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

Foroud Asgari said that Turkey was Iran's fourth top non-oil export destination in the mentioned three-month period.

Exporting commodities valued at \$1.986 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third source of non-oil import in the said time span, the IRICA head added.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of IRICA for planning and international affairs, Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$6.8 billion to Turkey in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

Akbarpour said that Turkey was Iran's fourth top export destination in the previous year.

Exporting commodities valued at \$12.4 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third top source of import in that year, the official added.

On April 14, the secretary of Iran's Free Trade and Special Economic Zones High Council said that Iran is pursuing the creation of a joint free trade zone with Turkey, as part of broader efforts to resolve long-pending investment challenges and boost cooperation with neighboring countries.

Speaking to Tasnim News Agency, Reza Masrou said a special task force has been formed to resolve unresolved projects that have lingered in Iran's free zones for over 15 years. "We are actively following up on the establishment of a joint free trade zone with Turkey," he noted, adding that a joint working group between Iran and Turkey will take charge of advancing the plan.

Masrou stressed the need for a major shift in investment strategy across the country's free trade zones, stating, "We must move decisively beyond what was done in the past. Investment incentives should be swiftly approved and implemented by each zone's board of directors."

To facilitate bilateral cooperation, a joint forum is planned for July this year, bringing together Iranian and Turkish free zone officials and investors in one of Iran's free trade zones.

The official said that each zone must update its investment offerings and identify sector-specific priorities to attract investors based on its unique capacities. He added that investor satisfaction is critical, and new investment decisions are often influenced by the experiences of previous investors.

He criticized prolonged unresolved projects, noting that some have remained inactive for up to 15 years. "Creating task forces is necessary, but not enough. Problems must be addressed fundamentally. CEOs must be personally involved, and outcomes should be achieved within six months."

On March 11, Iran's ambassador to Turkey announced a significant rise in bilateral trade between Tehran and Ankara, stating that the trade volume between the two nations reached \$11.8

billion last year and has surpassed \$17.5 billion as of February this year. The figure is expected to hit \$19 billion by year-end.

According to IRNA, citing Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Mohamad-Hossein Habibollahzadeh made the remarks during a virtual session of the Iran-Turkey Joint Transport Committee, emphasizing the importance of transit development. He noted that transit and transport volumes between the two countries have increased by \$7.0 billion this year, though further infrastructural improvements are required in rail, air, maritime, and port sectors.

Habibollahzadeh highlighted the significant traffic between Iran and Turkey, stating that six million passengers and approximately 330,000 trucks crossed the two countries' borders last year. In response to the growing trade volume, both countries have agreed to increase border crossings from three to five. Expanding rail connectivity and increasing flights are also part of the agenda.

The envoy welcomed the swift follow-up on recent meetings between the two countries' transport ministers, which reflects a strong commitment to expanding transport and logistics cooperation. He expressed hope that key decisions would be made to further advance transport ties between Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and Turkey's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Saeed Rasouli, emphasized the strategic importance of Iran and Turkey in the southern Caspian Sea corridor linking China to Europe. He said that transit would remain a key subject in upcoming ministerial talks between the two countries.

Turkey's Deputy Transport Minister, Durmush Enver reaffirmed Ankara's commitment to expanding transport and transit cooperation, underscoring the need for modern infrastructure and necessary investments. He also stressed the importance of completing the Iran-Turkey railway connection at the Cheshmeh Soraya border crossing.

The meeting focused on maximizing road, rail, maritime, and air transport cooperation, as well as resolving existing transit challenges. Other key issues included facilitating border crossings, addressing restrictions and tariffs on Iranian and Turkish fleets, and adjusting fuel pricing for Turkish trucks in Iran.

Discussions also covered the recently launched Tehran-Van passenger train and the possibility of extending the route to Ankara and Istanbul. Both sides reviewed rail freight operations, plans to boost cargo transport, and the status of empty freight wagons in both countries.

Meanwhile, Iran's Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah and Samad Hasanzadeh, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), traveled to Turkey alongside a delegation of agricultural and food industry professionals in January.

As reported, the agriculture minister and his accompanying delegation attended an Iran-Turkey Agricultural Business Forum on January 10, in Ankara.

The events featured Nouri Qezeljah, Hasanzadeh, Hossein Pirmoazen, the deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, senior Agriculture Ministry officials, and private sector representatives.

Discussions focused on addressing trade barriers, fostering bilateral ties, and enhancing export potentials.

Speaking at a gathering of Iranian agricultural professionals in Ankara, Nouri Qezeljah stated that the government's resolve to support private sector growth, removing obstacles to agricultural and food exports remains a top priority.

He emphasized the need to modernize food packaging and facilitate export terminal licenses to expand export markets.

The minister also underscored the importance of resolving customs challenges faced by Iranian exporters in Turkey, advocating for stable policies to prevent ad-hoc regulations that undermine exporters' credibility.

ue of \$3.243 billion. Compared to the exports from the same period last year (11,018,392 tons valued at \$3.385 billion) this represents a 30 percent growth in weight and a four percent decrease in value.

Historic Visit to China: A Launchpad for Iran's Multilateral and Resilient Economy

TEHRAN- President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent visit to China and participation in the 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit marked a pivotal moment in Iran's economic diplomacy. With over 20 cooperation agreements signed and the proposal of innovative financial initiatives, the visit represents a strategic step toward strengthening Iran's regional and global economic standing. Amid ongoing sanctions, the visit focused on reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar and expanding transit infrastructure, offering a promising outlook for Iran's economic future.

Pezeshkian's attendance at the SCO Summit and the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II carried significance beyond politics and security, it was a major economic opportunity for Iran.

At a time when Tehran faces unilateral sanctions and economic challenges, new avenues for regional and international cooperation are opening. But what impact could this visit have on Iran's current economic trajectory?

Strengthening Economic Multilateralism Amid Sanctions

The SCO, comprising countries that represent over 40% of global GDP and a population of 3.4 billion, offers a unique platform for expanding economic cooperation.

President Pezeshkian proposed the creation of a specialized initiative titled the "Accounts and Settlements of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," built on three key pillars:

- * Settlement in national currencies: Aimed at reducing dependence on the U.S. dollar and mitigating the impact of American financial sanctions.

- * Shared digital infrastructure: Leveraging central bank digital currencies for secure and rapid transactions.

- * Multilateral currency swap fund: Designed to support member states facing sanctions or liquidity crises.

Implementing this initiative could enhance Iran's economic resilience and contribute to a more equitable global financial order. Especially under current conditions, it offers Iran a pathway to reduce reliance on Western-dominated financial systems.

Expanding Transit Infrastructure and Iran's Strategic Role

In his address, President Pezeshkian highlighted Iran's unique geopolitical and transit position, expressing Tehran's readiness to facilitate access for SCO members—particularly through the Chabahar Port. The imminent con-



nection of Chabahar to Iran's national railway network could revolutionize trade routes linking China, Central Asia, and Afghanistan to the Indian Ocean.

This development not only boosts Iran's transit revenues but also attracts foreign investment in logistics and infrastructure, strengthening the domestic economy.

Signing of 20 Multilateral Cooperation Agreements

During the summit, Iran signed more than 20 agreements and declarations across diverse sectors, including multilateral trade, sustainable energy development, green industry, artificial intelligence, and scientific and technological cooperation.

These agreements lay the groundwork for expanded economic collaboration with SCO members—especially China and Russia. Notably, the trade and energy accords are expected to boost Iran's non-oil exports and diversify its revenue streams.

Deepening Economic Ties with Regional Partners

President Pezeshkian's bilateral meetings with leaders from Pakistan, Tajikistan, Russia, and Turkey led to key economic understandings. In talks with Pakistan's Prime Minister, both sides emphasized enhanced economic cooperation and climate challenge management. Meanwhile, discussions with Russia's President focused on implementing the free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union, which could significantly increase Iran's trade volume.

These partnerships are particularly vital as Iran seeks new export markets and strategies to circumvent sanctions.

