

'Your Statements Are Good, but Not Enough'

Pezeshkian tells Arab states to do something about Israel's growing aggression after two years of inaction



President Pezeshkian speaks at the 39th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran on September 8, 2025.

We won't negotiate our missiles: Iran foreign ministry

TEHRAN – Iran has reaffirmed that its missile and defense capabilities are not subject to negotiation, even as it continues diplomatic engagement with Europe and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) amid heightened tensions over sanctions and nuclear safeguards.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday, stressed that Iran's defensive program is an untouchable principle that cannot be compromised under any circumstances. "This is an indisputable and unassailable principle," he said. "The Iranian nation will not allow any dialogue over the means necessary to defend its sovereignty, dignity, independence, and security." ► Page 3

Iran unveils multiple satellite launch plans amid push for space self-reliance

TEHRAN – Iran has unveiled plans for a series of satellite launches in the second half of the current year, underscoring its determination to expand its domestic space program and reduce reliance on foreign technology.

Hassan Salarieh, head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) and deputy communications minister, said preparations are underway for the launch of several satellites, including Zafar, Paya, the upgraded Kowsar, and experimental models of the Shahid Soleimani narrowband communications constellation. He also confirmed that the newly built Chabahar Space Center is ready for its inaugural launch. ► Page 2

Spain recalls ambassador to Israel

Spain on Monday recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv after Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar slammed Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez over a series of measures targeting Israel, AFP reported.

Stepping up his criticism of Israel, Sanchez announced the measures which are aimed at stopping what he called "the genocide in Gaza".

Tel Aviv retaliated by banning two left-wing Spanish ministers from entering Israel.

Spain's foreign ministry condemned Israel's response, saying Madrid "would not be intimidated in its defense of peace, international law and human rights".

Saar said on X that Sanchez's criticism of the war was an attempt "to divert attention from serious corruption scandals through a continuous anti-Israel and anti-Semitic campaign".

Saar also announced entry bans on Deputy Prime Minister Yolanda Diaz and Youth Minister Sira Rego, both members of the far-left Sumar group that is the junior partner of Sanchez's coalition government.

Al-Quds shooting leaves six dead, exposes Israel's security vulnerabilities

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – At least six Israeli settlers were killed and 17 others injured on Monday after two Palestinian gunmen opened fire on a bus at the Ramot settlement junction, north of occupied Jerusalem (al-Quds).

Witnesses said one of the attackers boarded the vehicle disguised as a ticket inspector before opening fire during the morning rush hour.

Both gunmen, reportedly from a village near Ramallah, were killed at the scene, while Israeli forces sealed off roads and checkpoints between the West Bank and Jerusalem.

This marks the most significant operation in the city since 2023, underscoring the simmering rage over Israel's relentless land seizures, killings, and apartheid policies.

Hamas hailed the operation as "a natural response to the crimes of the occupation and the genocide it wages against our people," warning that Israel's assaults on Gaza

Yemen announces second day of strikes on Israeli targets

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Yemen's Ansarullah movement announced on Monday that its forces had carried out a new round of drone strikes deep inside Israel, marking the second consecutive day of such operations.

In a statement, the Yemeni Armed Forces said three unmanned aerial vehicles were used to target Lod Airport (Ben Gurion), Ramon Airport in Umm al-Rashrash (Eilat), and what they described as a "sensitive target" in Dimona.

The group described the attack as part of its ongoing support for the Palestinian people in Gaza, citing "the crimes of genocide and starvation perpetrated by the Zionist enemy" and pledging to continue operations until "the aggression stops and the siege is lifted."

"The operation successfully achieved its objectives," the statement read, congratulating recent Palestinian operations in al-Quds [Jerusalem] and Gaza and claiming they had exposed "the fragility of the enemy's security measures, no matter how stringent they are."

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Turning opportunities into action: Iran-China partnership through the lens of GGI framework

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has emphasized the importance of building on the political and economic opportunities arising from President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent trip to China, which happens to resonate with the five principles outlined in China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI).

"His recent trip to China was an excellent one and potentially lays the groundwork—I do not say fully realized—for the major developments our country needs, both economically and politically. Fortunately, he has created such a foundation through this trip, which has already produced achievements and should be followed up," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with President Pezeshkian and his cabinet ministers in Tehran on Sunday. ► Page 2

Blood moon captivates stargazers

On Sunday, September 7, sky-watchers across the globe witnessed a total lunar eclipse, which turned the full Moon red.

In Iran, the total lunar eclipse occurred between 21:01 and 22:23 local time, with the eclipse beginning at 19:57 and concluding at 23:27.

This marvel is caused when the Earth shades the moon from direct solar light, causing the moon to appear red.

However, the color of the Moon during the lunar eclipse depends on how much dust is present in the atmosphere, along with water droplets, cloud, and mist. All these particles affect how much light entering our atmosphere is left to illuminate the Moon during a total lunar eclipse.



Exclusive Interview

UN risks irrelevance if Gaza genocide ignored, warns Alfred de Zayas

Former UN expert urges UNGA to adopt "Uniting for Peace" resolution against Israel

By Sahar Dadjoo

As the United Nations General Assembly convenes its 80th session in New York on September 9, 2025, the credibility of the world body is once again under scrutiny.

With the ongoing war on Gaza dominating international headlines, questions abound over whether the UN can rise to the occasion or remain paralyzed by geopolitical divisions.

To shed light on these pressing issues, the Tehran Times conducted an exclusive interview with Professor Alfred de Zayas of the Geneva School of Diplomacy, a renowned international law expert and former UN Independent Expert on International Order. In this wide-ranging conversation, de Zayas discusses Israel's violations of the Geneva Conventions and the Genocide Convention, the complicity of Western powers, the failures of the ICC and ICJ, and the hijacking of human rights institutions.

He warns that unless the UNGA takes decisive action under "Uniting for Peace," the UN risks forfeiting its authority in global governance. ► Page 5



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

Meeting with a positive outlook

Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the quarterly meeting A of the Board of Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency that stated on Monday, writing: The meeting of the Board of Governors, which is being this month, is one of the most important events of the year in the area of nuclear diplomacy, because its main focus is to review the Iran nuclear file. This meeting is of unparalleled importance due to its potential influence on shaping the future of the nuclear negotiations and the possibility of determining the path to resolution or escalation of disputes. While Iran and the Agency had held constructive technical talks in Vienna in the weeks leading up to this meeting, the positive results of these talks have increased hopes for achieving sustainable progress in resolving the differences. The meeting of the Board of Governors is a historic opportunity to get closer to resolving the Iran nuclear file. Positive talks between Iranian and IAEA experts, along with the will to continue technical cooperation, can lead to reducing differences and building trust. If this meeting focuses on supporting diplomacy and dialogue instead of confrontation, it could pave the way for ending one of the world's longest-running nuclear disputes and create a brighter future for Iran's relations with the international community.

Ham Mihan: A journey without achievements!

In a note, Ham Mihan addressed the fruitless presence of the Iranian presidents and their accompanying delegations at the annual UN General Assembly meetings in September. It wrote: In a general view and regardless of the U.S.'s threatening decision, which is nothing more than marginal and ineffective political pressure, the presence of the Iranian presidents and accompanying delegations at the UN General Assembly has not achieved any significant achievements for the country for a long time. If it is based on the reading of a repeated diplomatic statements in the General Assembly, and holding a few ceremonial meetings with officials of other governments, which the current Iranian ambassador in New York is also capable of doing, and the presence of the country's second high-ranking person in this meeting is no different when it comes to benefiting the Iranian people. The simultaneous presence of the highest officials of the world's governments in one building is no small event, and it is considered a unique opportunity to open up and confront international challenges; and wise statesmen make the most of this annual opportunity to realize their national interests. In a situation where there is no clear

Iran unveils multiple satellite launch plans amid push for space self-reliance

From page 1 ▶ Salarieh made the announcement Sunday night during a lunar eclipse observation event at the Khayyam Observatory, where he also outlined Iran's achievements in the first half of the year.

The Chabahar base, also known as the Mahdi Space Center, has made "very significant progress," Salarieh said, adding that its first launch will take place soon. He emphasized that the new facility, along with projects in Salmas and Chenaran, will expand Iran's ability to control satellites and analyze data domestically.

He highlighted the unveiling of the second version of the Kowsar satellite during Government Week, designed and built by the private sector. Salarieh said Iran is increasingly relying on home-grown expertise, with knowledge-based companies playing a growing role in national projects.

Iran plans to launch the upgraded Kowsar, along with Zafar, Paya, and test units of the Shahid Soleimani constellation by year's end. While some schedules may shift due to technical adjustments, Salarieh expressed confidence that "at least by the end of this year, these launches will be carried out."

The Kowsar program, he noted, has focused on strengthening Iran's remote-sensing capacity, particularly in agriculture and land management. The Zafar satellite, developed jointly by the Iran University of Science and Technology and the ISA, is aimed at high-resolution earth observation for environmental monitoring and disaster management. Meanwhile, Paya is expected to complement these efforts by supporting agricultural and territorial mapping.

The Shahid Soleimani project, still in its experimental stage, represents a new domain for Iran in satellite communications. Salarieh said modified test units would be launched soon, marking the start

prospect of change in the country's foreign policy, such trips will not be justified in terms of the cost and time.

Etemad: Hope for negotiations in New York?!

Etemad spoke with Kourosh Ahmadi, a former diplomat, about President Pezeshkian's trip to New York. He said: Unfortunately, the news we hear about restricting visas for members of the Iranian delegation and restricting their movement in New York indicates that the Trump administration does not intend to show any interest in working with the Iranian delegation. If the situation continues like this, the Iranian delegation's work may be nothing more than indirect and intermediary contacts with U.S. government officials and think tanks. On the other hand, we know that three European countries have also called for Iran to negotiate with the U.S.; that is, they admit that they themselves are not involved in substantive matters related to Iran's nuclear program. Of course, Israel will also need U.S. permission to deal with Iran or possibly take aggressive action against Iran. Therefore, we hope that Iran and the U.S. can return to negotiations with an adjustment in their positions, and in this way, a change in the political and socio-economic conditions inside Iran will be possible.

Iran: Pezeshkian's important participation at the Shanghai summit

In an interview with Mohsen Roohi Sefat, the Iran newspaper examined the most important achievements of Pezeshkian's trip to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in China in which he held talks with some of his counterparts, including President Xi Jinping. He said: Iran's presence at this summit carried several important messages; first, from the point of view of Iran's foreign policy, it showed that we are gradually reaching a clearer strategy towards the East. Experience has proven that even if Iran wants to have constructive relations with the West, this will be possible and beneficial when it also establishes serious and balanced relations with the Eastern powers. From a regional point of view, this presence was also important. Iran showed that despite the pressures and negative perceptions after the 12-day war (in June), it is still an active and capable player in the region and . At the same time, this action sent a message to neighboring countries and even the Western world that Iran intends to strengthen its relations in the East. The message of Iran's strong presence in the Shanghai meeting is that the political will has been created, but internal structures must also be aligned with the policy to pave the way for cooperation with China and other Eastern powers.



of an ambitious plan for a broader constellation.

