

Israel's Attack on Doha; Will Arab States Wake Up?

Exclusive: Trump okayed Israel's strike on Hamas leadership in Doha, Aleef Sabbagh says



People attend a funeral held for those killed by an Israeli attack in Doha, September 11, 2025

Iranian officials urge coordinated Muslim response to Israeli crimes

TEHRAN – Senior Iranian officials have strongly condemned Israel's unprecedented airstrikes on Qatar, denouncing the attacks as state terrorism carried out with U.S. backing, and urging Muslim nations and international institutions to take decisive action.

On Tuesday, Israeli warplanes struck a Hamas office in Doha, targeting senior members of the Palestinian resistance movement as they met to discuss a new U.S.-brokered ceasefire proposal for Gaza. The strikes killed five Hamas officials, a Qatari security officer, and several civilians. Hamas later confirmed its senior negotiators had survived. ▶ Page 3

Tehran, Yerevan discuss expanding energy cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran and Armenia have held talks on expanding cooperation in the energy sector, including trade in petroleum products and potential supplies of liquefied gas, during meetings between senior officials of the two countries.

Mohammad Sadegh Azimifar, managing director of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, met Armenian Economy Minister Gevorg Papoyan and Deputy Minister Armen Simonyan in Yerevan, accompanied by Iran's ambassador, the company said.

Papoyan welcomed closer energy ties and expressed Armenia's interest in importing liquefied gas from Iran, describing it as a basis for long-term and mutually beneficial cooperation that would also enhance his country's energy security. ▶ Page 4

After Cairo talks, a cautious resumption of Iran-IAEA cooperation

Inspectors' full return to Iran hinges on sanctions and security body's judgement

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – After a meeting in Cairo between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi, Iran and the IAEA agreed to resume cooperation on Tuesday, an agreement that seemingly pleased Grossi but created a bedlam in the Iranian parliament.

Grossi was all smiles as he posed for pictures with Araghchi and the Egyptian president in the room where his three-hour meeting with the Iranian diplomat was held. Araghchi did not appear as cheerful, a contrast also evident in a subsequent press conference the two men held in Cairo.



The agreement, reached after four rounds of comprehensive talks, received almost immediate backlash

from Iranian lawmakers, who had suspended cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog after Iran's nucle-

ar sites came under attack by Israel and the United States during a 12-day war in June.

Conservative MP Amir-Hossein Sabeti voiced his opposition to the deal on X, stating that it is "against Iran's national interests" and will "pave the way" for further U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear sites. Sabeti is one of the most vocal anti-West and anti-IAEA figures in Iranian politics. He entered politics through Saeed Jalili, the rival of President Masoud Pezeshkian during the 2024 presidential elections. Jalili previously led Iran's top security body and served as the chief negotiator for Iran's nuclear program before Araghchi, then deputy to Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, succeeded him and signed the JCPOA with the P5+1 in 2015. ▶ Page 3

Shia and Sunni scholars unite to condemn Israeli aggression against Iran

TEHRAN – Shia and Sunni scholars across Iran and the wider Muslim world have issued strong condemnations of Israel's war on Iran, framing resistance as a sacred duty that transcends sectarian divides.

In Tehran, a declaration signed by 1,500 Sunni clerics reaffirmed that confronting the Zionist regime is both a national responsibility and a divine obligation, rooted in the Qur'anic call to "strive in the path of God." The statement underscored that Iran's defense against Israeli attacks has united all ethnic and religious communities, deepening bonds across the nation.

In a gathering at the Imam Khomeini Hosseiniya on Wednesday, coinciding with celebrations of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birthday and National Unity Week, Shia and Sunni scholars came together to denounce Israel's war on Iran and reaffirm the need for Muslim solidarity.

Leading Sunni scholars emphasized that solidarity with Iran is not confined to its borders. The Sheikh of al-Azhar in Egypt took the unprecedented step of voicing support for Iran against Israeli aggression. In addition, one hundred prominent Sunni scholars from across the Islamic world condemned Tel Aviv's "war crimes" during the 12-day imposed conflict, urging collective Muslim action.