Strengthening Iran-China Relations: Presidential Meeting and Strategic Agreements

A highlight of the visit was President Pezeshkian's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, where both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership. They emphasized the active implementation of the 25-year

cooperation agreement signed in 2020 and agreed to elevate bilateral relations to their highest potential.

Pezeshkian described China as a strong and determined ally, while Xi referred to Iran as a strategic partner with a forward-looking approach.

From an economic perspective, discussions centered on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, clean energy, infrastructure connectivity, and people-to-people interactions. These agreements could bolster Iran's economy by providing access to advanced Chinese technologies and new markets.

The meeting not only deepened bilateral ties but also yielded strategic decisions crucial to Iran's economic trajectory, including a joint stance against external efforts to undermine Iran-China relations.

The SCO's Role in Overcoming US Unilateralism

As a key institution, the SCO serves as an effective counterweight to US unilateralism and Western hegemony. In his address at the SCO summit, Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian urged member states to expand trade in national currencies and fortify financial mechanisms to resist sanctions.

This strategy, aimed at reducing reliance on the dollar, could foster a multipolar financial system and enable Iran to withstand unilateral US pressures. As noted, the visit marks a historic inflection point in Iran's economic development and will shape its future outlook.

Reducing Dependence on a Dollar-Based Economy

Iran's proposal to conduct trade in national currencies and develop a shared digital infrastructure represents a significant step towards diminishing dollar dependence and establishing a multipolar financial order. If realized, the initiative could position Iran as a pioneer of a new regional and global financial architecture. This is particularly vital for Iran's economic future, which hinges on diversifying trade partnerships and mitigating the

impact of sanctions.

Strengthening Iran's Role in Regional Transit Corridors

The development of Chabahar Port and its connection into the rail network will elevate Iran's role in regional transit corridors. This will not only boost foreign exchange revenues but also generate employment and stimulate growth in underdeveloped areas such as Sistan and Baluchestan by attracting foreign investment. Moreover, collaboration with China on high-speed rail and highway construction could modernize Iran's transport infrastructure and enhance its appeal to global investors.

Expanding Scientific and Technological Cooperation

The signing of cooperation agreements in fields such as artificial intelligence and green technologies could steer Iran towards a knowledge-based economy. Partnerships with countries like China and Russia, leaders in emerging technologies, may facilitate technology transfer and strengthen Iran's domestic capabilities. Over time, this could reduce reliance on oil exports and foster the growth of advanced industries.

Strengthening Relations with Neighboring and Regional Countries

Bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit underscore Iran's intent to deepen economic ties with neighboring and regional states. For instance, enhanced trade and transit cooperation with Tajikistan and Turkey could open new markets for Iranian goods.

Additionally, increased cultural and tourism exchanges with Russia, particularly the rising number of Iranian students there, could invigorate the tourism sector and promote scientific collaboration.

Transforming Iran into a Key Player in the Regional Economy

President Pezeshkian's visit to China and participation in SCO summit mark a pivotal moment in Iran's foreign and economic policy. Amid current challenges, the visit has helped mitigate the effects of sanctions and diversify Iran's trade partners through strengthened multilateral cooperation and innovative financial proposals. In the long run, it could usher in a more promising economic future by advancing transit infrastructure, enhancing scientific and technological partnerships, and expanding regional ties.

The implementation of summit agreements, especially in transit, trade, and technology, could cement Iran's status as a key factor in the regional and global economy and represent a significant stride towards sustainable development and economic resilience.

Iran, Japan discuss ways to cooperate on road, housing, urban development research

TEHRAN- A meeting between representatives of the Japanese Embassy in Tehran and the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center of Iran was held at the Research Center with the attendance of the Center's President, the First Secretary and Head of the Economic Section of the Japanese Embassy in Iran, and their accompanying delegation, aiming to enhance the level and quality of bilateral cooperation.

According to a report from the news portal of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, citing the Public Relations of the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center, the meeting was held at the Research Center, and at the beginning of the meeting, Atefeh Jahan Mohammadi, Head of the Structure and Technical Buildings Department of the Research Center, presented a comprehensive report on the history of scientific and research cooperation between the two parties, particularly regarding the "Iran-Japan Knowledge Transfer Program on Seismic Design of Steel Structures."

She called for the continuation of bilateral scientific and research cooperation and the utilization of valuable Japanese expertise, especially in the fields of retrofitting and enhancing the resilience of buildings, engineering structures, and

technical edifices.

Subsequently, the First Secretary and Head of the Economic Section of the Japanese Embassy in Iran, while appreciating the President of the Research Center for organizing the meeting, called for enhancing the level of scientific and research cooperation between Iran and Japan, particularly in technical and engineering fields, architecture and urban development, and transportation.

He evaluated international capacities in the scientific and research fields as highly valuable for creating synergy and participation in the exchange of experiences, considering their utilization as very constructive and effective for overcoming countries' challenges.

Following this, the President of the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center, by providing a brief introduction of the Center as the think tank of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and its diverse scientific, research, and educational activities over the past five decades, declared the Center's full readiness for interaction and maximizing the use of international scientific and research capacities, as well as for exporting and sharing technical and engineering services derived from the valuable experiences of other countries, especially Japan.

Referring to the past and ongoing international scientific and research cooperation of the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center with the "United Nations Human Settlement Program (UN-Habitat)" and the "Asia-Pacific Center for Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM)," he called for enhancing the level of international scientific, research, and technical-engineering cooperation.

After this meeting, the First Secretary and Head of the Economic Section of the Japanese Embassy in Iran and the accompanying delegation conducted a technical visit to the Fire Engineering Laboratory of the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center.

It is worth noting that the deliberation meeting and technical visit of the representatives of the Japanese Embassy in Iran with the Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center were planned and held following a request from the First Secretary and Head of the Economic Section of the Japanese Embassy in Iran, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was then relayed through the International Affairs Center of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development to the Research Center.

Exports from mining sector exceeds \$4.1b in 4 months

From Page 1 ► The largest share of exports in the first four months of the year pertained to the production chain of three products: steel, aluminum, and copper, amounting to 14,271,275 tons with a val-

Department of War: Trump reveals America's true face

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — In a move that has sparked fierce criticism, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday renaming the Department of Defense as the Department of War. The decision revives a title last used in the 1940s, before President Harry Truman restructured the military into the modern Pentagon system following World War II.

The War Department was first established in 1789 and existed until 1947, when it was split into the Department of the Army and Department of the Air Force, eventually consolidated under the newly created Department of Defense. The renaming at the time was intended to symbolize a shift away from conquest and toward a doctrine of defense in the postwar world.

U.S. war history

Yet the irony, critics say, is that under the “defensive” name, the U.S. has waged some of its most destructive wars — from Korea and Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pentagon’s record since 1947 has included covert operations, invasions, and regime-change wars that have destabilized entire regions while costing millions of lives.

Trump’s order — which allows the Pentagon to use “Department of War” as a secondary title while seeking congressional approval for permanence — has been described by his allies as an honest recognition of America’s military posture. “The name ‘Department of War’ conveys a stronger message of readiness and resolve compared to ‘Department of Defense,’ which emphasizes only defensive ca-



President Trump speaks to the media after signing an executive order renaming the Department of Defense to the Department of War. (AFP)

pabilities,” the executive order states. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, now styled “Secretary of War,” declared during the signing: “We’re going to go on offense, not just on defense. Maximum lethality, not tepid legality.”

Political and financial backlash

But some officials have sharply criticized the rebranding as costly and dangerous. According to US media, the change could cost billions of dollars, requiring alterations to seals, uniforms, websites, facilities, contracts, and correspondence across more than 700,000 facilities worldwide.

“This is purely for domestic political audiences,” a former defense official told Politico. “It will have absolutely zero impact on Chinese or Russian calculations. Worse, it will be used by our enemies to portray the United States as warmongering and a threat to international stability.”

Democrats in Congress also blasted the decision. Senator Andy Kim of New Jersey called

it “childish,” saying, “Americans want to prevent wars, not tout them.” Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire warned that the move distracts from urgent priorities, arguing: “For the president and the secretary of Defense to spend time and energy [on a] distraction from what we need to do — to focus on the readiness of our troops who are serving — [is] nothing more than an effort to distract from other issues that are going on in the country.”