Beyond domestic projects, Salarieh underscored Iran's participation in the Chinese-led Change-8 mission, calling it a "major achievement" that will provide access to cutting-edge lunar research. He said such international cooperation reflects Iran's growing role in space science, even as Western sanctions attempt to isolate the country.

In addition to satellite launches, Salarieh confirmed that Iran is developing advanced bio-space capsules with improved control and guidance systems. These capsules, now in the design and construction phase, aim to expand Iran's capabilities in space medicine and biological research.

Salarieh framed the space program as a symbol of national resilience, stressing that most of the upcoming projects rely heavily on domestic expertise. "These are complex programs, but our forecast is that by the end of the year, several key launches will have taken place," he said.

He added that despite technical challenges, Iran remains committed to building an integrated constellation of satellites capable of supporting communications, earth observation, and strategic applications.

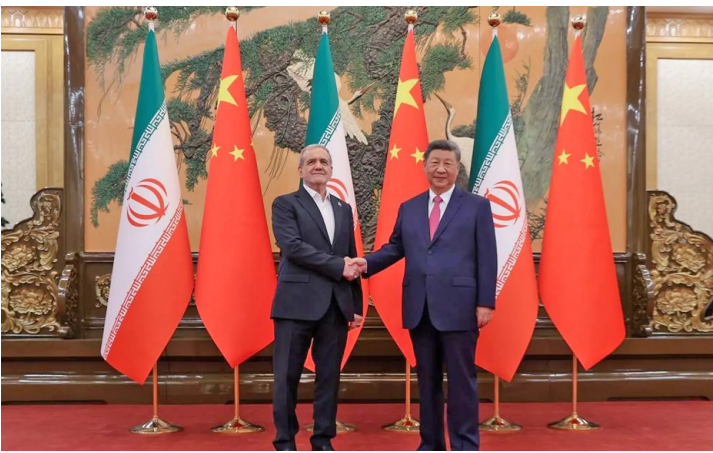
Turning opportunities into action: Iran-China partnership through the lens of GGI framework

From page 1 ▶ Pezeshkian traveled to China on August 31 for a four-day official visit to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 and a major military parade in Beijing marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. While there, he also held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. During their talks, Xi emphasized the GGI, expressing the willingness to work with Iran and the international community to promote a fairer and more equitable global governance system and jointly build a community with a shared future for humankind. Pezeshkian voiced full support for China's GGI. The two presidents also underscored the advancement of the landmark long-term deal between Iran and China, known as the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement, highlighting their commitment to deepening bilateral relations.

After returning to Iran, President Pezeshkian described his trip as an opportunity to engage with SCO leaders. He highlighted discussions on multilateral cooperation, opposing unilateralism, and promoting global governance based on justice and respect for all countries' sovereignty, laying the groundwork for broader technical, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Xi unveils GGI for global unity

President Xi proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus Meeting in Tianjin on September 1,



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on September 2, 2025.

aiming to address new global challenges and uncertainties, uphold the principles of peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, and work with all countries toward a more just, equitable global governance system and a shared future for humanity.

During his speech, Xi emphasized five principles of the GGI: adhering to sovereign equality, abiding by international rule of law, practicing multilateralism, advocating a people-centered approach, and focusing on taking real actions.

This initiative is in line with capitalizing on the political and economic opportunities from Pezeshkian's visit to China.

Advancing Iran-China ties through GGI

Sovereign equality: Ayatollah Khamenei's emphasis on pursuing Iran-China cooperation reflects the principle of sovereign equality, highlighting mutual respect and non-interference

in internal affairs. President Pezeshkian's trip reinforced this equal-footed partnership, demonstrating Iran's dignity and independent decision-making in international relations.

International rule of law: Strengthening Iran-China ties, as emphasized by both Ayatollah Khamenei and Pezeshkian, aligns with adherence to international laws and norms. Their interactions underscored the importance of stability and predictability in bilateral relations and global engagement, including legal frameworks in trade, diplomacy, and security.

Practicing multilateralism: Ayatollah Khamenei's call for multilateral cooperation finds practical expression through Iran's growing engagement in platforms like the SCO. Pezeshkian's meetings with other SCO leaders illustrate Iran's commitment to collective problem-solving and regional integration alongside China and

other partners.

People-centered approach: Both Iran's Leader and President Pezeshkian have time and again emphasized that development should benefit the people. This includes joint Iran-China efforts in economic cooperation, infrastructure development such as energy, transportation, and industrial projects, and social programs. This is aimed at improving healthcare, education, and overall living standards, ensuring that bilateral initiatives produce tangible benefits for citizens.

Taking real actions: The emphasis on capitalizing on Iran's political and economic opportunities with China reflects the GGI's focus on practical outcomes. Ayatollah Khamenei and Pezeshkian stressed implementing concrete initiatives to deepen trade, investment, and diplomatic collaboration, translating discussions into measurable results.

The Global Governance Initiative marks the fourth major global initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping in recent years, following the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). While the GDI focused on economic development, the GSI on international security, and the GCI on cultural cooperation, the GGI aims to reform and improve global governance systems, promote justice and fairness, and guide multilateral cooperation for a shared future for humanity.

Strait of Hormuz, China's imperative for deeper engagement in Persian Gulf



By Mohammad Khatibi

TEHRAN – Beijing's growing dependence on Persian Gulf oil and its aspiration to play mediator in the West Asia disputes collide in the narrow waters of the Strait of Hormuz. As more than 40% of China's crude shipments flow through this chokepoint, how China maneuvers its ambitions without sparking a direct clash has become a vital barometer of its evolving global role.

China's crude imports makes the Strait a critical artery for its economy and simultaneously, Beijing attempts to cast itself as a neutral broker in regional tensions, seeking to distance itself from U.S.-led security frameworks.

China's thirst for oil makes the Strait a linchpin of its national security and any disruption—whether from conflict, sanctions or miscalculation—would ripple through Chinese domestic markets, driving up fuel prices, straining transport networks and squeezing industrial output.

Beijing avoids visible military posturing that might provoke countermeasures or escalate tensions, so it opts instead for back-channel diplomacy, infrastructure investment and quiet security cooperation. By side-stepping large-scale naval deployments, China attempts to preserve two critical issues:

China avoids entanglement in regional power struggles, reducing the chance of direct confrontation with the U.S. Navy or other local actors. Beijing maintains credibility with Persian Gulf producers and Tehran alike, ensuring long-term contracts and steady supplies without appearing biased or aggressive. In this way, Beijing leverages economic interdependence as a shield—projecting influence through ports, pipelines and purchase agreements rather than through an overt display of force.

However, Beijing's restrained approach in the Strait of Hormuz may seem as more of a liability than a stabilizing force. By maintaining a low profile—with limited naval joint exercises, sparse public statements, and a preference for discreet diplomatic channels—China leaves open the question of how far it will go to uphold stability when tensions flare. This hesitation creates uncertainty among Persian Gulf actors about Beijing's true willingness to step in during a crisis.

China's reliance on quiet security cooperation and back-channel diplomacy can be read as implicit approval of existing power structures. Persian Gulf states may interpret China's reluctance to conduct open naval deployments or issue firm public declarations as deference to U.S. leadership in regional security.

Such perceptions undermine Beijing's efforts to present itself as an equal interlocutor capable of rebalancing the Persian Gulf's strategic environment.

A genuinely robust Chinese partnership in the region would go beyond preferential oil agreements and involve clear deterrence measures. Public commitments to oppose unilateral sanctions or regular joint naval exercises would signal that China intends to share real responsibility for Persian Gulf security. These steps would reassure partners that Beijing stands ready to counter any attempts to impose coercive measures against key regional players.

By eschewing overt naval deployments and high-visibility deterrence efforts, China risks being viewed as tacitly aligned with the U.S.-led security framework.

China leaves open the question of how far it will go to uphold stability in the Persian Gulf when tensions flare up

That perception chips away at its bargaining power, since regional governments may doubt China's capacity or resolve to protect their interests. In the absence of demonstrable military backing, Beijing's diplomatic leverage and credibility in the Persian Gulf remain significantly weakened.

Recent flare-ups in the region underscore just how fragile this balance remains. The 12-day war between Iran and Israel—during which Israeli and U.S. forces struck Iran's military and nuclear sites and Tehran retaliated with volleys of missiles and drones—was the first direct military confrontation of its magnitude. Although that brief conflict has

since subsided, the specter of renewed hostilities still looms over the West Asia region.

If the escalation reoccurs a single miscalculation—a stray missile or a botched drone interception—could ignite a much wider conflagration, potentially pulling the United States and its Persian Gulf partners into open combat. In the last escalation, Washington moved swiftly to support Israel and shield its own forces.

U.S. warships shot down Iranian missiles bound for Israeli targets, while American warplanes coordinated strikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure. Those operations relied on a sprawling U.S. footprint in the Persian Gulf: air bases in Qatar and Bahrain, naval squadrons at sea, and forward detachments in Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Iranian officials and state media have repeatedly warned that any escalation might include closing the Strait of Hormuz. A shutdown—even if brief—would send shockwaves far beyond the petrol pump. Petrochemical plants would scramble for naphtha, driving ethylene prices up. Plastic manufacturers reliant on Persian Gulf-sourced polypropylene would face tight inventories and soaring spot rates. Fertilizer traders in India and Brazil would grapple with delayed ammonia shipments and surging freight costs. And rerouting supertankers around Africa would rack up hefty extra voyage fees—rippling through the entire energy chain. All these clearly effect China and in order for preventing that Beijing must take more practical measures to stop re-ignition of conflict. China's low-visibility strategy has so far kept tankers moving but now Beijing stands at a crossroads: maintain its cautious posture or back its economic influence with visible deterrence.

‘Your statements are good, but not enough’

Pezeshkian tells Arab states to do something about Israel’s growing aggression after two years of inaction

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian spent much of his time at a conference marking the Islamic Unity Week in Tehran making general remarks about how unity among Muslims is important, and how cohesion will benefit all Muslim nations in the region. At one point though, he took a more firm and straightforward tone, asking regional states to do more than condemnation in addressing Israel’s unchecked violence in the region.

Pezeshkian said he appreciates statements by regional countries which condemned Israel’s 12-day aggression against Iran back in June, but the statements do not cut it. “We appreciate the condemnation of Israel’s crimes by Muslim countries, but this is not enough,” the president said to a room full of officials and Islamic scholars. “We must stand stronger, more firmly, and more cohesively with a united front against Israel. Only then will we achieve honor for ourselves. There is a heavy responsibility on all of us.”

Israel launched a devastating war against the besieged Gaza Strip in October 2023, following a successful infiltration by Palestinian Resistance forces into occupied territories, which resulted in the death and capture of a number of Israelis. To date, the regime has killed over 60,000 Gazans, destroyed homes, schools, mosques, churches, and hospitals, and imposed a deadly siege on the territory. The flames of the regime’s violence have gradually spread across the region, engulfing Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and, most recently, Iran. Meanwhile, Israelis have begun occupying new areas in Lebanon and Syria.



President Pezeshkian speaks to Islamic scholars at the 39th International Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran on September 8, 2025.