Israel, the United States, and the attack on Qatar

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The Israeli attack on members of the Hamas delegation in Qatar, gathered to discuss a ceasefire proposal, marks a political turning point that goes beyond the immediate framework of the war in Gaza. It was not a mere military act nor a routine operation: it was a calculated move with broader implications. It called into question the validity of diplomacy, exposed the vulnerability of America's allies, and laid bare that the regional alliance system rests on subordination, not sovereignty.

This move fits into a wider pattern. During the so-called "12-day war," when Washington and Tehran were holding preliminary contacts over a possible new nuclear agreement, ▶ Page 2

Exclusive Interview

If IAEA remains politicized, safeguards system may collapse, ex-senior inspector warns

▶ Page 2



Iranian, Turkish, and Indian scientists win Mustafa Prize

TEHRAN – Vahab Mirrokni, adjunct associate professor at the Courant Institute at New York University from Iran (L); Mehmet Toner, professor of biomedical engineering at Harvard University from Turkey (C); and Mohammad K. Nazeeruddin, professor of chemistry at the EPFL, Sion Campus, from India, won the prestigious Mustafa Prize 2025 in a ceremony that was held in Tehran on Monday, September 8.

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

The Prize is granted biennially to the top researchers and scientists of the Islamic world in three categories: "Life and Medical Science and Technology", "Information and Communication Science and Technology", and "Basic and Engineering Sciences".

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Opportunity for diplomacy and threat of multiple domestic voices

In an analysis, Shargh discussed the agreement between Iran and the IAEA and the pressure from extremist groups within the country and wrote: The recent agreement between Tehran and the IAEA can initiate a new chapter in Iran's nuclear interactions with the international community. However, before this agreement could show its effects internationally, it faced a wave of criticism from extremists inside the country; attacks that were more political than technical and professional. At the current juncture, Iran is in dire need of a coherent and multi-layered approach in face of external pressures. The recent agreement with the IAEA, despite all limitations, could be an opportunity to unlock diplomacy and reduce tensions. The political attacks on this agreement come at a time when Europe and the United States have called for an immediate and complete implementation of Iran's commitments with threatening language and have even raised the possibility of (UN) sanctions return in the next two weeks. In such circumstances, any multiple domestic voices not only weaken diplomacy but can also encourage the West to adopt more stringent positions down the road.

Javan: European troika has become a U.S. proxy force

Javan pointed to lack of independence by the European troika (Britain, France and Germany) that implements U.S. orders against Iran in an interview with Nader Entesar, a retired distinguished professor of political science. He said: The European troika is not an independent player and has a proxy role for the U.S. in relation to Iran. With the invoking of the snapback, these three European countries have continued their proxy role because the U.S. is no longer a member of the JCPOA and cannot trigger the snapback process alone; therefore, it has entrusted this task to the European troika. If Iran goes under Chapter VII of the Charter, it will be more difficult to prevent the start of a new war. Iran should strengthen its cooperation with China, Russia, and other countries that oppose the war without empty slogans and strengthen position through diplomacy. Iran should also be prepared to deal with the worst-case scenarios, even if the worst-case scenario does not happen. In addition, Iran should adjust its economic policies in accordance with the serious dangers that threaten the country, and make the necessary changes in the country's economic structure as

soon as possible.

Khorasan: Why did Iran negotiate with IAEA again?

In a note, the Khorasan newspaper discussed the reason why Iran resumed negotiations with the IAEA and said: The reason for the renegotiation should be sought in regard to the snapback mechanism (that has been invoked by the European troika that would return the UN sanctions against Iran). The activation of this legal instrument could bring Iran back under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. From an economic point of view, experts estimate that a full implementation of the snapback could disrupt between 30 to 50 percent of Iran's economic activities, which would severely affect not only the national economy but also the daily livelihoods of the people. From a political and legal point of view, return to Chapter VII would limit Iran's diplomatic maneuvers and effectively place the country in a new, risky situation. For this reason, the diplomatic apparatus is obliged to use all possible tools, including well-thought cooperation with the Agency, to prevent the activation of the snapback sanctions. Negotiations with the Agency, despite all bitterness and distrust, are an inevitable tactic to buy time and prevent Iran from entering the vortex of Chapter 7.