Even Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell criticized the effort. “If we call it the Dept. of War, we’d better equip the military to actually prevent and win wars. Can’t preserve American primacy if we’re unwilling to spend substantially more on our military than Carter or Biden. Peace through strength requires investment, not just rebranding,” he wrote on X.

Symbolism over strategy

For Trump, however, the symbolism is the point. He has repeatedly linked the change to America’s history of military

victories, particularly in the two world wars, and railed against what he calls “woke ideology” within the Pentagon. “We won World War I, we won World War II, we won everything before that and in between, and then we decided to go woke, and we changed the name to DOD. So, we’re going Department of War,” Trump said at the signing ceremony.

Observers argue that the rebranding does more than revive a historical name — it strips away the veneer of America’s self-styled image as a reluctant global policeman. For decades, U.S. interventions in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan were justified as acts of “defense” against communism, terrorism, or rogue states. Yet those wars were offensive in nature, marked by invasions and occupations. By returning to the War Department title, Trump has inadvertently exposed what critics see as the true nature of U.S. foreign policy: not defense, but dominance.

This bold rebranding exposes the full extent of American militarism and global dominance. Washington is no longer even pretending to act defensively — it is openly showcasing its role as a war-driving superpower.

Trump’s move, coming amid escalating tensions with China and Russia, underscores the U.S.’s ambition to assert its hegemony worldwide. Whether Congress enacts the permanent change or not, the symbolic shift to the “Department of War” lays bare the true nature of U.S. foreign policy: projecting power, enforcing dominance, and signaling to the world that the planet’s so-called most powerful military exists not to defend, but to dictate.

How Trump’s ‘drug war’ masks his drive for war against Venezuela

From page 1 ► Trump’s claim that the boat was bound for the U.S. strains credibility: the distance and course make it implausible. To frame it otherwise bends fact into pretext — a missile aimed not only at a vessel but at truth.

Locals from San Juan de Unare now reel from the strike: whatever the boat carried, the men were executed without trial, evidence, or jurisdiction. “Innocent until proven guilty” is a bedrock of law; here, America acted as judge, jury, and executioner in international waters.

This was no routine “drug interdiction” but an extrajudicial killing — and, more ominously, an opening salvo. Naval patrols have morphed into lethal strikes.

Thousands of U.S. sailors and Marines are deployed across the Caribbean. Advanced F-35 jets, each sortie costly, reportedly operate from Puerto Rico. The administration’s rhetoric leaves little doubt: “We’ll take on drug cartels wherever they are,” Secretary Marco Rubio said — leaving the door open to strikes inside Venezuela.

The playbook is recycled. In 2019, Washington backed Juan Guaidó as “interim president” to oust Maduro. Sanctions battered the economy; in 2020, Operation Gideon — a mercenary beach raid tied to Guaidó’s orbit — failed. Washington’s lesson was rebranding: regime

change dressed as counternarcotics.

Hypocrisy is glaring. Trump campaigned on ending forever wars, yet he escalates a new front while conflicts simmer elsewhere. At home, jobs are revised downward and debt towers, yet billions fund military posturing. Every missile, sortie, and “show of force” in the Caribbean carries a bill taxpayers foot while domestic needs are deferred.

The endgame is not cocaine or fentanyl. UN data show Venezuela plays only a marginal role in U.S.-bound narcotics. What it does possess are the world’s largest proven oil reserves and ties to a multipolar order anchored by Russia, China, and Iran. That is what makes Caracas a target. Cartels are the smokescreen; the real prize is dominance — Monroe Doctrine redux.

A leaked draft of the Pentagon’s latest National Defense Strategy — reported by Politico — shows a shift: moving U.S. priorities from countering China toward “protecting the homeland and Western Hemisphere.” It envisions pulling forces from Europe and West Asia while surging warships, F-35s, and National Guard units into the Caribbean and the southern border.

This reorientation is already visible in maritime strikes and expanded militarization. By embedding Venezuela in this focus, the leak

signals more than a bureaucratic reshuffle — it points to a military posture primed for escalation. Under the banner of counternarcotics, Washington is laying the groundwork for confrontation, making war against Venezuela not a distant possibility but an increasingly likely scenario.

Maduro has said that if Venezuela is attacked in any way, the country will move to “a stage of armed struggle.” Such a stance signals that Caracas is prepared to meet force with force. Venezuela would defend its sovereignty with over 100,000 troops, some 220,000 militia, Su-30MK2 jets, and S-300VM systems — making an invasion no cakewalk.

Oil shocks could ripple through markets. Any escalation threatens Venezuelan lives and U.S. interests, all based on a narrative already cracking under scrutiny.

The corporate-state nexus, fused with the military-industrial complex, sells “democracy” as market access and sustains hemispheric hypocrisy. Americans pay in blood and treasure; Venezuelans in sovereignty, lives, and the plunder of oil-rich resources.

He who lives by the sword dies by the sword. It is time Washington sheathed its blade, choosing dialogue over domination — or risk a fall from which it may never recover.

representation, a violation of international law.

“This law was designed to strip civilians of legal protections,” said Hassan Jabareen, director of the Palestinian legal rights group Adalah. “It enables indefinite detention without accountability.”

Jessica Montell, director of the NGO HaMoked, called it a case of forced disappearance on a massive scale. “Hundreds, even thousands, are being disappeared, with no charges, no trials, and no communication with the outside world.”

As international pressure grows, rights groups continue to call for the release of detainees held without any reason, and for the Israeli occupation regime to end the use of civilian lives as political tools.



Protesters gathered in central London to demand an end to arms sales to Israel and to denounce the starvation of Gaza’s population. Similar demonstrations were held in Spain, France, and other countries.

Over 150 officials urge protection of Sumud humanitarian flotilla to Gaza

Over 150 current and former elected officials from around the world have issued “a call for immediate action to ensure humanitarian access to Gaza and to end the genocide of the Palestinian people.”

In a joint statement, they urged governments to open a “safe and continuous humanitarian corridor” as a “moral, legal, and humanitarian imperative.”

The appeal also demands full protection for the Global Sumud Flotilla, described as a lawful, peaceful mission delivering aid and solidarity to Gaza.

Signatories stressed that “its mission must neither be obstructed nor endangered.” Citing international humanitarian law, they



warned that starvation as a weapon breaches the Geneva Conventions and reaffirmed that “any occupation is illegal under international law.” They concluded: “History will judge us by the actions we take to protect human life.”

Protesters in Santos rally against steel exports to Israel

Activists in the Brazilian port city of Santos staged a sit-in on Friday, urging authorities to halt steel shipments to Israel due to their potential use in military industries.

The protest, organized at the invitation of the “Campaign in Support of Palestine,” brought together local activists and supporters of the Palestinian people in front of both the city council building and the port of Santos.

Chanting slogans such as “Steel for peace,

not for war” and “Stop the massacre in Gaza,” demonstrators called on local authorities to block shipments of steel bound for Israel. They emphasized that these strategic materials could be diverted to Israel’s military industries, potentially fueling the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

The Santos demonstration is part of a broader global campaign pressuring companies and institutions to cut economic ties with Israel, highlighting concerns over the role of commercial goods in the conflict.

Will the Lebanese government continue on the path of rationality?

From page 1 ► Following the Shiite ministers’ withdrawal, the government had to avoid slipping to the point of no return, as the language of its statement appeared polished and softened.

Thus, the September 5 session has effectively nullified the August 5 and 7 sessions, as it has linked the implementation of U.S. envoy Thomas Barrack’s proposal to Israeli approval, a cessation of attacks and assassinations, and the return of prisoners.

Speaker Nabih Berri’s welcome of the govern-

ment’s decisions was notable. Hezbollah circles also welcomed the government’s positive step, particularly the reported willingness in principle to discuss a national strategic plan to protect the country from attacks.