Apart from Iran and Yemen, most Muslim states have attempted to distance themselves from Palestinians over the past two years. Some, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Jordan, and Turkey, have been accused of providing arms and oil to Israel during the war, as well as helping to undermine the blockade imposed by Yemen in the Red Sea.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, stated during a meeting with Iranian officials on Sunday that regional states must sever all economic and political ties with Israel. This marks the second time the Leader has directly called for such action since the war began. Other Iranian figures, including the president and foreign minister, have also repeatedly urged Muslims to cut ties with Israel through statements and direct communication.

The inaction of Muslim states in the face of Israeli actions against Palestinians has been a prominent concern among the masses since the war began. Beyond religious solidarity, which emphasizes the brotherhood and mutual support of Muslims, pan-Arabism has historically fueled calls for action against Israel. In recent weeks, however, fear and a sense of urgency have intensified in

news articles and social media posts, demanding that Arab rulers take decisive action.

The fear stems from the concern that once Israel has dealt with the Resistance Axis – comprising Palestinians, Lebanese, Yemenis, Iraqis, and Iranians – the regime will turn towards establishing “Greater Israel,” a vision that requires the occupation of territories belonging to many of the states that have sought to remain neutral.

These renewed discussions were sparked by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s statement that he “absolutely” feels connected to the vision of “Greater Israel” during a Hebrew media interview.

While his remarks drew angry condemnations from Arab states, the responses were again limited to words. Even after the controversy, some Arab rulers continued to collaborate with Israel on various issues. Saudi Arabia, for instance, is reportedly working with Israel and the U.S. behind the scenes to disarm Hezbollah, Lebanon’s most significant force against Israeli aggression for decades.

Israel also recently announced it is in discussions with several countries to accept Gazans, a project the UAE has reportedly offered to assist with by facilitating the transfer of Palestinians.

“Arab rulers are helping Israel defeat the Resistance, so Zionists can target us next,” stated one Arabic user on X. His post has garnered over 200,000 views on the platform.

Iran, Iraq sign 21-point cooperation agreement covering economy, security, and politics

TEHRAN – Iran and Iraq have formalized a comprehensive 21-point agreement aimed at enhancing cooperation across economic, political, and security sectors.

The accord was signed in Tehran on Sunday by Ali Akbar Pourjamshidian, Iran’s deputy interior minister for security and law enforcement, and Omar al-Waeli, head of Iraq’s Border Ports Authority.

Ahead of the signing, Iran’s Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni met with al-Waeli, praising the strong bilateral relationship while emphasizing the need for continued efforts to boost collaboration in economic and security matters.

Al-Waeli highlighted the agreement’s focus on economic and security cooperation, noting that it will facilitate the movement of Iranian goods into Iraq, including re-exports to neighboring countries. He also emphasized that the framework will improve joint border management and enable the electronic exchange of information between the two governments.

The Iraqi official commended Iran’s role in supporting the annual Arbreen pilgrimage, which he said was successfully coordinated this year through close cooperation between Iraqi institutions and Tehran.

Al-Waeli added that Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani had issued clear directives to strengthen ties with Iran at all levels, reflecting Baghdad’s commitment to deepening bilateral relations.



The agreement signals a mutual desire to institutionalize cross-border collaboration and streamline processes in trade, security, and administration, further reinforcing the historically close relations between the two neighbors.

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We won’t negotiate our missiles: Iran foreign ministry

From Page 1 ► Baghaei emphasized that while Iran remains open to diplomacy and continues to engage with international bodies, its defensive and missile programs are off-limits. He underlined that no external power has the authority to dictate conditions that compromise Iran’s right to safeguard its own sovereignty.

“The defense of Iran’s sovereignty, dignity, independence, and security is not up for negotiation,” he said firmly.

The remarks come at a time when the European trio of Britain, France, and Germany have moved to trigger the UN’s snapback mechanism, threatening the reimposition of international sanctions on Tehran that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal.

‘Talks with Kallas in Doha was productive’

Baghaei also addressed last week’s meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas in the Qatari capital of Doha. He described the talks as “productive,” saying that “a range of points and ideas” were exchanged.

He voiced hope that the meeting could serve as a basis for a shift in European policy. “We expect that in future contacts, the Europeans will reconsider their methods by correctly understanding the consequences of their confrontational approach,” he said.

In August, Britain, France, and Germany invoked the snapback mechanism under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, opening a 30-day window before the possible res-

toration of sanctions. Baghaei emphasized that Iran is using every diplomatic opportunity to defend its national interests, make its demands clear, and warn against the consequences of abusing this mechanism.

The spokesman also responded to Kallas’s recent comments that closer alignment between Iran, Russia, and China posed a threat to the so-called rules-based international order. Baghaei questioned what “rules” she was referring to, pointing instead to the repeated violations of sovereignty carried out by the United States and Israel. “Can such rules be used to justify the illegal US-Israeli attacks on the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of other nations?” he asked.

He dismissed such claims as hostile rhetoric that has no place in international dialogue. “These accusations are merely a continuation of an aggressive approach toward independent countries that are pursuing progress and development in line with their national interests,” he said.

‘IAEA engagement still under review’

Turning to the nuclear file, Baghaei said Tehran has not yet determined the timing for its next round of negotiations with the IAEA. A third round of discussions ended on Saturday, and the results are currently under review by the relevant authorities in Tehran. “We are waiting for the final conclusion to be made, and based on that, we will announce what the next stage will be,” he said.

Iran has also reviewed the IAEA’s latest report and plans to convey its official

response to the agency and its Board of Governors in the form of a memorandum. Baghaei emphasized that the situation facing Iran is unprecedented, with nuclear facilities under international inspection coming under direct military attack.

On June 13, Israel launched what Tehran described as an unprovoked act of aggression, striking Iranian territory in a series of attacks that killed more than 1,000 people, including senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States soon joined the conflict, bombing three Iranian nuclear facilities in what Baghaei denounced as a blatant violation of international law.

Iran responded with large-scale retaliatory operations against both the United States and Israel, which officials in Tehran say forced an end to the 12-day conflict. “It is unprecedented for a country’s nuclear facilities under IAEA supervision to be attacked,” Baghaei said. “The agency has come to understand that it must take Iran’s views into account when determining how to proceed in such circumstances.”

‘UK allegations of Iran-linked threats are baseless’

The spokesman also pushed back against new accusations from London, after the British government claimed last week that it was determined to counter alleged Iranian threats on UK soil, including cyberattacks and the use of criminal networks to carry out operations.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Piazza’s Iran prepare for global test

TEHRAN – As the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship approaches, the Iranian national team are entering the tournament with a refreshed and somewhat restructured squad under the guidance of Italian head coach Roberto Piazza.

The tournament, slated in the Philippines from Sept. 11 to 27, features 32 elite teams divided into eight groups, with Iran placed in Group A alongside Egypt, Tunisia, and hosts the Philippines.

The final roster for Iran comprises 14 players, marking a mix of experience and youth but also notable absences due to injury.

Key players Amin Esmaeilnejad and Javad Karimi, who have been influential in previous competitions, will miss the tournament because of injuries. Their absence has raised questions about Iran’s offensive firepower and the balance of the team.

However, replacements like Ali Ramazani and Ali Hajipour bring fresh energy and proven capabilities, particularly in the setter position, where the battle to become the main setter is a critical tactical decision for the coaching staff.

The coaching team’s strategy seems focused on maintaining a diverse attacking lineup with strong spikers like Ehsan Daneshdoust, Poriya Hossein Khanzadeh, and Ali Haghparsat offering tactical versatility.

The infusion of younger players alongside veterans indicates a deliberate rebuilding effort, aiming to combine the experience gained from the recent Volleyball Nations League with the vitality of emerging talents.

‘Strengths and potential challenges

Iran’s key strength lies in the cohesive unit developed under Piazza’s leadership during the 2025 VNL, where the team finished eighth. The team’s internal chemistry and mutual understanding are seen as assets that could compensate for the absence of some star players. The staff’s ability to identify and minimize weaknesses during the recent competitions suggests Iran are well-prepared to adapt and perform at their best.

Nevertheless, the World Championship will pose significant challenges. Iran face potential matches against volleyball powerhouses like Brazil and Serbia in the knockout stages, where experience and squad depth become critical. The relative youth and limited global tournament exposure of some Iranian players may test the team’s resilience against more battle-hardened opponents.

Expectations for Iran remain realistic yet ambitious: securing a place among the top eight teams is the primary goal, a benchmark reflecting the team’s current developmental phase. Coach Piazza’s psychological approach, emphasizing strong player-coach rapport and mental toughness, aims to maximize the squad’s potential in a high-pressure environment.

Tournament Schedule for Iran:

September 13: Iran vs. Egypt

September 15: Iran vs. Tunisia

September 17: Iran vs. Philippines

Iran water polo team come third at Futog Open 2025

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s water polo national team finished in third place at the Futog Open 2025.

Iran started the campaign with a 14-11 loss against Greek side PAOK but defeated Beograd 17-10 and Kazakhstan 15-9 in its following matches.

The tournament gathered six teams namely, Vojvodina (Novi Sad) – Kazakhstan (national team), Iran (national team), Beograd (Beograd), Crvena zvezda (Beograd), and PAOK (Greek) together in Beograd, Serbia.

The tournament was organized by the Sports Association “Water Sports Futog” and aimed to promote water polo and its values, as well as to strengthen international cooperation in this exciting sport.

Tractor reach agreement with Marko Johansson: report

TEHRAN – Iran’s Tractor football club have reportedly reached an agreement with Swedish goalkeeper Marko Johansson.

The 27-year-old custodian played for Bundesliga 2 side Eintracht Braunschweig last season.

Johansson will replace Alireza Beiranvand, who has been banned for four months.

Johansson has played for Sweden U17, U19, and U21 football teams.

New era for Iran’s omen Handball with Portuguese Coach Ana Seabra: IHF

TEHRAN – Iran’s Handball Federation has ushered in a new era for its women’s national team with the appointment of Portuguese coach Ana Cristina Teixeira Seabra as head coach.

Seabra, 48, brings a wealth of international experience both as a player and a coach, and is widely regarded as one of the most accomplished figures in Portuguese women’s handball. Having represented the Portugal national team in 215 matches, Seabra enjoyed a stellar career at club level with stints at Club Balonmano Atlético Guardés in Spain and AA São Pedro do Sul in Portugal, ihf.info reported.

After calling an end to her playing career, the Portuguese coach has been responsible for several younger age category national teams in Portugal, while also leading Spanish club Atletico Guardes over two seasons.

Seabra now embarks on her first head coaching tenure outside of Europe, having also served as an assistant for the Paraguay women’s senior national team during the Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification Tournament, where the South American team played against Montenegro, Slovenia and Germany.

Under a new two-year contract, Seabra will take charge as head coach for the 2025 IHF Women’s World Championship, where the Islamic Republic of Iran will compete in Group B alongside Hungary, Switzerland, and Senegal.

Germany/Netherlands 2025 will be the third consecutive edition of the IHF Women’s World Championship where Iran is due to feature, after making its debut in 2021, where Team Melli finished 31st, after the People’s Republic of China withdrew, due to COVID-19 positive cases in the Asian team squad.