Ettelaat: Winning public trust is most important issue against the enemy

Ettelaat discussed the situation in the country on the eve of possible implementation of the snapback mechanism with Mehdi Zakarian, an international affairs analyst. He said: Iran has missed opportunities to resolve the issues facing the country and has now entered the phase of mandatory choices. The mandatory options are dictated by the great powers. The political system in Iran is also facing problems and deficiencies. Therefore, in a situation in which the world sets conditions and restrictions and make threats, the governing system must consider itself accountable to the public opinion and act transparently. If the relationship between the people and the government is favorable and mutually assuring, the political system will have the upper hand when negotiating with foreigners and have significant bargaining power. If the political system can win the trust of the people, many problems will be solved, and this will not happen without serious changes in policymaking.

Israel, the United States, and the attack on Qatar

From page 1 ► the United States launched strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities while Israel carried out direct military operations on Iranian territory. The coincidence was no accident. What was supposed to be a process of political dialogue was accompanied—indeed conditioned—by the use of force. In both contexts—then Iran, now Qatar—the message was the same: diplomacy does not restrain military coercion; it unfolds under its shadow.

The most significant aspect of what happened in Doha was not the damage inflicted on Hamas but the signal sent to the entire region. Diplomacy, traditionally a protected space even in the harshest conflicts, has lost that condition. A process conceived to explore a ceasefire became the stage for political violence.

The symbolic impact is profound. Israel and, ultimately, the United States sent an unequivocal message: they do not recognize their counterparts on a plane of legitimacy. Negotiation, which should imply at least a minimal recognition of sovereign equality, is degraded into yet another risk. The negotiating table is no longer a guarantee of truce, but a place exposed to pressure or even elimination.

At a systemic level, this shift erodes the foundations of the international order. If talks provide neither protection nor clear incentives, violence reasserts itself as the central instrument, shrinking the space available for political mediation.

Qatar: An exposed ally

The fact that this attack took place in Qatar magnifies its meaning. Doha is not an enemy

of Israel; it is, above all, a U.S. ally. It hosts the largest American airbase in West Asia, and its diplomacy has for years served as a channel of negotiation in regional conflicts.

The violation of its sovereignty in this context reveals something essential: the protection offered by alliance with the United States is, ultimately, insufficient. Qatar's expectation of having a solid guarantor collapsed in the face of evidence that even a strategic partner can be targeted when Israel's military agenda requires it.

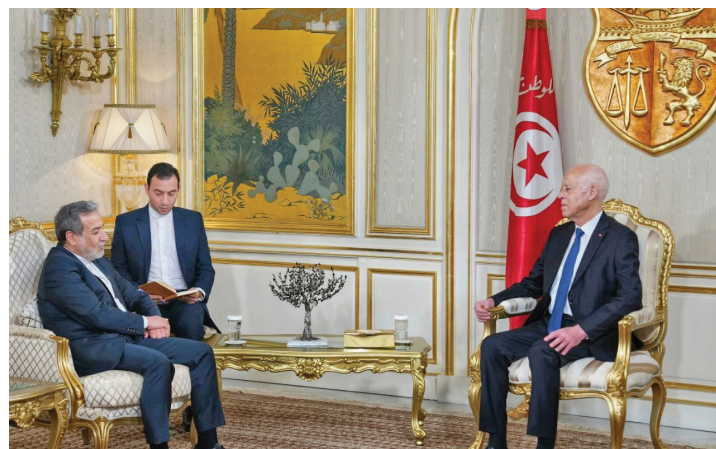
For Qatar, this represents a blow to the foundations of its foreign policy, which had bet on mediation under the security of the American umbrella. For the rest of Washington's Arab allies, the episode leaves a lesson difficult to ignore: the promised stability is nothing more than a conditional commitment, which can evaporate at the most delicate moment.

Washington's role remains the subject of debate. Some argue that the Israeli attack occurred with its consent; others see it as a reflection of its inability to restrain Tel Aviv. But the political conclusion is the same.