Reportedly, the Army Commander is committed to civil peace, as he questioned the army’s capability and the obstacles to implement the plan, primarily caused by the Israeli intransigence and its occupation of Lebanese border points.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel’s strikes on Gaza City towers underscore policy of forced displacement

From page 1 ► At the same time, Israel is intensifying its push to seize Gaza City. On Saturday, Israeli forces struck two residential towers in the western part of the city. The Israeli military claimed the buildings were used by Hamas for intelligence gathering and planting explosive devices. However, it offered no evidence.

Gaza’s Government Media Office firmly rejected those allegations, calling them “systematic deception” aimed at justifying attacks on civilians and infrastructure. “We affirm unequivocally, based on the testimony of residents, that these towers were civilian-only spaces,” the office said, labeling the strikes as acts of forced displacement in vio-

lation of international law.

The destruction of residential buildings is seen as part of Israel’s broader strategy to pressure Palestinians to leave Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fueled concerns on Friday by claiming there were “different plans for how to rebuild Gaza” and suggesting that “half of the population wants to leave,” though he insisted this was “not a mass expulsion.”

Nearly two years into the war, Israel has failed to achieve its stated goal of defeating Hamas. Instead, critics say its military campaign has shifted toward targeting civilians and displacing the population, while Palestinian resistance remains unbroken.

Israelis make mass arrests of Palestinian civilians as leverage

From page 1 ► A soldier stationed at the regime’s notorious Sde Teiman military prison said so many elderly and disabled people were kidnapped that they were kept in a separate hangar, referred to as “the geriatric pen.”

“They brought men in wheelchairs, people without legs,” he recalled. “Maybe they were arrested just because they saw something.”

No trials, no lawyers, no charges

Under the regime’s “unlawful combatants” law, detainees can be held for up to 180 days without access to a lawyer and 75 days without seeing a judge. Since the genocide began on October 7, not one prisoner kidnapped from Gaza has stood trial.

Human rights groups and even Israeli occupation soldiers say the actual number of fighters is far lower than claimed. “At most, one in six or seven has any real link to Hamas,” said Samir Zaqout, deputy director of the Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza.

One Israeli officer who oversaw mass arrests in Khan Younis admitted the occupation regime’s soldiers made no distinction between civilians and fighters. “There was no difference between a (resistance fighter) and someone working for the water authority,” he said.

Multiple sources confirmed that many of the civilians are being held not for security reasons, but as leverage in hostage negotiations.

“We kept releasing people ‘for free,’ and it made [soldiers] angry,” said one Israeli soldier. “They’d say: ‘They’re not returning hostages, so why should we let them go?’”

The Israeli regime’s politicians have expressed similar views, reinforcing what human rights groups say is now a systematic policy of mass detention.

“Even before October 7, Israel withheld the bodies of Palestinians as bargaining chips,” said an Al Mezan spokesperson.

“Now, they are doing the same with the living, holding thousands of innocent people to gain political advantage.”

Most detainees are held incommunicado, without any contact with their families or legal

Ceramic center inaugurated at Hamedan university

TEHRAN – A new cultural project titled “Ceramic Land: The Embrace of Art, the House of Creativity and Innovation in Ceramic Art” has recently been inaugurated at Bu-Ali Sina University in Hamedan.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Minister of Science, Research and Technology, the Hamedan governor-general, the university’s president, ministry officials, and cultural and social activists, IRIB reported on Thursday.

It was launched alongside the First National Seminar on the Pottery and Ceramics Value-Added Chain at the university. Officials said the center aims to revive traditional pottery while using the scientific, educational and cultural capacities of Bu-Ali Sina University.

According to organizers, the center provides a creative environment for students and the public, combining traditional art with contemporary techniques to produce both artistic and functional works. It is expected to help develop artistic talent, support the cultural

economy, and promote tourism in Hamedan province.

They added that “Ceramic Land” will strengthen the cultural role of Bu-Ali Sina University and deepen its ties with the local community, while enriching the province’s cultural atmosphere.

Persian pottery traditions date back to around 4,000 BCE, with archaeological evidence showing continuous development of techniques through successive dynasties. Ancient artisans advanced kiln firing, glazing and decorative methods, creating durable works valued for their aesthetic appeal as well as their function.

These innovations spread across neighboring civilizations via trade routes such as the Silk Road, shaping global ceramic practices. Scholars say studying these methods highlights Persia’s contribution to ancient technology and underlines the enduring influence of Iranian craftsmanship.

Minab’s harvest festival fuses tradition and nature

TEHRAN – Minab in southern Iran’s Hormozgan province hosted a thanksgiving harvest festival dedicated to mangoes and jasmine from September 2 to 4.

The annual event transforms the city into a stage of color, fragrance, and tradition, offering travelers a vivid glimpse into the cultural soul of the Persian Gulf.

The festival blends harvest rituals with music, dance, and community spirit. Farmers present golden mangoes and jasmine garlands as offerings of gratitude, while families gather in orchards to share food, laughter, and local stories.

The air fills with the rhythms of Bandari music, children dance to folk tunes, and women showcase their vibrant traditional dress, turning Minab into a living museum of culture and heritage.

Minab, the second largest city in Hormozgan, is often called the cultural heart of the province. Located near the Persian Gulf,

Arvand Free Zone to turn into medical and marine tourism hub

TEHRAN-- Head of the Tourism Commission of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mostafa Mousavi considered the main priority of this commission to be strengthening the role of the private sector in policy-making and sustainable development of tourism, and announced extensive plans to transform the Arvand Free Zone into a hub for health, marine, and commercial tourism in the southern Persian Gulf.

He told ISNA: “Our priority is to improve the role of the private sector in tourism policy-making based on the Seventh National Development Plan. In fact, we seek to create a sustainable tourism ecosystem which boosts the local economy, employment, and sustainable income and puts Iran on the regional and international tourism map.”

Arvand Free Zone boasts historical, cultural, commercial and border capacities which can turn into a health, marine, and regional tourism hub, he said.

“Our program is implemented in three infrastructural, product, regional and international levels.”

“The health tourism can attract foreign patients from Iraq and Kuwait. Based on the statistics, annually over two million foreign patients come Iran for medical treatment.” This will generate jobs and sustainable income for the region, he added.

“We can define joint projects with Basra and Kuwait to turn Arvand into South of Persian Gulf tourism axis including medical, commercial and cultural tours which will brings huge economic benefits for the region.”

Promoting tourism in less-developed regions, will distribute economic opportunities and reduce migration to the metropolises, he said. Every unit of investment in rural tourism or eco-tourism can generate more jobs

than similar sectors and boost local economy, he added.

He continued that the plan to establish a network of cooperation in free tourism zones between Arvand, Kish, Qeshm and other regions is being pursued.

At the foreign level, negotiations have begun with the Chambers of Commerce of Iraq and Kuwait for combined health and business tours, marine and cultural tourism, he said. These cooperations will lead to economic prosperity, job creation, and the promotion of cultural and trade diplomacy, and create new investment opportunities, he added.

Mousavi pointed out that technology is the backbone of modern tourism, and the three main areas include digital marketing for targeted presence in domestic and foreign markets, smart platforms for booking and selling tourism services, and tourism data analysis and capacity management.

“Our goal is to create smart and digital tourism in Iran to improve both the tourist experience and productivity.”

“The key indicators in this area include increasing the share of tourism in GDP and attracting new capital must definitely happen. On the other hand, it is necessary that the improvement in employment and income indicators in less-privileged areas is evident. Meanwhile, improving Iran’s position in the regional and international tourism market can be recognized as an important achievement in this area.”

If these indicators are achieved and private activists feel their voices have been heard, it can be said that the commission has fulfilled its mission correctly and the path to sustainable development of Iranian tourism has been paved, he concluded.

Iran-Turkey co-op help boost tourism around Shams Tabrizi mausoleum, expert says

TEHRAN – Joint tourism cooperation between Iran and Turkey could increase the number of visitors to the northwestern Iranian city of Khoy, a local tourism expert said on Thursday.

Mohammad Rezaei, a tourism expert in Khoy, told Mehr news agency that expanding infrastructure and developing cooperation with Turkey would attract more travelers to the city, home to the mausoleum of Shams Tabrizi, the 13th-century mystic and mentor of Rumi.