Iran returned to the world handball flagship competition two years later, at Denmark/Norway/Sweden 2023, where it also finished on the 31st place, this time securing its maiden win on the court, 28:23, against Greenland, in the Placement Match 31/32.

10-man Iran runners-up at 2025 CAFA Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran conceded a late goal against Uzbekistan in the final match of the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup on Monday.

Xoijakbar Alijonov scored the solitary goal of the match in the 120th minute at the Olympic City Stadium in Tashkent.

Eldor Shomurodov had missed a penalty in the 105th minute.

Iran’s Arya Yousefi was shown a red card just five minutes into the match.

Earlier in the day, India defeated Oman 3-2 in penalty shootout after the matches ended 1-1 in regular time.

Iran started the campaign in Group B with a 3-1 win over Afghanistan and then defeated India 3-0. Team Melli were held to a 2-2 draw against Tajikistan but won the group as the top team and secured their berth in the final match.

Iran had won the first edition of CAFA Nations Cup two years ago, edging past Uzbekistan 1-0 in the final match.

Iran Plast 2025 intl. exhibition opens in Tehran



TEHRAN – The 19th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2025) opened on Monday with the participation of senior Oil Ministry officials, petrochemical executives and industry representatives at Tehran's Permanent International Fairgrounds.

The four-day event, running until September 10, was inaugurated in the presence of Hassan Abbaszadeh, managing director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), along with other top energy officials and business leaders.

According to organizers, more than 700 domestic firms and 67 foreign companies are taking part in this year's event. Of the international participants, 49 companies are directly from China and India, while 18 others are represented by partners from China, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, Austria, Italy and Turkey.

In addition, around 200 delegates from 18 countries – including Russia, China, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Libya, South Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Georgia, Armenia, Pakistan, Ghana, Oman, Tunisia and Tajikistan – are scheduled to tour the exhibition and hold business-to-business meetings with Iranian counterparts.

Exhibition halls are divided by category: halls 5 through 9 and 27 host raw materials suppliers; halls 38, 38A and 38B are dedicated to machinery and equipment; while halls 18, 31, 35, 40, 41 and 44 showcase finished and semi-finished petrochemical products.

As recently announced by the NPC head, Iran produced 32 million tons of petrochemical products in the first five months of the current Iranian year to late August, with 13 million tons worth \$5.5 billion exported.

Abbaszadeh, who also serves as deputy oil minister, told reporters on Wednesday that another seven million tons valued at \$4.0 billion were sold in the domestic market.

He said the sector continued operating with minimal disruption despite recent unrest, adding that the industry gained important lessons from a recent 12-day conflict.

Abbaszadeh said NPC was prioritizing completion of development and infrastructure projects. He noted that 15 petrochemical production plants, four feedstock projects, three utility units and four infrastructure projects were planned to come on stream in 2025. Six projects, including the first phase of a flare gas recovery plant in East Karoun, are already completed and awaiting inauguration. Together they will add 2.7 million cubic meters of gas to petrochemical feedstock.

He put the total planned investment for 2025 projects at \$6.0 billion, saying they would expand industry capacity by 9.8 million tons.

Russia energy officials to visit Tehran for gas export deal talks: envoy

TEHRAN – Iran's ambassador to Moscow said senior officials from Russia's Energy Ministry will soon travel to Tehran on President Vladimir Putin's orders to finalize a gas export agreement.

Kazem Jalali told reporters on Monday at the opening of the 19th Iran Plast exhibition that the visit follows Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent trip to China and his extensive talks with Putin.

"One of the results of these consultations is the imminent visit of Russian energy officials to Iran, which will take place at Putin's directive," Jalali said.

He added that the discussions will focus on finalizing agreements in the energy sector, particularly pricing.

"If an understanding is reached, the first phase of the project will be launched within a few months on a pilot scale, followed by larger volumes and joint investments in necessary infrastructure," he said.

Jalali expressed hope that implementation of the agreements would also pave the way for operationalizing the transit of Russian gas to Iran and open a new chapter in bilateral cooperation.

Despite a nominal capacity of nearly 100 million tons, about 22 percent remains idle due to feedstock shortages, Abbaszadeh said. A task force has been formed to tackle supply issues, while large petrochemical firms are being encouraged under the seventh development plan to invest in upstream gas fields.

The flare gas recovery drive is a key measure to secure feedstock, with many flares in oil-rich regions already being extinguished, he added.

Abbaszadeh said NPC had broadened its customer base, especially in Africa, with feasibility studies carried out for markets including India. Eleven inactive projects lost their permits, freeing up 14 million cubic meters of feedstock gas that has been redirected into the value chain.

He noted that petrochemical plants currently use only about 4.5 percent of Iran's daily 700 million cubic meters of gas, compared to nearly half consumed by households and a quarter by power plants. Energy efficiency programs, including replacing household heaters and reducing gas and electricity consumption by 10 percent for 140,000 customers in five cold provinces, have helped sustain petrochemical output.

The official said NPC had taken preventive steps to protect coastal mangrove forests and would host a conference on plastic pollution on Saturday with Environment Organization chief Shina Ansari.

He announced that the 19th IranPlast exhibition would host about 750 domestic and 67 foreign companies, including direct participants from China and India. Some firms withdrew due to the 12-day conflict, missing final registration.

Petrochemical firms are also investing in power generation, including renewable projects. The Kavveh Methanol project has launched power units in Dayyer and Saveh, and a 600-megawatt wind farm is being installed in Sistan-Baluchestan, he said.

Abbaszadeh also confirmed that Bakhtar Petrochemical and Petrofarhang Holding will develop upstream gas fields with a 35 million cubic meter capacity, while other firms are studying participation. On regulation, he said the NPC statute was under parliamentary review and called for the Competition Council to define regulators for the industry by the end of the current development plan.

He added that the Oil Ministry was pushing leadership renewal by discouraging contract extensions for senior managers, with succession plans requiring new appointments a year before retirement.

Abbaszadeh said new ethylene projects would come online by year-end, with tighter planning to ensure downstream units are completed quickly so that no excess ethylene is wasted.

The envoy also highlighted the importance of free trade agreements with neighboring countries, calling them "a vital opportunity for economic actors to expand markets and strengthen regional economic ties."

Jalali noted that Iran and Russia's relationship is strategic, backed by a cooperation roadmap signed last year, though "hostile forces are seeking to obstruct the development of these ties."

He stressed the role of trade exhibitions in showcasing opportunities, recalling that while Russia's trade with Iran has spanned over a century, it has weakened at times due to external pressures.

Turning to Russia's domestic economy, Jalali pointed to high demand in the construction sector, citing the recent building of 320,000 housing units in Chechnya. He said Iranian businesses could fill gaps in construction and industry, but must adapt to Russia's strict technical standards.

He added that the current level of Iran-Russia trade does not reflect the two countries' potential. While governments provide frameworks, he said, "many barriers are internal and must be removed with serious will," noting that the private sector can play a decisive role in boosting trade.

Tehran, Ashgabat push to boost rail transit, target 20m tons

TEHRAN – Iran and Turkmenistan agreed to draw up a joint action plan to expand rail cooperation and raise annual transit volumes to 20 million tons, including 6.0 million tons by rail, during talks between their transport ministers in Tehran on Sunday.

Iran's Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh met with Mammot Akmammedov, Turkmenistan's railway minister, to discuss completing cross-border rail links, reviving regional agreements and activating transit corridors.

Sadegh said boosting rail and transit cooperation would transform trade flows in the wider region. "Transit ties between Iran and Turkmenistan are not limited to the two countries, but will reshape the flow of transport and commerce across the region," she said.

The ministers agreed to finalize a joint plan between Iran Railways and Turkmenistan Railways to reach the 20-million-ton target, with Jabarali Zakari, Iran Railways head, tasked with preparing the roadmap.

Sadegh also called for activating the China-Turkmenistan-Kazakhstan-Iran rail corridor, which she said would "change the future of the region," and backed the revival of the ECO rail route linking Almaty, Tashkent, Tehran and Istanbul. She further urged restoration of the Ashgabat Agreement, a 2016 transport accord among Central and South Asian states to connect the region to the Persian Gulf.



She voiced support for Turkmenistan's permanent membership in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and highlighted the need to launch a Mashhad-Mary passenger train. Iran also pressed for higher rail capacity at border crossings, proposing daily exchanges of 400 wagons at Sarakhs and 150 at Incheh-Boron.

Akmammedov reaffirmed Turkmenistan's commitment to expanding cooperation, pledging investment in cross-border lines and efforts to attract Russian and Belarusian freight through Incheh-Boron.

Iran and Turkmenistan signed a commercial roadmap on May 21 aimed at boosting bilateral trade to \$3.0 billion.

The agreement was signed in Tehran by Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov following the 18th session of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee.

Sadegh said the recent committee meeting marked a new chapter in bilateral cooperation, stressing that intensive talks had yielded fresh approaches and agreements to expand trade. "The trade roadmap is expected to be finalized before the Iranian president's upcoming visit to Turkmenistan," she added.

The minister highlighted the strategic location of both countries within the North-South and East-West corridors, describing them as critical to regional connectivity. She noted that Iran and Turkmenistan had agreed to aim for 20 million tons in transit volumes, with a 16-million-ton target set for 2028.

Other key understandings included plans to establish joint free trade zones in Sarakhs-Sarakhs and Lotfabad-Artiq, strengthen border markets—especially in Incheh Borun—and prepare a bilateral gas contract. The roadmap also calls for constructing the Qamdaq-Atrak road toward the Iranian border and building a gas

pipeline to Turkmenistan.

Agreements were also reached on developing a third electricity transmission line between Mary and Sarakhs and launching feasibility studies for a fourth. "If both sides follow through, the 18th committee will open up new avenues for economic and cultural cooperation," Sadegh said.

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov thanked Iranian officials for their hospitality, stating that bilateral relations are at a high level. "The close dialogue between the two presidents is grounded in mutual trust, which plays a pivotal role in advancing ties," he said.

Meredov emphasized the importance of the Joint Economic Committee as a coordination mechanism for implementing bilateral agreements across sectors such as oil, gas, transport, trade, telecommunications, agriculture, and environment. He also expressed readiness to expand cooperation in health, sports, tourism, and science.

Meredov said the Turkmen delegation had held productive meetings with Iranian officials and that President Pezeshkian had shared his vision for future cooperation during their encounter. "We view Iran's proposals seriously and are committed to joint efforts," he added.

Iran plans to increase its annual rail freight transit with Turkmenistan to four million tons, up from 1.6 million tons last year, according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI).

Iran's non-oil export to Turkey stands at \$1.6b in 4 months



TEHRAN– Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$1.6 billion to Turkey during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

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

Exporting commodities valued at \$2.5 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third source of non-oil import in the said time span, the IRICA head added.

Meanwhile, 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 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 Masrour 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.

Masrour 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.

TPO opposes forex optimization plan, vows to ease import rules

TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) head said he opposed the government's so-called "foreign currency exchange optimization plan" from the outset, while pledging to simplify import registration procedures during a meeting with private sector representatives in Tehran.