If there was authorization, it means the United States explicitly supports a strategy that undermines the value of diplomacy. If, instead, it was a matter of lacking control, then something perhaps more troubling is confirmed: that the world's leading power cannot impose discipline even on its closest ally. In both scenarios, the outcome is clear: alliance with Washington does not guarantee security or stability.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Araghchi in Tunisia: Iran and Tunisia pledge stronger ties, condemn Israeli aggression



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks with Tunisian President Kais Saied (L) and his Tunisian counterpart Mohamed Ali Nafti (R) during meetings in Tunis, Tunisia, on September 10, 2025.



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi paid an official visit to Tunisia on Wednesday, holding high-level talks with President Kais Saied, Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Nafti, and other senior officials, as part of his broader tour of North Africa.

The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations and coordinating regional positions in the face of mounting Israeli aggression.

Meeting with President Saied

In his meeting with Tunisian President Kais Saied, Araghchi emphasized Iran's satisfaction with the growing trajectory of Tehran-Tunis relations. He praised Tunisia's principled stances on regional developments, particularly its firm support for the Palestinian cause and its condemnation of recent U.S. and Israeli attacks, including strikes on Iran.

President Saied described Iran-Tunisia relations as “brotherly,” stressing that they are built on mutual respect, understanding, and convergence of views. He reaffirmed Tunisia's determination to expand cooperation across all fields of shared concern, including economic exchanges, tourism, and regional diplomacy.

Both sides exchanged views on regional crises, with particular focus on the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. They condemned the ongoing genocide and crimes of the Israeli regime against Palestinians, its repeated aggressions against neighboring states, and the recent terrorist attack on Qatar. The two leaders called for stronger regional cooperation to counter Israeli war-mongering.

Talks with Tunisian Foreign Minister

Earlier in the day, Araghchi was welcomed by Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Nafti. The two ministers reviewed the steady growth in bilateral ties and agreed on steps to further expand cooperation in economic, trade, scientific, medical, cultural, and tourism sectors.

They highlighted the importance of establishing direct flights between Tehran and Tunis, saying this would provide a major boost to economic and tourism links. Both sides also agreed to convene a session of the Joint Economic Commission in Tehran in the near future to accelerate practical cooperation.

On regional issues, the two ministers expressed strong concern over the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and condemned Is-

rael's aggression in the occupied Palestinian territories. They also denounced Tuesday's Israeli terrorist attack against Qatar, which targeted the political leadership of Hamas and resulted in multiple civilian casualties.

Foreign Minister Nafti further reaffirmed Tunisia's position in condemning U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, calling them a violation of Iran's sovereignty. He stressed the right of all Non-Proliferation Treaty members, including Iran, to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He also commended Tehran's constructive engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), urging all parties to adopt a diplomatic and cooperative approach.

Joint press conference

Later on Wednesday evening, Araghchi held a joint press conference in Tunis, during which he highlighted the outcomes of his meetings with Tunisian officials and addressed regional security challenges.

“The Zionist regime poses the greatest threat to peace and security in our region, and confronting it requires a collective regional decision,” he said.

Araghchi added that his discussions with President Saied and Foreign Minister Nafti had focused on Israel's attacks across the region, including against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iran, and most recently Qatar.

“We are grateful for Tunisia's clear and firm stance in condemning the cowardly aggression of the Zionist regime and the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he stated. “Tunisia's position in condemning these attacks and in expressing solidarity with the people of Iran was both decisive and transparent.”

The foreign minister also recalled Tunisian President Saied's trip to Iran last year to attend the funeral of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his meeting with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, describing it as a turning point in bilateral ties.

Araghchi further announced that the two sides had made “good decisions” to expand cooperation in tourism, medicine, science, and culture. He confirmed that the Iran-Tunisia Joint Economic Commission would convene soon in Tehran to follow up on the agreements reached during his visit.

Exclusive: If IAEA remains politicized, safeguards system may collapse, ex-senior inspector warns

Abu Shadi calls for nuclear-weapon-free zone in West Asia, urges equal accountability for Israel

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently agreed to resume cooperation after the agency's inspectors left Iran during a U.S.-Israeli bombardment campaign on Iranian nuclear facilities in June, and were subsequently barred from re-entry.

However, the agreement's implementation remains uncertain, as Iranians have stated they will halt the process if Europe does not cease its efforts to reinstate pre-JCPOA UN sanctions against Iran.