“Shams Tabrizi is a transnational figure, and his admirers are not limited to Iran,” Rezaei said. “Many Turkish tourists, especially those traveling to Konya, could include Khoy in their itineraries if joint tourism packages with the cities of Van and Konya are created.”

Rezaei said a “Shams–Rumi cultural route” linking Khoy and Konya could establish Khoy as a permanent destination for visitors interested in Sufism and



A view of Shams Tabrizi mausoleum in Khoy, northwest Iran.

Persian literature. He added that such a route would generate jobs in local ecotourism, handicrafts and services.

He proposed multilingual signage, better visitor services at the mausoleum, the use of foreign-language tour guides and

the creation of an annual calendar of Shams commemoration events. He also suggested combined “Khoy–Van–Konya” tours to be marketed jointly by the two countries.

“A pilgrimage and cultural route from Khoy to Van and then

Konya could be promoted as a shared tourism brand between Iran and Turkey,” Rezaei said, adding that the proximity of Khoy to the Turkish border made the project feasible.

Rezaei also recommended thematic tours with poetry recitations and Sufi music performances to attract international visitors, as well as academic exchanges between Iranian and Turkish universities to expand cultural cooperation.

A historic trade hub

Khoy, in Iran’s West Azarbaijan province, has long been a crossroads of culture and commerce.

Shams Tabrizi (1185–1248), whose teachings influenced Rumi, remains a central figure in Persian mystical literature. He is the namesake of Rumi’s Divan-e Shams-e Tabrizi and is traditionally believed to have spent 40 days in seclusion with Rumi in Konya before departing for Damascus.

First rural literary tourism route inaugurated in Kandelous

TEHRAN--Director General of Mazandaran Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department Hossein Izadi announced the opening of the country’s first rural literary tourism route in Kandelous.

According to Miras-e Arya (CHTN), he said that this route was designed and launched with inspiration from the ancient legend of “Mina and the Leopard” and is considered a new step in linking local literature with cultural tourism.

This literary route, which is about one kilometer long, is accompanied by various stations such as Mina’s house, story murals, a romantic meeting place, Mina and the Leopard Cafe, narrative paintings, and symbolic sculptures, and provides a different experience of narrative-based tourism for visitors, he added.

He clarified that the main goal of creating this route is to deepen the tourism experience through narrative-based tourism; so that tourists, by hearing the story of the legend of “Mina and the Leopard” from the words of local narrators, establish a deeper connection with the history and identity of this ancient village in the heart of the cultural and natural texture of Kandelous.

Izadi pointed out that Kandelous is famous for its anthropological and medicinal plant museums and original architecture, and noted that with the opening of this literary route, a new step has been taken towards the globalization of Iranian rural tourism.

Nestled in the breathtaking Mazandaran province, northern Iran, Kandelous village stands as a

testament to the country’s rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.

Known as “The Lost Paradise,” the picturesque village offers visitors a unique blend of historical significance, cultural depth, and ecological wonders.

Kandelous is one of Iran’s oldest settlements, with traces of civilization dating back before the Islamic era. During the Qajar dynasty, the village gained recognition, with Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar reportedly passing through and admiring the craftsmanship of local metalworkers.

The village’s architectural charm—featuring wooden-framed windows, gabled rooftops, and winding stone alleyways—reflects its deep-rooted heritage. Unlike many modernized settlements, Kandelous has preserved its historical texture, allowing visitors to experience Iran’s rural elegance firsthand.

Beyond its historical significance, Kandelous is renowned for its Medicinal Plant Farms, which cultivate over 250 species of rare and valuable herbs. The village has become a hub for traditional herbal medicine, preserving the knowledge of Iranian healers while promoting sustainable farming practices.

Visitors can indulge in traditional Iranian cuisine at its traditional restaurants. Local handicraft markets are another highlight of the village, featuring Jajim textiles, felt clothing, socks, gloves, and floral wool blouses, each crafted by skilled artisans.

One of the most defining aspects of Kandelous

is its Anthropology Museum, a pioneering institution founded by Dr. Aliasghar Jahangiri. A native of Kandelous, Jahangiri dedicated his life to preserving the village’s history and showcasing its cultural treasures. After completing his doctoral studies in the United States, he returned to his childhood home with a mission—to establish a museum that would safeguard Iran’s rural heritage and educate future generations.

Under his leadership, the Kandelous Anthropology Museum was established between 1981 and 1988, becoming the world’s first rural museum. Housing over 8,000 artifacts, including pottery, manuscripts, agricultural tools, and ancient artwork, the museum serves as a bridge between Iran’s past and present. Jahangiri’s efforts extended beyond historical preservation—he also played a crucial role in documenting and promoting Iran’s medicinal plant heritage, leading to the creation of a museum dedicated to medicinal plants.

Kandelous provides comfortable accommodations, including suites, villas, and guest houses, ensuring that visitors can fully experience its serene environment. The village also boasts open parks and pavilions, offering a tranquil space for relaxation and seasonal festivities.

Kandelous has gained international attention, appearing in foreign media and attracting increasing numbers of tourists. In 2023, it was nominated among eight Iranian villages for the Global Village title by UN Tourism, formerly known as the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Additionally, efforts are underway to win a UNESCO label for the village in the future.

Gigantic carpet depicting scenes of Iranian history to go on show in Birjand

TEHRAN – A gigantic carpet depicting scenes from Iranian history will go on display in Birjand, the capital of South Khorasan province, according to the provincial cultural heritage authority.

Seyyed Ahmad Baraabadi, Director General of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of South Khorasan, told reporters on Saturday that the Qajar-era carpet represents both the province’s rich weaving traditions and its potential for tourism development.

Baraabadi said pictorial carpets are rare in the region, where most rugs are traditionally decorated with geometric designs such as Lachak-Toranj and Kheshti. “This carpet is one of the few examples with a pictorial design, usually woven by special order for individuals or state institutions,” he said.


The carpet, about 27 square meters, is considered the largest of its kind in Iran and possibly the world. It depicts a grand building above two rows of soldiers, each line showing 12 men in different uniforms. The design also includes human figures, women in local attire, architectural features, plants, two ships, fish, and water motifs.

Baraabadi said the carpet is believed to have been woven in a rural area within South Khorasan. He added that the imagery may depict a historical event ordered by a foreign patron, possibly connected to Europe or India, but adapted with local cultural elements. “The carpet carries many cultural and historical messages. It is not just a decorative piece but a historical document,” Baraabadi said. He noted that posters explaining the carpet and eight accompanying heritage objects have been translated into six languages -- English, Arabic, French, Chinese, and Russian -- to help introduce the province’s cultural heritage to international audiences.

Baraabadi said the exhibition aims to highlight South Khorasan’s role as a historic weaving hub and to link its cultural identity with modern tourism promotion. “This is an opportunity to present the hidden aspects of our heritage and demonstrate that South Khorasan has long been one of Iran’s important carpet-weaving centers,” he said.

First Announcement

1995484
1



National Iranian Oil Company
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OIL FIELDS COMPANY
AHV AZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440002

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
2	CORE HEAD, PDC WITH STANDARD THREAD. ALL SPECIFICATION OF BIT SUCH AS: TYPE, SIZE, MANUFACTURER, SERIAL, THRE & IADC SHOULD BE DIE STAMPED ON THE TO MATRIX BODY 5-7/8 X 2-5/8 X 4-3/4 IN.	50NO
	MATRIX BODY 6-1/8 X 2-5/8 X 4-3/4 IN.	30NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 40,059/997 EURO or 32,143,140,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS
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Iranian entrepreneurs attend SCO Youth Forum

TEHRAN – Two young Iranian entrepreneurs have participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Youth Forum to open up new opportunities for collaborations in innovative and technological fields like artificial intelligence and digital economy.

Held in Omsk from August 19 to 23, the forum attracted more than 350 participants from 10 countries, including China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, and Russia, TV BRICS reported.

Being part of the international acceleration programme 'SCO Business Incubator', the forum brought together young entrepreneurs and experts to discuss ways to enter foreign markets and seek investment. Participants also attended lectures, practical workshops, and intensive educational sessions with more than a hundred mentors and industry experts.