Mohammadali Dehghan-Dehna-

vi, head of the TPO, told members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Sunday that the agency is working to streamline the order-registration process, a longstanding complaint among traders.

The session was held jointly by the chamber's Committee for

Trade Facilitation and Development and the Tehran provincial council for public-private dialogue.

Business leaders raised concerns over the foreign exchange optimization scheme, arguing it burdens producers and constrains exports.

They called for faster reforms to

remove red tape and pressed for more flexible currency policies to ease access to hard currency.

The meeting was also attended by Golnaz Nasrollahi, adviser to the industry minister, and Fatemeh Mohajerani, government spokeswoman, both serving as state members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce board.

Al-Quds shooting leaves six dead, exposes Israel’s security vulnerabilities

From page 1 ► warning that Israel’s assaults on Gaza and threats to Al-Aqsa Mosque “will not pass without punishment.” The Al-Quds Brigades of Palestinian Islamic Jihad echoed this, calling it “a natural and legitimate response to the ongoing crimes of the Zionist enemy” in Palestinian lands.

Ramot, an expansive illegal settlement under international law, sprawls across Palestinian land just beyond the 1967 Green Line, fragmenting communities and devouring resources essential for a sovereign Palestinian state.

Such encroachments have intensified under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s far-right coalition, formed in 2022 with Jewish supremacist figures such as Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Smotrich, who oversees West Bank affairs, recently unveiled plans to annex 82% of the territory, framing it as a counter to global recognition of Palestinian statehood. Ben-Gvir, notorious for arming settlers and inciting violence, has pushed for more



weapons among civilians, exacerbating attacks on Palestinians that have surged since October 7, 2023.

Following the Ramot shooting, they moved rapidly to exploit the attack. Smotrich called for the Palestinian Authority to be “wiped off the map” and demanded that the attackers’ home villages be reduced “to ruins,” echoing the devastation Israel has inflicted on Gaza. Ben-Gvir renewed calls for settlers to arm themselves, raising fears of vigilante violence against Palestin-

ians in the West Bank.

For Palestinians, the aftermath is grimly familiar. Military raids, mass arrests, checkpoints sealed shut, and punitive home demolitions typically follow such attacks. According to Al Jazeera, residents in Bethlehem’s Aida refugee camp and other parts of the West Bank reported bracing for raids and reprisals, describing an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty.

Human rights groups have long denounced these tactics as collective punishment — mea-

sures that target entire communities rather than individuals.

The attack in Ramot is not an isolated event but part of a long trajectory. Since October 2023, Israeli forces have intensified raids across the West Bank, while settler violence against Palestinian farmers and villagers has surged under the protection of the army. Analysts note that such attacks are often a symptom of suffocating occupation: collapsing economies, checkpoints at every turn, and the daily grind of military control.

Netanyahu, speaking at the site of the shooting, vowed “dire consequences” and declared that Israel is fighting “a war on multiple fronts.” Yet critics argue his coalition, propped up by the far right, is less interested in addressing security than in advancing annexationist ambitions.

Palestinians brace for what comes next — mourning their dead in Gaza and the West Bank amid fresh waves of grief, and anticipating the sweeping reprisals that observers warn routinely follow when armed attacks pierce the heart of Israel’s military occupation.

Yemen announces second day of strikes on Israeli targets

From page 1 ► Monday’s strikes came less than 24 hours after a large-scale operation on Sunday that Ansarullah said involved eight drones targeting multiple strategic sites across the occupied territories.

That earlier attack, according to the group, directly hit Ramon Airport, forcing a complete halt to air traffic at Israel’s second-busiest airport.

Sunday’s operation also reportedly targeted Ben Gurion Airport, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and other sensitive military sites. The Yemeni Armed Forces said two drones struck a strategic target in Ashkelon and Ben Gurion, while another two hit a vital site in Ashdod. Three more drones were directed at military facilities in the Negev and Eilat.

Footage released by Yemeni media claimed to show damage at Ramon Airport, while Israeli authorities confirmed a temporary shutdown but did not provide full details. Ansarullah used the occasion to warn all aviation companies that airports in “occupied territories” were no longer safe and would remain under threat. “We

will not be held responsible for any consequences,” the statement said.

The group also addressed the Israeli public directly, accusing their leadership of misleading them with false reassurances. “To the Zionist herds, we say: Our armed forces will prove to you that your foolish leadership is merely fooling you with its assurances,” the statement declared.

Israeli media reported that early-warning systems failed to detect the drone that struck Ramon Airport on Sunday, with no alarms triggered and no interception attempts made. The UAV reportedly evaded U.S.-supplied interceptor systems stationed to protect Israeli airspace.

Eilat Mayor Eli Lankri called the incident “extremely concerning,” noting that the city’s seaport was now inactive and operations had nearly stopped, causing “a massive economic blow.”

By following Sunday’s high-profile airport shutdown with Monday’s triple-target strike, Ansarullah appears to be signaling both persistence and reach. The choice of targets—Israel’s main international gate-

way at Lod, the already-hit Ramon Airport, and a site near Dimona—suggests an intent to combine symbolic pressure with operational disruption.

The Yemeni Armed Forces have repeatedly linked their long-range drone campaign to the war in Gaza, portraying it as part of a “holy jihad” and a moral obligation to aid the Palestinian resistance.

Operationally, the contrast between Sunday’s eight-drone salvo and Monday’s three-drone strike points to a mix of saturation and precision tactics. Sunday’s breadth—multiple cities and facilities—forced Israeli defenses to respond across a wide area. Monday’s depth—revisiting Ramon, adding Lod, and pointing at Dimona—was aimed at reinforcing the message that no location is beyond reach.

Despite ongoing Israeli airstrikes on Yemen, Sanaa has vowed to continue operations “deep within Israeli territory” and to maintain air and sea blockades in support of Gaza. The group has also hinted at further escalation, saying more military operations will be revealed in the coming days.

Spain recalls ambassador to Israel

Spain on Monday recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv after Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar slammed Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez over a series of measures targeting Israel, AFP reported.

Stepping up his criticism of Israel, Sanchez announced the measures which are aimed at stopping what he called “the genocide in Gaza”.

Tel Aviv retaliated by banning two left-wing Spanish ministers from entering Israel.

Spain’s foreign ministry

condemned Israel’s response, saying Madrid “would not be intimidated in its defense of peace, international law and human rights”.

Saar said on X that Sanchez’s criticism of the war was an attempt “to divert attention from serious corruption scandals through a continuous anti-Israel and anti-Semitic campaign”.

Saar also announced entry bans on Deputy Prime Minister Yolanda Diaz and Youth Minister Sira Rego, both members of the far-left Sumar group that is

the junior partner of Sanchez’s coalition government.

Rego is of Palestinian descent on her father’s side and spent part of her early childhood in the occupied West Bank.

Among the measures announced by Sanchez was an arms embargo on Israel.

Other steps included a pledge to increase aid for the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, and to impose an embargo on goods made in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestin-

ian territories.

Additionally, anyone who directly participates in what Sánchez termed the “genocide” in Gaza would not be allowed to enter Spanish territory, the Spanish PM said.

“We know that all these measures will not be enough to stop the invasion or the war crimes, but we hope that they will serve to add pressure on Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government to alleviate some of the suffering that the Palestinian population is enduring,” Sánchez said.

Protests in Brazil: “Israel out of Palestinian lands, Trump out of Latin America”

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of major cities in Brazil, including São Paulo, chanting “Israel Out of Palestinian Lands, Trump Out of Latin America” on September 7, Brazil’s Independence Day. What is usually a day of patriotic celebrations and military parades turned into a platform for international solidarity.

Protesters waved Palestinian flags to show support for the Palestinian people and condemned Israeli occupation. At the same time, they voiced strong opposition to U.S. influence in Latin America, specifically targeting President Donald Trump.

The demonstrators demanded that Bra-



zil sever all military and economic ties with Israel and urged President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s government to adopt firmer an-

ti-Zionist positions. Their slogans reflected both domestic dissatisfaction with far-right politics and global solidarity with anti-colonial struggles.

Although police maintained a significant presence, reports described the gatherings as largely peaceful.

Brazil’s Independence Day, which commemorates the country’s 1822 liberation from Portugal, is traditionally a symbol of national unity. This year, however, it became a stage for rejecting both Israeli occupation and U.S. imperialism, while expressing solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Exclusive: UN risks irrelevance if Gaza genocide ignored, warns Alfred de Zayas

Former UN expert urges UNGA to adopt “Uniting for Peace” resolution against Israel

From page 1 ► Below is the full text of the interview:

How do you assess the application of international law, including the Geneva Conventions and the Genocide Convention, in the context of Israel’s military actions in Gaza? To what extent do these actions constitute war crimes or genocide under international law?

As the General Assembly opens its 80th session on 9 September 2025, its authority and credibility are at stake. The first order of the day must be stopping the ongoing genocide against the Palestinians, but hitherto the UN has not been able to end Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity. Worse still, Israel still enjoys the support of the “collective West”, which is complicit in the crimes and is quite obviously in revolt against the UN Charter and international law. Yet, a new world order is emerging thanks to the awakening of the “Global Majority”, which will no longer tolerate the imperialism and colonialism of the “collective West”. The General Assembly should immediately adopt a “Uniting for Peace” Resolution authorizing the use of military force to stop the genocide and demand civil and penal accountability from the perpetrators.

The State of Israel owes its existence to the United Nations. However, the conditions set by the United Nations for Israel’s statehood and UN membership were violated since the start and continue being violated, as Israel defies international law and morals in total impunity. Looking back to 1945, we recall that Israel actually emerged from terrorism committed by Zionist settlers against Palestinians, against the British (blowing up of the King David Hotel in 1946), against UN officials (assassination of UN envoy Count Folke Bernadotte in 1948, for which Israel was duly condemned by the International Court of Justice in 1949). In a very real sense, Israel was born out of terrorism.

Most UN agencies have been in the service of the “collective West” and not in the service of humanity.

The culture of impunity of Israel has been sustained through the military, political, economic, diplomatic and propagandistic support of the United States and Europe, all of whom are complicit in the aggressions, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by Israel. Security Council Resolution 242 of 22 November 1967 already demanded the withdrawal of Israel from the Occupied territories. The Advisory Opinions of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 and 19 July 2024 ruled that Israel was bound by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 which in its article 49 specifically prohibits the forced transfer of the population of occupied territories and similarly prohibits the implantation of settlers. This principle has been repeated in countless General Assembly Resolutions and in the report of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human rights in 1997 (E/CN.4/Sub2/1997/2) and confirmed by the Commission on Human Rights in 1998. The 2024 Advisory Opinion specifically ruled that “that the State of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful”, “that the State of Israel is under an obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, and that “that all States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.” On 18 September 2024 the UN General Assembly endorsed the

Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 and gave Israel a period of 12 months to implement it. Not only did Israel fail to implement the concrete provisions of the Advisory Opinion, it intensified the ongoing genocide, the mass expulsion of Palestinians and the implantation of settlers. Israel is in open revolt against international law and the UN Charter and should be expelled pursuant to article 6 of the UN Charter. The General Assembly is obligated to take action, and it should adopt a new resolution on 18 September 2025 imposing sanctions on Israel and urging UN member states to exercise their Responsibility to Protect the Palestinian population.