Against this backdrop of heightened confrontation, Tehran Times spoke with Yosri Abu Shadi, a former senior inspector at the IAEA, to examine the Agency's neutrality, Western double standards, and the prospects for a regional nuclear-weapon-free zone in West Asia.

Below is the full text of the interview:

How would you compare the IAEA's approach toward Iran today with its approach during earlier leaderships, such as Mohamed ElBaradei or Yukiya Amano?

The pressure on the IAEA is the same irrespective of the director-general. But sure, the selection of director-general always comes with some support from the West, particularly the United States.

There was no one who came really neutral, irrespective of his country. Even ElBaradei from Egypt was much closer to the West. Hans Blix, at certain points, yes, in some conflicts like the North Korea conflict, he was accepting all the IAEA intelligence sources and also all accusations against North Korea. In Iraq, he tried to be neutral, actually, and he said that the program of Iraq became level zero, although it was not that much, actually.

But anyway, currently, Mr. Grossi, in his last report against Iran, went too far. ElBaradei was similar, but maybe not that far like Grossi. The last report of May 31, Grossi used many false indications against Iran as violations, which are extremely trivial reasons for such violations.

And unfortunately, he surely accepted the pressure of the West, and his report of May 31 was highly politicized, non-technical. That is how it is. Continue with question two, about how the U.S. is pressurizing the IAEA and their director-general.

To what extent do the U.S. and European governments exert pressure on the IAEA Secretariat and inspectors in shaping the narrative about Iran?

Actually, we have to remember that 25% of the budget of all international organizations is paid by the United States. Actually, it is the highest contributor to all these international organizations. However, in particular, the IAEA safeguards, which is really the main difficulty or problem, because in most of the other departments, like technical cooperation, like safety, the IAEA plays a very good role, a very positive role, neutral.

There is not much pressure, except in the Department of Safeguards, because they have inspections, they have witnesses, and all countries they are visiting should be following the NPT treaty. But that is why it was unfortunately sometimes misused to accuse some countries without real evidence, starting with North Korea, actually, and then Iraq, especially the reactivation of its nuclear program, which was not true. And then Iran, at the beginning, with a lot of false indications.

And then Syria, when they claimed falsely that there was a nuclear reactor destroyed by Israel and built by North Korea, which I proved until today was a false statement by the CIA and others. So there is surely political pressure. And in most cases, that political pressure prevails, unfortunately, which affects the IAEA's neutrality.

How transparent is the IAEA's decision-making process when drafting reports? Are member states allowed to challenge political language that goes beyond technical findings?

There is surely strong political pressure, particularly for the Safeguards Department. The re-

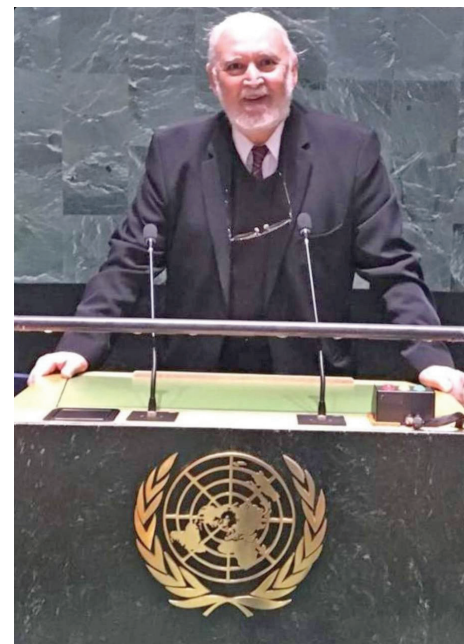


Photo shows Yosri Abu Shadi, a former senior inspector at the IAEA

ports coming from the IAEA, unfortunately, are not always technical. Unfortunately, they contain exaggeration, like, for example, the environmental samples, which always accuse many countries by finding micrograms of uranium or plutonium, and that is taken as a strong indication that the country is violating and is doing a nuclear weapons program.

However, when we come, really, technically, to this environmental sample of micrograms, we found it absolutely could not be used as a real indicator. There is cross-contamination, fabrication, pollution, many things. It should not even be used as an accusation against any country.