Parisa Rooydel and Ali Hemati represented Iran in the forum, Mehr news agency reported. Iranian representatives held business-to-business meetings with member states and discussed the potential to boost cooperation in different sectors such as AI, the food industry, and the digital economy. They also explored avenues for conducting joint research projects, sharing technology, and



accessing new export markets along with regional partners.

Representatives of 10 countries signed an agreement on long-term cooperation for the benefit of the development of international youth entrepreneurship.

The main areas of work of the Mentors and Investors Club are networking and sharing of experience, joint investments — from pitching startups to monetary infusions, international partnership in the format of business missions to the SCO countries, as well as education and development through master class-

es, case analysis, and workshops, wyffest.com reported.

Iran prioritizes neighboring countries in science diplomacy

The current administration places a priority on fostering scientific collaborations with neighboring countries, an official with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, said in May.

The high capacities of the neighboring countries, on one hand, and their need to import Iran's science and technology, on the other hand, will lay the basis for the expansion of relations, IRNA quoted Farhad

Yazdandoost as saying.

The official went on to say that since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the country has made great strides in promoting science, technology, and higher education; it has further demonstrated these accomplishments through interactions with universities around the world. A prime example of that is the Iranian scientific elites, their achievements, and status abroad.

President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration is trying to restart and promote collaborative efforts with countries where developing science is on the agenda.

Hence, scientific communication is not just limited to neighboring countries, he stated. "We are strengthening scientific and international partnerships with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

We are also planning to develop ties with some non-neighboring countries that rely on external scientific support, and import scientific knowledge to share our expertise with them.

Cooperating with Asian leading countries in science like China and South Korea, as well as African and South American countries, will help them get familiar with Iran's potential, which will definitely bring about favorable results," the official noted.

UNICEF Iran releases report on humanitarian response following 12-day war

TEHRAN – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has outlined its humanitarian response plan subsequent to the 12-day Israeli war against Iran, which started on June 13, highlighting UNICEF's strategic initiatives, including funding requirements and partnerships with national implementing partners, to provide effective assistance to children and their families in vulnerable situations.

The document has also provided details on the impact of the war on children and families, focusing on areas that need to be dealt with immediately, such as mental health and service recovery.

Humanitarian Situation

Despite the ceasefire declared on June 24, 2025, after 12 days of war, tensions remain high across the region. The 12-day escalation caused significant humanitarian impact, with an estimated 1,100 people killed and more than 4,935 injured.

Civilian infrastructure, including homes and hospitals, sustained extensive damage. Economic challenges, including inflation, unilateral sanctions, and currency fluctuations, continue to impact populations in vulnerable situations in Iran.

In response, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has expanded cash assistance and introduced a relief package

For affected businesses. Financial assistance for households with damaged homes has also been approved. Despite a prompt national response, children, adolescents, and people in vulnerable situations continue to face barriers in accessing basic services. Approximately 40 per cent of children and adolescents in affected areas require mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

UNICEF, mainly at the request of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), is therefore complementing national efforts by delivering a multi-sectoral response to ensure timely and effective assistance to children and their families in vulnerable situations.

UNICEF's Response Strategy

UNICEF's response, aligned with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, prioritizes inclusive, rapid, and accountable service delivery for children, adolescents, and their families in vulnerable situations.

Multi-Sectoral Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Target: 1.5 million children, adolescents, caregivers, and community members

- Support provision of MHPSS services to children, caregivers, and frontline workers, including procurement of supplies for child-friendly spaces and SAHAR teams

- Support provision of MHPSS services to adolescents, caregivers, and frontline workers, including procurement of emergency Kits

- Support training of school counsellors and education staff ahead of the new school year

Service Recovery and Multi-Sectoral Integration

Target: 1.4 million people, including children and caregivers in vulnerable situations

- Ensure continued delivery and distribution of essential health supplies

- Support the restoration of the cold chain capacity to safeguard vaccine potency

- Provide dietary supplements to children in vulnerable situations aged under two

- Provide dietary supplements to pregnant and lactating mothers in vulnerable situations

- Deliver humanitarian cash transfers to affected individuals, including training service providers

- Supporting access to education and services for children with disabilities

- Provision of recreational and learning programmes for affected children

- Support the rehabilitation of affected schools

System Resilience and Emergency Preparedness

- Procurement of emergency response backpacks for mobile health teams

- Procurement of prefabricated classrooms as temporary learning spaces in preparation for the new school year

- Capacity building support for partners and frontline workers on principled humanitarian response

Establish the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

Target: 25,000 households (100,000 individuals, including 28,000 children)

- Procurement and prepositioning of essential survival supplies for rapid response

Risk Communication, Community Engagement, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Target: 4.7 million people reached with inclusive, protective messaging and feedback mechanisms

- Conduct rapid assessments and social listening

- Develop and disseminate life-saving information to population groups in need

- Strengthen inclusive and responsive feedback mechanisms to promote transparency, accountability, and community engagement

Funding Requirements

UNICEF Iran's humanitarian response is estimated at US\$17 million. Approximately 65 per cent is allocated to supply procurement, with the remainder supporting preparedness actions, co-ordination, a rapid response mechanism, risk communication, and community engagement.

SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Summer rainfall drops by 43% in long term

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the summer, June 22, until September 4, a total of 4.9 mm of rainfall has been recorded in the country, indicating a 43-percent decrease from the long-term figure of 8.5 mm, according to the Meteorological Organization.

According to the latest report, from August 29 to September 4, the country received 0.7 mm of rainfall, a decrease of 5.1 percent compared to the 0.8 mm of rain recorded in the long term, ISNA reported.

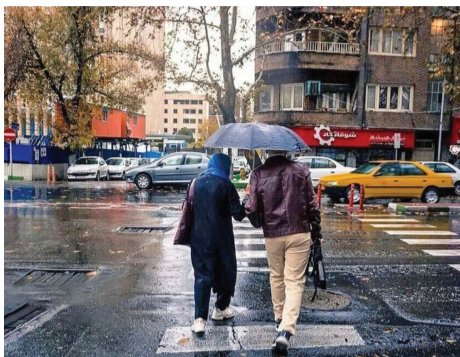
From the beginning of the 5th Iranian calendar month, August 23, to September 4, the recorded precipitation amounted to one millimeter, which is 37.2 percent less than the long-term recorded amount, 1.6 mm.

Since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2024) until September 4, the country received about 139.2 mm of rain on average, which has decreased by 40.1 percent compared to the long-term amount of 232.2 mm.

Rainfall in all provinces has been less than normal. Sistan-Baluchestan and Hormozgan provinces have recorded the lowest amount of rainfall, receiving 71.3 and 70.7 percent less rain than normal, respectively.

Tehran province is also among the provinces that have experienced a significant decline in precipitation.

Tehran's long-term average rainfall stands at 276.2 mm, while in the current water year, it has only received an average of 142.5 mm, which indicates a 48.4 percent reduction.



Over 250 mm rain in previous water year

The previous water year (September 22, 2023 – September 22, 2024) came to an end with 252.7 mm of precipitation, showing a 19 percent increase compared to the year before.

The low precipitation at the beginning of the previous water year was worrisome, but the volume of precipitation improved over time.

Due to successive years of drought, the increase in rainfall amounts did not compensate for the water deficit in the country, and some provinces are suffering from water shortage, IRNA reported. A total of 10 provinces received less than normal rainfall.

According to the latest reports, the total amount of recorded rainfall in the previous water year (ended on September 23) amounted to 252.7 mm, which signifies a 19 percent increase compared to the 212.9 mm of rain received in the water year before (September 2022 –September 2023).

Compared to the long-term figure, 248.7 mm, it shows a two percent increase.

‘ICIMWB is a successful center under auspices of UNESCO’



TEHRAN – The International Center for Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions (ICIMWB), as one of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) category 2 centers in the field of water and natural sciences, has managed to gain an important position in implementing scientific and educational programs related to comprehensive watershed management, Hamid Nouri, the head of ICIMWB has said.