What are the legal implications of Israel’s claim to self-defense in Gaza, given its status as an occupying power under international law?

Israel’s claim has no validity in international law, because as repeatedly stated by the International Court of Justice, Israel is an occupying state, the occupation is illegal, and Israel is bound by international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Moreover, UN rapporteurs, most recently by Professor Francesca Albanese, have explained that the right of self-defence laid down in article 51 of the UN Charter does not apply in the case of the Palestinians, because Israel is not defending itself against the aggression of another state, but it is committing genocide against an occupied population that has a recognized right of resistance. The situation in Gaza is akin to that of the Warsaw Ghetto in May 1945. The Nazis, who were sieging the Warsaw Ghetto had no right of self-defence against the Jews being starved to death there, but it was the Jews in Warsaw who had a right of self-defence against the Nazis. Had Israel been attacked by Iraq or Syria, it could have made an argument under article 51 UN Charter, but it cannot do so with regard to the Palestinians. Article 7 of General Assembly Resolution 3314 is clear in affirming the right of an oppressed people to rebel against the oppressor: “Nothing in this Definition, and in particular article 3, could in any way prejudice the right to self-determination, freedom and independence, as derived from the Charter, of peoples forcibly deprived of that right and referred to in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, particularly peoples under colonial and racist regimes or other forms of alien domination: nor the right of these peoples to struggle to that end and to seek and receive support, in accordance with the principles of the Charter and in conformity with the above-mentioned Declaration.” Under the Fourth Geneva Red Cross Convention, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Israel is under an obligation of special care vis-à-vis all populations under occupation. Instead, it commits genocide, and the United States, United Kingdom and many European states are complicit in this genocide, civilly and politically liable pursuant to article III of the Genocide Convention and article 6 of the Statute of Rome.

How effective do you believe the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have been in addressing war crimes committed by Israel in Gaza? What reforms or actions are needed to end selective justice?

The International Court of Justice has issued judgments and advisory opinions of great legal significance. It is currently seized with the case South Africa v. Israel, and it is to be expected that the Court will come down with a clear judgment in 2026 stating that Israel has committed and is committing genocide and serial violations of the Hague and Geneva Conventions, the Convention against Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Apartheid, etc. But ICJ pronouncements are not self-executing.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Archaeologist rejects claim of discovery of Seljuk palace in Kamar-Zarrin passage



TEHRAN—Prominent archaeologist Alireza Jafari-Zand emphasized that there is no sign of a Seljuk palace in Kamar-Zarrin site in Isfahan, and the published news lacks a scientific basis and is propaganda.

According to Mehr news agency, he expressed regret over the trend of the second phase of recent excavations in Kamar-Zarrin passage.

Jafari-Zand, who discovered the Kamar Zarrin passage for the first time and prevented its destruction by making it public, emphasized that if he had known in advance that such a process would occur in Kamar-Zarrin site, he would have preferred to remain silent and allow this area to remain under asphalt so that a powerful team of archaeologists, fully familiar with the formation of Isfahan throughout history, could conduct a thorough excavation.

He reiterated that unfortunately, the second phase of Kamar-Zarrin excavations went astray, just like the first phase. “The news that I receive from the second phase of excavations, are more useful for treasure hunters

than for science and archaeology.”

The archaeologist said that the Seljuk palace is not located in Kamar-Zarrin passage and has no connection with this place. “In the next place, a number of Safavid coins have been found that are not important in scientific exploration. The goal of archaeology is to shed light on our dark history, not to provide clues to smugglers.”

Jafari-Zand continued that the foundation of Kamar-Zarrin Mosque, which has been restored and is now renovated, dates back to the Buyid period.

“It is impossible for the works of the Seljuk period to have been formed on the Buyid period. If we had works of the Seljuk period, there should have been Al-Buyid works underneath.”

“At first, I warned that this site should be excavated by an expert archaeologist, but this warning was not taken seriously, and it has become a place for internships for archaeology students and people who have no expertise in this field.”

Discover ancient Sirvan and its Sassanid-style architecture

TEHRAN – The ancient city of Sirvan in Ilam province, known for its unique architecture, stands as evidence of a rich regional civilization during the Sassanid era and the early Islamic centuries, according to Habibollah Mahmoudian, a specialist in prehistoric archaeology.

He told ISNA that comparing this city with Seymareh (Darrehshahr) shows similarities in architectural style, type of arch, and materials used.

Mahmoudian said that the architectural style of Sirvan’s buildings is comparable to some monuments, such as the ancient city of Seymareh and the castles on the slopes of Kabir Kouh Mountain, including the castles of Sheikh Makan and Bahram Choobin, adding that the Cham Ab Bardeh Bridge near Darrehshahr is also considered one of these monuments.

Comparing the remaining buildings of Seymareh with the buildings of Sirvan, he said that significant similarities are observed in the building style, type of arch, and materials used. All the buildings of Darrehshahr were built of river rubble. Seymareh is a city with palaces, caravanserais, and various houses, many of which are still standing.

The archaeologist explained that the majority of alleys and streets of this ancient city are regularly surveyed and planned. French archaeologist De Morgan wrote about the buildings of Seymareh (present-day Darrehshahr) that the houses usually consist of one floor at ground level, with arches that are plastered.

Mahmoudian explained that the rubble used in the buildings of Seymareh comes from the banks of the Seymareh River and is of the same type of rubble that was used in the construction of the city of Sirvan. The plaster used in both cities was obtained from the surrounding mountains and hills and the roofs of the buildings of both cities were built in the form of domes or with crescent arches, he added.

He continued that Seifollah Kambakhsh-fard has written in an article titled ‘Darrehshahr’: “Currently, there are signs of arches and curves in these ruins. And the bright shadows from the street layout, alleys, and

urban communication network system are evident in this texture.”

“In many cases, the arches indicate changes in the architectural form from the Sassanid to the Islamic eras. These changes and the new style in Darrehshahr are a phenomenon that shows two schools of architecture that continue one after the other, changing together for some reason, this situation is also observed in the architecture of Sirvan.”

Mahmoudian continued that, considering the mentioned cases, it can be concluded that Sirvan is one of the ancient cities that was contemporary with the city of Seymareh (the current Darrehshahr), and the architectural style of the two cities is almost the same and comparable.

Also, Sirvan was an important and prestigious city during the Sassanid period and the early Islamic centuries and had a suitable location for social life due to favorable natural and climatic conditions, water resources and fertile lands, he said.

The architecture of this city is comparable to the ancient city of Seymareh in terms of architectural style, crescent arches and type of materials, he added.

Regarding the cultural identities of the region, he said that the remains of the ancient city, castles, quadrangles, fortified fortresses, and the density of pottery, stone blades, and tools made of stone are visible evidence and cultural identities on the surface of the artifacts, indicating human settlement in different historical periods.

Mahmoudian added that the historical and ancient region on the banks of the Sirvan River is located in the foothills of the Charmin heights, and the proximity of mountains and plains, the temperate climate, rich water resources, and fertile and irrigated lands of this geographical area are considered to be the main factors for the continuation of settlement in different periods (from prehistoric to historical periods and also the Islamic period).

He stated that although the low valley of Sarab-e Kalan on the banks of Sirvan River has a warmer climate, the climate of the ancient city of Sirvan is temperate mountainous.

Sistan-Baluchestan: land of flavors, music, and living traditions

TEHRAN – Sistan-Baluchestan is more than just a geographical region on Iran’s map. It is a land of colors, music, flavors, and traditions, where a rich culture and history meet in everyday life.

Stretching across a vast area and sharing borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, the province which is situated in south-east Iran, has long been a historic crossroads of peoples, languages, and traditions, where influences from Persia, South Asia, and the wider Islamic world converge.

Its warm-hearted people, with their deep-rooted hospitality, open their doors to visitors and share a heritage that has been shaped by centuries of interaction and resilience.

Some believe that the values of hospitality, respect for elders, and strong family bonds shape the cultural life here.

Oral traditions, poetry, and storytelling hold a prominent place, keeping alive the memory of past generations.

These customs are interwoven with Islamic beliefs while also preserving traces of older traditions, creating a cultural fabric that is both unique and resilient.

The natural beauty of Sistan-Baluchestan is as compelling as its culture.

Beris Beach and Pier, near Chabahar, offers dramatic views where the turquoise waters of the Sea of Oman crash against towering cliffs.

The small fishing pier adds authenticity, inviting visitors to watch local fishermen at work.



Beyond the coast, the province encompasses deserts, mountains, and wetlands that support unique ecosystems and landscapes.

The clothing of Sistan-Baluchestan is one of the most visible markers of its unique cultural identity.

For men, the traditional outfit consists of a long, loose-fitting white garment known as a Pirahan, worn with wide trousers and a turban.

The simplicity and practicality of this attire reflect both the hot climate and a cultural emphasis on modesty and elegance.

For women, clothing is vibrant and richly decorated. Long dresses, adorned with embroidery and mirror work known as Suzan-doozi, represent centuries of craftsmanship passed down from mother to daughter.

These garments are not only aesthetically beautiful but also adapted to the region’s warm environment, embodying a living connection between heritage and

daily life.

The cuisine of Sistan-Baluchestan mirrors its geography and cultural exchanges. Meals are hearty and full of flavor, often combining local ingredients with influences from South Asia.

Popular dishes include Tabahag, a slow-cooked meat dish, and Dal-adas, a spiced lentil stew.

Balochi biryani, with its fragrant rice, meat, and spices, showcases the province’s culinary links with neighboring cultures. Moreover, locally baked breads remain a staple on family tables.

In coastal towns like Chabahar, seafood is central to the diet, while inland regions rely more on meat, grains, and pulses.

Agriculture provides fresh dates, mangoes, bananas, and citrus fruits, which are celebrated for their quality across Iran.

Above all, tea is the universal symbol of hospitality, offered in every household and gathering as a gesture of friendship and respect.

Here in Sistan-Baluchestan, music and dance breathe life into celebrations across the province. Instruments such as the sorna (a reed instrument) and dohol (a large drum) set the rhythm for communal gatherings.

Traditional dances are performed in groups at weddings and festivals, emphasizing unity, joy, and collective expression.

These performances are more than entertainment; they are acts of cultural continuity, passing on shared identity from one generation to the next.

In addition, the province is renowned for its handicrafts, which combine utility with artistry.

Suzan-doozi embroidery remains the most famous, transforming fabrics into colorful canvases of intricate designs. Pottery, camel wool products, handwoven rugs, and finely crafted silver jewelry also reflect the region’s creativity.

These crafts are not only a source of income but also a cultural expression, with each piece carrying the stories and skills of its maker. Thanks to its subtropical climate, Baluchestan is one of Iran’s main centers for tropical fruit production.

Dates from Saravan and Iran-shahr are prized nationwide for their sweetness and texture. Moreover, mangoes from Chabahar, harvested in summer, are another regional treasure. Alongside bananas, papayas, and citrus fruits, these products contribute significantly to the local economy and form part of the province’s identity.