Unfortunately, this particular method was created by the Americans and exaggerated for every country they are willing to accuse. That is one. Of course, the country should actually object to such false reports.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

After Cairo talks, a cautious resumption of Iran-IAEA cooperation

Inspectors' full return to Iran hinges on sanctions and security body's judgement

From Page 1 ▶ Ebrahim Rezaei, the spokesman of parliament's security and foreign policy committee, told Iran's national television on Friday that he and his colleagues are set to review the agreement in the coming days.

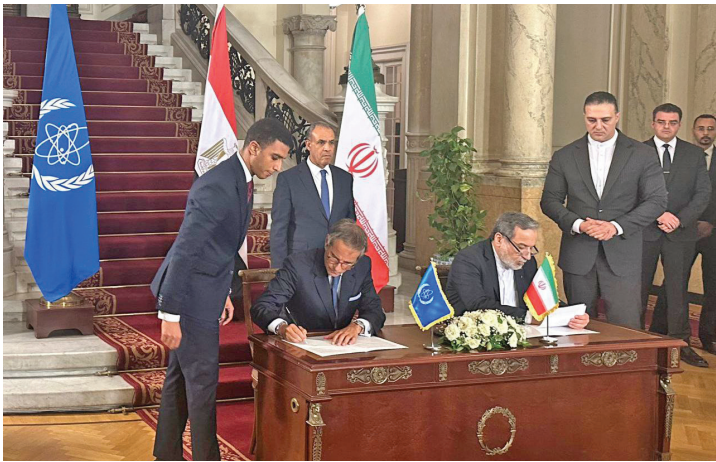
Rezaei too is thought to be close to the country's conservative factions, whose traditional opposition to interaction with the IAEA has gained unprecedented momentum within the Iranian society following the recent war.

"We insist and emphasize that the IAEA does not monitor the sites which were attacked, that's because we are suspicious of the agency, and also have evidence in this regard," Rezaei explained.

Iranians have long accused the UN nuclear watchdog of acting as a political tool of the West. For instance, a report issued a day before the June 13 attacks on Iran that revived old accusations regarding transparency; is believed to have been aimed at manufacturing consent for the aggression.

Grossi, in particular, has been a focus of criticism since taking the helm of the IAEA in December of 2019, as he seems unable to refrain from making political comments and stick to his appointed technical role; furthermore, an Iranian intelligence operation that extracted documents from the occupied territories earlier this year found that Grossi had shared confidential content from his communications with Iranians with Israel, according to Iran's intelligence ministry.

Concerns are now rising that if IAEA inspectors, most of whom left the country fearing for their



Iran's FM Araghchi and IAEA chief Grossi signed an agreement aimed at paving the way for resumption of cooperation between the two sides, in Cairo on September 9, 2025.

safety during the 12-day war, return, they could provide Israelis and Americans with information needed to locate and destroy Iran's enriched uranium, whose whereabouts the agency and Western states claim are unknown.

Iranians have stated that the uranium has been buried within the facilities in Esfahan, Natanz, and Fordow that came under attack.

The Bushehr nuclear power plant was the only major nuclear site spared during the 12-day war.

Although the new Iran-IAEA agreement is primarily intended to restart efforts to bring inspectors back to Iran and lacks practical steps, as Araghchi stated during Tuesday's press conference, Grossi has informed the IAEA Board of Governors that it would grant access to "all facilities and installations in Iran" and "contemplates the required reporting on all the attacked facilities, including the

nuclear material present."

Snapback of UN sanctions

Araghchi told reporters in Cairo that the predicted practical steps of the new deal would not be implemented if anti-Iran UN sanctions are restored.

European signatories to the JCPOA initiated the process to reinstate the sanctions two weeks ago by triggering the so-called snapback mechanism, a provision within the 2015 agreement that allows signatories to re-impose UN sanctions if they determine Iran is not adhering to its commitments.

Iranians argue that Europe lacks the legal and moral authority to request the return of sanctions, as Tehran only scaled back its commitments a year after the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA, re-imposed and intensified sanctions, and European nations, in practice, followed Washington's lead.

The JCPOA was intended to limit Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. Analysts have also pointed out that the very nuclear sites upon which the 2015 agreement was based no longer exist due to American attacks that Europe itself endorsed.