Since the official launch of the center in the Iranian year 1401 (2022 –2023), over 56 educational courses, workshops, and seminars, 45 scientific meetings, as well as different projects, including the development of a strategic document on comprehensive watershed management in 12 provinces, health-related climate adaptation programs, and provincial empowerment plans, have been conducted.

The Board of Governors, as the highest decision-making authority, is responsible for devising strategies and overseeing activities.

The first meeting of the council was held last year, with representatives from 24 countries and international institutions in attendance. Since then, the center has strengthened the international cooperation, the official said.

"Our main objective is to generate knowledge in the field of eco-hydrology, enhance the country's scientific capacities, build international networks, and promote cooperation with universities and research centers to advance science- and research-based management of biological resources in arid and semi-arid regions," Nouri noted.

UNESCO General Conference approved the ICIMWB in 2015, and five years later, Iran and UNESCO signed a memorandum of understanding.

Watershed management budget increased by fifteenfold

The national budget bill for watershed management in the current Iranian calendar year (March 2025–March 2026) is fifteenfold the budget for its preceding year, the head of the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization said in June.

Implementing watershed and aquifer management projects can lead to rainfall penetration into the land or infiltration, strong vegetation cover, reduced soil erosion, and improved land dynamics, ISNA quoted Ali Teymouri as saying.

Referring to the drop in rainfall and the rise in global temperature, which can contribute to sand and dust storms, the official said that although the Ministry of Energy focuses on governance in water resources management, from the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization's perspective, territorial sovereignty needs to be considered.

Natural resources, vegetation, biodiversity, fauna, soil, and even air must be seen as an interconnected whole.

If the rate of water evaporation is ignored, decision-making based on the amount of water remaining cannot be efficient.

Out of some 400 billion cubic meters of annual rainfall, with 280 billion cubic meters evaporating, only 110 to 120 billion cubic meters of manageable water remains.

According to the Ministry of Energy, this year the figure has dropped to 66 billion cubic meters, indicating a 20 to 30 percent decrease compared to its preceding year, Teymouri stressed.

If just 10 percent of the water that evaporates is managed through watershed and aquifer management methods, many positive changes will be brought about.

Currently, about 6,500 villages and 450 cities are at risk of flooding. Managing runoff upstream in these areas is one of the duties of the Natural Resources Organization. Totally, about 25 to 28 million hectares of critical lands have been identified in the country that have the capacity to implement watershed management projects. They are at the top of the agenda of the organization's programs, Teymouri said.

According to the seventh national development plan (2023–2027), over the course of 5 years watershed management project is scheduled to cover 20 million hectares of the land in the country, that is, four million hectares each year.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20–May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said.

The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaean as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 18:41 Dawn: 4:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:42 (tomorrow)

IAF to screen Kurosawa's "Ran"

TEHRAN- The Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa's 1985 epic historical film "Ran" on Monday.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian critic Mehdi Khorramdel.

"Ran" is widely regarded as one of Akira Kurosawa's most ambitious and visually stunning works.

Drawing inspiration from William Shakespeare's tragedy "King Lear" and incorporating legends of the Sengoku period daimyo Mori Motonari, "Ran" stands as a monumental achievement in world cinema, blending cultural storytelling with universal themes of chaos, loyalty, and downfall.

The film's narrative centers on Hidetora Ichimonji, portrayed by Tatsuya Nakadai, an aging warlord who seeks to relinquish his power and divide his kingdom among his three sons: Taro, Jiro, and Saburo.

Hidetora's decision to abdicate is motivated by a desire to retire from the brutal and relentless violence of the Sengoku era, but it sets off a chain of events marked by betrayal, greed, and tragedy.

The story explores the destructive consequences of familial conflict and the chaos that ensues when authority and loyalty are compromised.

Taro, the eldest, receives the First Castle and is expected to lead the clan, while Jiro and Saburo are allocated the Second and Third Castles.

Taro's wife, Lady Kaede, harbors a bitter grudge against Hidetora for past wrongs and manipulates her husband to seize control of the entire clan.

Meanwhile, Saburo, the most honest and outspoken son, criticizes his father's decisions and is exiled for his dissent.



The family's internal strife mirrors the chaos of the wider civil war engulfing Japan during the Sengoku period.

As the story progresses, Hidetora's pride and trust are shattered. His sons betray and abandon him, leading to a series of brutal battles and personal tragedies.

Hidetora is eventually driven into madness, wandering aimlessly through war-torn landscapes, haunted by visions of his past sins.

Kurosawa vividly captures these scenes with striking imagery and dynamic use of color, emphasizing the chaos and decay that overtakes the characters' lives.

The film culminates in a tragic series of deaths and the disintegration of the Ichimonji family.

"Ran" marked Kurosawa's third engagement with Shakespearean themes, following "Throne of Blood" (1957), based on "Macbeth," and "The Bad Sleep Well" (1960), inspired by "Hamlet."

These adaptations reflect Kurosawa's ongoing fascination with Shakespeare's exploration of power, madness, and tragedy, themes that resonate deeply within the movie's narrative fabric.

Critics widely acclaim Kurosawa's ability to adapt these universal themes into a distinctly Japanese historical context, blending Western literary influence with Japanese culture.

Although "Ran" was not submitted for the Academy Awards as Japan's official entry, Kurosawa's reputation helped garner international recognition.

The film received multiple nominations and awards, including four Academy Award nominations—winning for Best Costume Design—and numerous accolades from critics and film institutions worldwide.

Iranian film "Inside Amir" receives Venice Days top prize

TEHRAN – The Iranian feature film "Inside Amir" directed by Amir Azizi, which follows a young man in Tehran on the verge of emigrating, has won the Director's Award, the top prize, at the 2025 edition of Venice Days, or Giornate degli Autori, the independent parallel section of the Venice Film Festival.

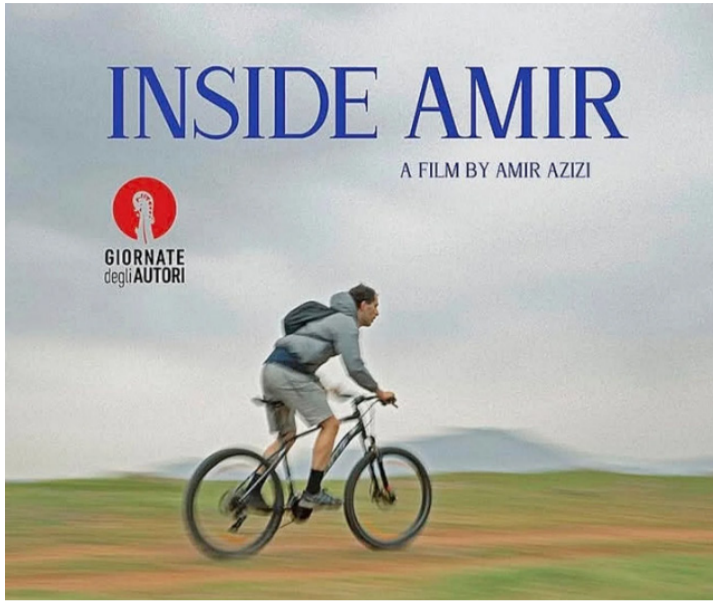
The section's top award comes with a cash prize of €20,000 (\$23,000). This is to be split equally between the filmmaker and the film's international distributor, ISNA reported.

The jury called Inside Amir "a meditation on everyday life," adding: "It reminds us of how daily routines, movements, and conversations with friends provide both security and freedom.

With a framing that little by little reveals a complex life marked by loss and grief against a backdrop of exile and social upheaval, the film asks fundamental questions about what it means to belong and the existential doubts that follow in the wake of such thoughts".

"It is a film that takes time to listen, and that shows how unexpected, spontaneous encounters build a rich life.

The film's precise dialogue and staging give a strong sense of presence, and as a viewer you feel a generosity in the way you are invited in among a group of friends and get to take part in both intimate, profound, and trivial conversations. Another thing that gives great pleasure when



watching this film is the subtle use of different time periods, often in the same frame, and often during the same bike ride," the jury concluded.