Iran to showcase traditional arts at Bangkok diplomatic fair in November



TEHRAN - Iran will present traditional handicrafts and arts at the 70th YWCA Diplomatic

Charity Bazaar in Bangkok from Nov. 6 to 9, the country’s cultural office in Thailand has said.

The YWCA diplomatic fair is one of Bangkok’s oldest international gatherings and takes place annually with the participation of embassies and cultural representatives from countries around the world.

Iran’s booth will feature miniature paintings, enamelware, engraved metalwork, glazed pottery, Khatam and wood inlay, Termeh textiles, and handwoven carpets. The cultural office said the works would serve as examples of Iran’s history and civilization for thousands of local and international visitors.

“The participation is aimed at introducing Iran’s cultural and artistic capacities while highlighting the role of cultural diplomacy in strengthening ties between Iran, Thailand, and other Iran to showcase traditional arts at Bangkok diplomatic fair in November countries,” the Iranian cultural office said in a statement. Last year’s edition of the fair hosted more than 200 booths over 1,500 square meters, displaying cultural products and special festivals from 47 countries.

This year’s participants will include Germany, France, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Greece, Portugal, and Peru, to name a few.

Deploying tourism consultants on government priority


TEHRAN—Ministers of cultural heritage and foreign affairs have called formation of a joint committee, deploying tourism consultants, and easing investment as a strategic priority of the government. According to Mehr news agency, the joint gathering of Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri and Seyyed Abbas Araghchi was held at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage on Sunday.

Explaining the plans of Cultural Heritage Ministry, Salehi-Amiri said: “Formation of a joint committee between Ministries of Cultural Heritage and Foreign Affairs is a necessity for boosting cooperation. We need to deploy tourism consultants in target countries. Also, activating embassies in the field of international tourism exhibitions and accompanying foreign trips should be on the joint agenda.” Pointing to the investment capacities in tourism sector, he said that 114 anonymous investment permissions have been issued in tourism industry within the past eight months.

The government has also increased the attractiveness of investment by approving five key incentives, including zeroing intra-city tolls and removing restrictions on mixed-use complexes, he added. These reforms could pave the way for foreign investors to enter, he said, adding that the arrival of Egyptian tourists to Iran could make a major contribution to the booming tourism industry. Following the meeting, Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi appreciated the approach of the Cultural Heritage Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri, adding: “We understand the cultural values of presence of tourists in Iran and believe that today, cultural diplomacy is one of the pivotal necessities for improving Iran’s image in international level.”

He also emphasized the diplomatic apparatus’s full readiness to cooperate in developing the tourism industry. Araghchi added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the formation of any type of joint commission or working group that can provide the basis for promoting cooperation and expanding the presence of foreign tourists in Iran. He noted that the convergence of diplomatic and cultural heritage capacities can present a more positive image of Iran at the international level, and this issue is on the Foreign Ministry’s agenda as a strategic necessity.

Second Announcement



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

1995484
1

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

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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.

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Tehran, Yerevan sign MOU on science

TEHRAN – Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf and his Armenian counterpart, Zhanna Andreasyan, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) here on Monday to expand scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Highlighting the historical commonalities between Iran and Armenia, the Armenian official proposed boosting scientific collaborations through conducting joint research projects. Andreasyan also announced Armenia's readiness to enhance cooperation focusing on Iranology and teaching Persian language, msrt.ir reported..

Referring to the establishment of the academic city of Armenia, the official said we are developing new scientific legislation to foster the link between science and research. The main objective is to increase efficiency and scientific competitions. Armenia is planning to attract foreign students to this center. She went on to invite Iran to participate in a conference that will be held on the mentioned issue.

For his part, Simaei-Sarraf announced his willingness to share expertise on technology parks and knowledge-based companies with Armenia.



The official welcomed the idea of collaborating on joint scientific research, and exchanging professors and students.

The two sides agreed to form a workgroup to follow up on the agreements, address challenges, and facilitate the implementation of the signed MOU.

During the meeting, the head of the Iran-Armenia Friendship Group, Ara Shaverdyan, voiced readiness to lay the ground for the expansion of the interactions between the two nations, and the head of the Organization of Students Affairs, Saeed Habiba, for his part, said that 217 Iranian students are studying in Armenia and we expect Armenian

students to study in Iran, as well.

Iran highlights fostering ties with neighboring countries

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

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 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.

GII 2025 places Tehran 63rd among top 100 science and technology clusters

TEHRAN – The Global Innovation Index (GII) has ranked Tehran as the world's 63rd-largest science and technology (S&T) cluster this year, according to a report released by the UN's World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

The GIi reveals the top innovation clusters worldwide by size and intensity.

Each year, it ranks the top 100 innovation clusters worldwide using a bottom-up, data-driven methodology that disregards administrative or political borders and instead pinpoints those geographical areas where there is a high density of inventors and scientific authors. The clusters identified in this way often span several municipal districts, sub-federal states, and sometimes even two or more countries.

In 2025, three metrics define the top 100 clusters globally. The first metric focuses on the location of inventors listed in published patent applications under the WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

The second metric considers the authors listed on published scientific articles. These two metrics have served as the foundation for cluster identification across previous GIi editions. This year, however, the GIi introduced a third metric, namely Venture capital (VC) deal locations.

The top 100 innovation clusters continue to be predominantly located in three regions: North America, Europe, and Asia.

In Asia, there are four clusters, including Tel Aviv-Jerusalem (19), Starbucks (58), Tehran (63), and Cairo (83).

Tehran is the only cluster within Iran that falls within the top 100 innovation clusters in 2025. It filed 49 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications, published 8,269 scientific articles, and had 12 venture capital deals, all per 1 million inhabitants over the latest five years, making it the 63rd largest innovation cluster and 85th innovation cluster by intensity (relative to population density) in 2025.

Top publishing organizations in Tehran are University of Tehran with 7,275 articles (12 percent share), Islamic Azad University with 5,763 articles (10 percent share), and Tehran University of Medical Sciences with 5,158 articles (9 percent share).

Top PCT applicants are Mohammad Ab-dolahi with 16 patents (four percent share), Ahmad Ghanbari with 5 patents (one percent share), and Mohammad Durali with five patents (one percent).

Some 4 percent of Tehran's PCT patent applications are filed in collaboration with other inventors, with Los Angeles, Graz, and Vienna emerging as the top collaborative locations; 26 percent of Tehran's scientific articles are published in collaboration with other organizations, with the top three collaborating locations being Seoul, London, and Boston-Cambridge.

In 2025, Tehran had 357 PCT applications, 60,217 scientific publications, 85 venture capital deals, 0.03 Share of global PCT applications, 0.73 share of global scientific publications, and 0.04 share of global venture capital deals.

The city's estimated cluster population,



PCT application per capita, and scientific publication capita amount to 7.2 trillion dollars, 49 million dollars, and 8.2 billion dollars, respectively.

The venture capital pre-deals per capita is about 11.67, and the total innovation intensity share per capita is 0.11.

In 2023, GIi ranked Tehran as the world's 35th largest science and technology cluster; in 2024, the city ranked 38th.

In 2025, Tehran's ranking lowered to 63rd, mainly due to the introduction of VC deal counts as a variable in this year's methodology, not the reduction in academic capacity of the city.

China, for the third consecutive year, leads with the most clusters (24, two fewer than last year) in the top 100. The United States follows closely behind with 22 clusters (+2 compared to last year).

Germany continues to rank third with seven clusters (one fewer than last year) in the top 100, with Munich (27th), Berlin (30th), and Cologne (43rd) in the lead. The United Kingdom now has four clusters among the top 100 (up from three last year, without VC), with London (8th), Cambridge (69th), Oxford (77th), and new entrant Manchester (94th).

France has two clusters in the top 100 (down from three), with Paris still first at rank 12, followed by Lyon (90th), but Basel – a Cross-border cluster previously shared with Germany, France, and Switzerland – drops out of the top 100 ranking.

India still has four clusters in the top 100: Bengaluru (21st), Delhi (26th), Mumbai (46th), and Chennai (84th), with most clusters boosted significantly by the inclusion of VC deal counts.

Japan maintains three clusters among the top 100: Tokyo-Yokohama (2nd), Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto (11th), and Nagoya (28th), whereas the number drops from four to three for the Republic of Korea-Seoul (5th), Daejeon (25th), and Busan (95th), with Daegu dropping out from the top 100.

Canada still has three clusters, with Toronto (33rd) retaining its position as the country's leading innovation cluster, followed by Montreal (62nd) and Vancouver (66th). Australia now has two clusters in the top 100, down from three in 2024, with Sydney (36th) and Melbourne (52nd).

This year, 10 clusters entered the top 100 for the first time. Miami (67th), Phoenix (78th) and Salt Lake City (92nd) in the USA, Ningbo (93rd) and Ningde (99th) in China, Dublin (71st) in Ireland, Mexico City (79th) in Mexico, Oslo (85th) in Norway, Hamburg (91st) in Germany, and Manchester (94th) in the UK.

Iran is a successful model of scientific, technological development: COMSTECH general coordinator

TEHRAN –Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry, the coordinator general of the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH), has highlighted Iran's capacity in innovation and technology as one of the most successful countries in the world.

The official made the remarks while addressing the inauguration of the COMSTECH center in Tehran's Pardis Technology Park.

Pardis Technology Park is the best model of an innovative ecosystem in West Asia that has experienced a notable growth over the past two decades, IRNA quoted Chaudhry as saying.

The park's infrastructures and extensive network play a pivotal role in promoting sci-

entific cooperation in the Islamic world, and the establishment of the joint academy in the region will be a milestone in promoting joint scientific and technological advancement, the official noted.

The joint academy aims to share successful experiences of the country in innovation and entrepreneurship with the Islamic nations, he added.

COMSTECH, in cooperation with its new center in Pardis Technology Park, will hold regular training courses for the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The first training course will focus on artificial intelligence. The academy plans to hold other courses in innovation and technology fields, he further noted.

ENGLISH IN USE

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21m Iranians undergone hypertension control test

TEHRAN – Over 21 million Iranians have so far undergone blood pressure test and the data have been registered by the national campaign for controlling hypertension, deputy health minister Alireza Raeesi announced.

Some 404,000 individuals have registered their blood pressure information on the ministry's network, Raeesi said, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

He further noted that blood pressure stations also have measured the blood pressure of about 5.4 million people nationwide, adding 13,751 stations have been established across the country.

So far, some 15.1 million information also have been submitted on the integrated health system, he also added.

ثبت فشار خون بیش از ۲۱ میلیون نفر در بسیج ملی کنترل فشارخون

معاون بهداشت وزارت بهداشت از ثبت فشار خون بیش از ۲۱ میلیون نفر از هموطنان طی اجرای بسیج ملی کنترل فشار خون خبر داد.

به گزارش ایسنا دکتر علیرضا رئیسی افزود: ازمجموع این تعداد بیش از ۴۰۴ هزار نفر فشار خون خود را درسامانه خوداظهاری فشارخون بسیج ملی کنترل فشارخون ثبت کردند.

وی در ادامه گفت: بیش از ۵ میلیون و ۴۰۰ هزار مورد فشار خون هموطنان در ایستگاههای ثابت و سیار سنجش فشار خون در سراسر کشور ثبت شده است.

دبیر شورای راهبری بسیج ملی کنترل فشار خون افزود: از مجموع ثبت‌های انجام شده بیش از ۱۵ میلیون و ۱۰۰ هزار مورد در سامانه یکپارچه بهداشت (سیب) ثبت شده است.

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Most of those who lose their wisdom, do so because of being dazzled by greed, and shutting their eyes against fact.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 18:38 Dawn: 4:18 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:43 (tomorrow)

Arasbaran Cultural Center reviews “The Life of Chuck”

TEHRAN- “The Life of Chuck”, a 2024 fantasy movie by American filmmaker Mike Flanagan, went on screen at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

The film screening was followed by a review session attended by Iranian critic Kourosh Jahed.

“The Life of Chuck” adapts Stephen King’s novella from his collection “If It Bleeds”, transforming it into a cinematic meditation on memory, mortality, and the interconnectedness of moments that shape our existence.

The film’s unconventional reverse chronological structure allows viewers to experience Chuck’s life from the end of the universe back to his childhood, encouraging reflection on how our past influences our present and future.

The film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2024, where it received critical acclaim and won the People’s Choice Award. Critics praised its innovative narrative, emotional depth, and powerful performances, especially Tom Hiddleston’s portrayal of Chuck, a character embodying the complexity of human life—innocence, regret, and acceptance.

The story unfolds across three interconnected acts, each revealing different stages of Chuck’s life and the universe’s fate. The final act, “Thanks, Chuck”, depicts the universe’s last moments.

As natural disasters and supernatural phenomena escalate, the world begins to fall apart. Billboards and advertisements display Chuck’s face alongside the message, “Charles Krantz: 39 Great Years! Thanks, Chuck!” Middle school teacher Marty Anderson observes these strange signs and, with his ex-wife Felicia Gordon, contemplates whether the end is truly near.

The chaos intensifies as stars vanish and reality unravels. It is revealed that Chuck himself, lying in a hospital bed dying from a brain tumor, is connected to the universe’s demise.

Surrounded by his wife Ginny and son Brian, Chuck’s death marks the cosmic end, symbolizing life’s transient nature. Meanwhile, Marty confesses his love to Felicia just before the universe ends, emphasizing love’s fleeting beauty and life’s ephemeral moments.

The second act, “Buskers Forever”, takes place nine months before Chuck’s death. During a banking conference, Chuck encounters Taylor Franck, an energetic busking drummer.

Moved by Taylor’s rhythm, Chuck impulsively joins him in dancing, attracting a crowd and igniting a spontaneous, joyful moment. Janice Halliday, a young woman recently dumped via text, joins Chuck, and together they dance in a burst of pure spontaneity.

Afterward, Chuck and Janice help Taylor packs up, sharing the earnings. Chuck admits he does not fully understand why he danced but feels that, in that fleeting moment, perhaps God created the universe just for that joy. This act explores the importance of spontaneity and suggests that even brief moments of happiness hold cosmic significance.

The earliest part, “I Contain Multitudes”, depicts Chuck’s childhood and adolescence. Orphaned in a tragic car accident that killed his parents, Chuck is raised by his paternal grandparents, Albie and Sarah.

His grandmother Sarah teaches him to dance and find joy in movement, while his grandfather Albie, haunted by grief, turns to alcohol and forbids Chuck from entering a mysterious cupola in the house—an enigmatic space where he claims to have seen ghosts.

As a young boy, Chuck befriends his idealistic teacher Ms. Richards, who introduces him to Walt Whitman’s phrase “I contain multitudes.”

She explains that Chuck’s memories and experiences form a universe within his mind, shaping his identity. Tragedy strikes again when Sarah passes away, leaving Albie devastated and increasingly alcoholic.

Short documentary “Karun – The Longest River of Iran” wins at Armenian festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short documentary “Karun – The Longest River of Iran” written and directed by Sahand Sarhaddi won an award at the 11th Apricot Tree International Documentary Film Festival, which was held from August 30 to September 6 in Yerevan, Armenia.

Among the 20 documentaries from 17 countries competing in the festival, four films received the top awards, Mehr reported.

“Karun – The Longest River of Iran,” a 2024 joint production of Iran, Switzerland, and Finland, the short documentary “The Oasis I Deserve” from France, as well as two feature-length films, namely “New Beginnings” from Belgium and “Wind Has No Tail” from Russia were the award winners.

A 19-minute movie, “Karun – The Longest River of Iran” is about the Iranian poet Hamid Hajizadeh and his nine-year-old son Karun, whose name symbolically refers to Iran’s longest river, who were brutally murdered in their home in Kerman in 1998.

The documentary, based on the statements of the survivors, tries to sensitively reconstruct one of the many terrible, politically motivated events that took place in Iran at the end of the previous century, and draws us into the fateful day with the help of detailed shots of the objects in Hamid’s study.

Sahand Sarhaddi, 34, is a filmmaker and visual artist. He is an alumnus of “Berlinale Talent” 2023 and graduated in theater and dra-

matic literature at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Tehran.

In 2006, he started collaborating with some publications as a photographer. His artistic work focuses on integrating untold stories in history, photography, music, and literature. His works have been featured in more than ten solo and group exhibitions (such as photography, video arts, and performance arts). He has also directed five short and feature films that have

been screened in festivals in Iran, Switzerland, France, the UK, the U.S., Germany, Canada, etc.

Sarhaddi joined the Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association in 2020 and is currently a member of its board. He is also a member of the House of Cinema.

Iranian filmmaker, researcher, and lecturer Hadi Afarideh was one of the jurors of the three-member jury of this year’s edition of the festival along with the German direc-

Tehran meeting to mark Jalal Al-e Ahmad’s legacy, social impact

TEHRAN- A literary forum titled “Jalal, Literature, and Social Engagement” is scheduled to be held

at the Amir Kabir Publications Bookstore on Tuesday.

The gathering is organized to commemorate the 56th anniversary of the passing of Jalal Al-e Ahmad, a prominent figure in contemporary Iranian literature.

The event will feature speeches by educator and researcher Majid Aqai, as well as writer and expert Somayyeh Jamali, who will serve as moderator.

Born in 1923, Al-e Ahmad spent his childhood in relative comfort. Many members of his family, including his father, older brother and a brother-in-law, were all Muslim clerics.

Early in the 1930s, when the Ministry of Justice under Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian monarch who

ruled from 1921 to 1941, began to regulate the activities of the clergy, Al-e Ahmad’s father went into voluntary retirement.

His decision forced young Jalal to leave school and work at various jobs in the marketplace such as watchmaking and selling leather goods.

He was a member of the Tudeh Party, an Iranian Communist organization, and also translated works by French writers André Gide, Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus into Persian.

Throughout his life, Al-e Ahmad held various positions such as a teacher, journalist, and university lecturer.

In 2008, Iran established the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards

tor of the Goethe-Institute in Yerevan Jan-Tage Kühling Armenian/ French director Serge Melik-Hovsepian.

Born in Tehran, Hadi Afarideh, 41, started his art career in theater in 1998 and in cinema in 2001 at the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS). He was chosen the best documentary filmmaker in the first specialized workshops of documentary filmmaking in Iran by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center and the Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association in 2006. Afarideh has participated in more than 140 Iranian and international festivals and won various awards for directing, writing, and research of his three short films and 19 documentaries.

He is a member of the Iranian Documentary Filmmakers Association and the Iranian Short Film Association (ISFA). At present, he teaches cinema directing and holds documentary filmmaking classes in the IYCS and the Iranian Contemporary Arts Academy.

Apricot Tree International Documentary Film Festival is held annually in late August – early September in Armenia. Since 2023, the festival has been taking place in the village of Debet.

It is as much a celebration of documentary films of all genres (ethnographic, experimental, animated etc.), as it is a platform where filmmakers from around the world can meet and discuss ideas in a friendly atmosphere.

in memory of the writer, who passed away in 1969.

He is widely regarded as one of the most influential Iranian writers of the 20th century, renowned for his works exploring political, social, and economic issues that shape Iranian society.

His critical essays, including “Westoxication” and “Occidentosis,” remain relevant even today.

His novel “By the Pen” explores the connections between an individual’s personality and the society they live in, while his book “The School Principal” depicts dictatorship and corruption in the education system.

Al-e Ahmad’s contributions to Iranian literature and society cannot be overstated.

From Gaza to Wembley: inside the sold-out “Together for Palestine” concert

gees and people in crisis.

“We got involved because our model is that we raise funds and we grant those funds to local organizations. We came on board to be that conduit to add our name to the incredible lineup of people, to be standing in solidarity,” Josie continued.

“I think, in this moment, when people can feel so helpless and heartbroken, and organizations from Human Rights Watch to MSF are calling it a genocide, it’s been the moment for a very long time, when many are compelled to do whatever they can to help,” she added.

“I think that the concert is a way for the artists to take that stand. It’s the least we can all do. We all wish that we could do more. The world is feeling more unstable than ever.

There are more displaced people than ever before. And we really believe that the solution is not the old models of aid. The solution lies in resourcing local communities

and pollinating the ecosystems, not only to survive, but to thrive.”

The line-up is incredible and includes both British and Palestinian artists.

From pop band Bastille, singer

and former Blur leader Damon Albarn, new London neo-soul sensation Greentea Peng, singer James Blake, Jamie xx, Mabel, Obongjayar, Paloma Faith, Rachel Chinouriri, Nadine Shah and the Bristol-based band Portishead via a special live recording.

British actors Benedict Cumberbatch and Guy Pearce, actress and activist Jameela Jameel and documentary-maker and podcast host Louis Theroux were also recently added to the list. They will be joined by Chicken Shop Date creator and host Amelia Dimoldenberg, musicians Leigh-Anne, Celeste and Bridgerton actress Charithra Chandran. Rina Sawayama, PinkPantheress and Riz Ahmed will take the stage for other one-off contributions.

Talking more about his involvement, Damon Albarn said he “felt despair and helplessness at the reports coming out of Gaza and the West Bank over these last days, months and years”, and “a genocide unfolding in real time on our screens.”

Palestinian artists include Adnan Joubran, Faraj Suleiman and Nai Barghouti, as well as Palestinian Chilean singer Elyanna and Palestinian Algerian sensation

Saint-Levant.

Some will perform songs, others have promised unique collaborations, and some will play new material created especially for this event.

Brian Eno’s fellow concert organizers include Khaled Zia-da, founder and director of the London Palestine Film Festival; British actor and activist Khalid Abdalla of Kite Runner and The Crown fame; and Victoria & Abdul producer Tracey Seaward.

“In a world where governments and mainstream media have fallen silent in the face of genocide, this gathering becomes a chorus of resistance – where artists and communities come together to grieve, to rage and to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian people,” Khaled said.

The Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF) is one of the charity partners that will receive funds from the fundraising.

Their board’s chairwoman, Vivian Khalaf, says that, as “PCRF’s work is rooted in human connection, and cultural events like this allow us to extend that connection across borders, this concert is more than a fundraiser, it is a moment of global solidarity.”

Cartoon of Day



Israeli Warplanes Bomb Gaza Towers
Cartoonist: Alaa Allagta from Palestine