The Venice Days jury was led by Norwegian writer and director Dag Johan Haugerud and also included Italian Vermiglio producer Francesca Andreoli, French-Palestinian filmmaker Lina Soualem, New York's MoMA film curator Josh Siegel, and Tunisian cinematographer Sofian El Fani.

"Amid scattered memories, unfinished conversations, and slow-moving days, he faces a decision he hasn't fully made yet: to leave or to stay," reads a synopsis for the movie.

"The only thing he refuses to part with is his bicycle – a companion through the city's streets and a symbol of his past."

According to Azizi, "the film swings between past and present – friendships, late-night anxiety, and a city Amir is still tied to. It is a quiet meditation on the emotional distance between staying and leaving – not about what's right or wrong, but what remains unresolved".

"The movie is rooted in personal experience, but it aims to speak in a universal cinematic language.

It portrays a young man drifting through a city filled with memories, loneliness, and silent transformations.

I'm drawn to the poetry of ordinary life – to the subtle rhythms of streets, bodies in motion, and moments that seem quiet but are emotionally charged," the director said.

"Rather than focusing on plot or dialogue, this film explores

presence, space, and human vulnerability. I wanted to observe reality without any judgments or spectacle – just a patient gaze that trusts the audience's sensitivity. My approach avoids slogans or dramatic noises, seeking instead a deeper emotional clarity," he added.

"Inside Amir" is not a statement about migration, identity, or politics – it is a human story about someone trying to stay afloat.

"I believe that if a film is honest, even in stillness, it can deeply connect with audiences," Azizi noted.

Amir Azizi, 41, began his career in film in 2003. He worked as a director's assistant with renowned Iranian filmmakers including Kiannoush Ayari and Rakhshan Bani-etemad.

He directed several short films, such as "The Idiot" (2007), "Two Cold Meals for One Person" (2009), and "Family Portrait" (2009), which all screened at national and international festivals.

His documentaries "Wolf" (2012), "Nature and Cities of Iran" (2013), and "Home" (2022) focus on local and environmental themes and received critical acclaim.

His first feature, "Temporary" (2014), was screened at the Beijing International Film Festival and Med Film Festival in Rome, winning a Special Jury Prize.

His second feature, "Two Dogs" (2020), competed at Warsaw and won awards at Bangalore and other festivals.

NLAI to commemorate Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen

TEHRAN – The National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) in collaboration with the Embassy of Norway in Tehran will hold a commemoration ceremony for the renowned Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen in Tehran on Monday.

Titled "An Evening with Ibsen," the program will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the International Conference Hall of the NLAI. Participation in the session is open to the public, ISNA reported.

At the event, Gholamreza Amirkhani, President of the NLAI, and Paal Bjørnstad, Norway's Ambassador to Tehran, will deliver speeches.

The program will also feature speeches by Iranian Norwegian artists and academics, who will discuss Ibsen's works.

Iranian playwright and professor of performing arts Ghotbeddin Sadeghi will examine the innovations in Ibsen's works in a panel titled "Ibsen: The Rebellious and Avant-Garde Playwright".

Ardeshtir Salehpour, Iranian researcher and university professor, will reflect on previous

efforts to introduce and honor the writer at a panel titled "A Review of Ibsen Commemoration Ceremonies in Iran".

Nader Borhani Marand, Iranian theater director, will introduce his latest staging of "The Wild Duck" and discuss Ibsen's position in Iranian and global theater.

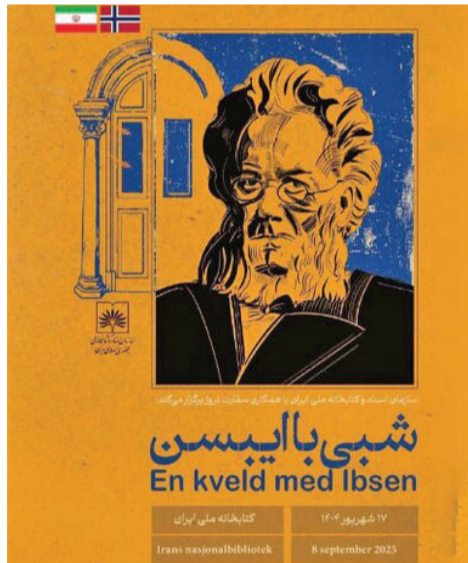
Renowned Iranian theater actor and director Mikaeil Shahrestani, will read selected passages from "An Enemy of the People".

Nina Marie Evensen from the Center for Ibsen Studies at the University of Oslo will deliver an online lecture.

In addition, an exhibition will be held on the sidelines of the event, showcasing works related to Ibsen, including plays, academic theses, and samples of the playwright's manuscripts.

Henrik Ibsen (1828–1906) is regarded as one of the greatest playwrights in history and is often referred to as the father of modern drama.

His works such as "A Doll's House," "Hedda Gabler," "Ghosts," "The Master Builder," and "An Enemy of the People" brought about a



revolution in theater and continue to inspire contemporary drama worldwide.

He pioneered theatrical realism but also wrote lyrical epic works. Ibsen is the most frequently performed dramatist in the world after Shakespeare.

Indonesia, Palestine unite against Israel's "cultural genocide"

Indonesian Culture Minister Fadli Zon described Israel's ongoing genocidal acts in Gaza not only as the cause of a humanitarian disaster but also as a systematic attempt to wipe out Palestine's culture and civilization.

He conveyed this view during a bilateral meeting with his Palestinian counterpart, Imad Abdullah Saleem Hamdan, on the sidelines of the international forum Culture, Heritage, Art, Narrative, Diplomacy, and Innovation (CHANDI) 2025 in Bali, Antara News reported.

"What is happening is not just a genocide against a nation, but also a genocide against its culture and civilization. The destruction of infrastructure, historical sites, cultural spaces, and community centers in Palestine reflects a systematic attempt to weaken the culture," he noted.

In light of this alarming situation, he affirmed that Indonesia remains strongly committed to standing by Palestine in its struggle for sovereignty and independence.

"Indonesia stands ready to make active contributions through political and diplomatic channels as well as humanitarian missions to help end the crisis in Gaza and support Palestine in becoming independent and sovereign," Zon stressed.

This commitment was formalized through the signing of a letter of intent on culture between the ministries of culture of Indonesia and Palestine, paving the way for cooperation in various initiatives such as organizing an international forum highlighting the cultural genocide in Gaza.

The two countries also plan to promote Palestinian cultural products in Indonesia and hold cultural exchange programs, including a Palestinian culture week in Indonesia and the translation and publication of Palestinian literature.

In this regard, the Indonesian minister asserted that cultural diplomacy offers an effective means to bolster mutual understanding, respect, and international soli-

darity. He expressed his belief that cooperation in this area can help preserve Palestine in the memory of the international community.

"We will work with the Palestinian ambassador to address technical matters for implementing the cooperation," he affirmed.

Minister Hamdan, for his part, praised Indonesia for unwaveringly portraying Israel's invasion as a genocide and a systematic attempt to undermine Palestinian culture.

"They are trying to erase our culture, but our identity will always persist. Support from Indonesia is crucial to maintaining the existence of Palestinian culture," he said.

According to the Gaza health authorities, the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli onslaught since October 2023 has surpassed 64,000 fatalities, with an additional 162,005 people sustaining injuries. The overwhelming majority of these victims are women and children, highlighting the devastating human toll of the ongoing

conflict. The relentless violence has left countless families shattered and communities in despair, as hospitals and clinics struggle to cope with the enormous influx of casualties amid a crippling shortage of medical supplies and personnel.

Emergency services continue to face extraordinary challenges in reaching many of the casualties and retrieving bodies trapped under the rubble or scattered across the streets of the war-torn enclave. The situation is further complicated by the ongoing military operations, which have severely restricted access to critical areas. According to Gaza's health authorities, Israeli occupation forces are actively targeting ambulance and civil defense crews, deliberately obstructing rescue efforts and impeding the delivery of vital aid. This pattern of attacks has resulted in additional casualties among rescue workers and has hampered the ability to recover victims and provide emergency assistance, deepening the humanitarian crisis.

Cartoon of Day



Trump's Strike on Venezuelan Boat