Grossi told the IAEA Board of Governors on Wednesday that the agency cannot influence the re-instatement of UN sanctions, an assertion that casts doubt on the prospects for implementing the new deal. Furthermore, some of Grossi's other statements at the board meeting were later refuted by Araghchi.

During an appearance on Iranian national television, the foreign minister stated that the agreement signed in Cairo does not guarantee IAEA inspectors access beyond the Bushehr nuclear plant.

He added that Tehran seeks further discussions regarding how and if inspections can resume, saying, "Based on future reports issued by Iran, the nature of access will have to be discussed at an appropriate time."

The diplomat further noted that whether inspectors are allowed to visit Esfahan, Natanz, and Fordow depends on future decisions made by Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), which has become responsible for the matter based on the resolution passed by parliament.

Prominent Iranian analysts have not exactly welcomed the resumption of cooperation with the IAEA. But many of them have said they are waiting on the agreement's content to be officially released.

Iranian officials urge coordinated Muslim response to Israeli crimes

From Page 1 ▶

Iran will stand by Qatar until the end: Army chief

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, told Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in a phone call that the aggression "could not have occurred without the coordination and green light of the United States."

He vowed Iran would stand with Doha "until the end," calling the assault a "criminal act" and emphasizing that ties between the two nations were rooted in brotherhood.

Israel sabotages diplomacy: President Pezeshkian

President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned the strikes as "illegal, inhuman, and anti-peace," accusing Israel of sabotaging any attempt at diplomacy.

He urged the UN, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and other international bodies to respond "immediately and decisively," warning that world powers' indifference would only heighten the risk of wider war. "This terrorist act shows the Zionist regime recognizes no boundaries for crime and terror," he said.

The world must break its silence: Leader's advisor

Ali Akbar Velayati, senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, wrote on X that "violating international laws and encroaching on sovereignty has become common practice for Zionists," stressing that the world must cease turning a blind eye.

He described the strike as a "savage" attack on Qatari soil and Palestinian negotiators.



A warning of 'looming hegemony': SNSC secretary

Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said the aggression carried a direct warning to regional states. In an Arabic-language post, he wrote: "The Zionist entity's latest crime in Qatar bears this message to the region: prepare yourselves for my looming hegemony."

Foreign Minister Araghchi called for Muslim unity

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned the strikes as an unprecedented attack on Qatar, saying: "Israel has heinously done what Iran would never contemplate: attacking the dear people and government of Qatar."

He called for Muslim unity in the face of Israeli "recklessness" and pledged Iran's readiness to expand cooperation to counter threats. "The only way to decisively address the recklessness of the Zionist regime is for the Muslim world to act in unison," he stressed.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei described the strikes as "extremely dangerous" and a violation of international law and the UN Charter.

In a statement, the ministry

expressed solidarity with Qatar and called on the UN Security Council, the OIC, and the wider international community to take concrete steps to halt Israel's warmongering and ongoing genocide in Palestine.

A terrorist assault on Qatari sovereignty: Ambassador Iravani at UN

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, condemned the strikes during an emergency Security Council session, calling them a terrorist assault on Qatari sovereignty.

He said Iran firmly supports Qatar's right to self-defense under international law and accused the Security Council of neglecting its duties. "Inaction will only embolden the aggressor and send a dangerous message of impunity around the world," he warned.

U.S. complicity exposed: Armed Forces General Staff

In a statement, Iran's Armed Forces General Staff condemned the strikes as "brutal and barbaric aggression," saying they revealed the "terrorist and aggressive nature of the fake Zionist regime."

It said U.S. complicity was now "clear and evident," noting that Washington had prior knowledge

of the attack. "The United States, with direct and indirect support, seeks to create insecurity in the region and promote international terrorism," the statement read.

Israeli attack is state terrorism: Qalibaf

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf expressed solidarity with Qatar in a message to his Qatari counterpart. He said the attack, which killed Palestinians and a Qatari security officer, amounted to state terrorism and highlighted Israel's "inhuman and anti-human rights" nature.

Qalibaf said Iran's parliament stood ready to strengthen cooperation with Qatar in confronting Israel's threats to peace and security.

Qatari officials likened the assault to a "dagger cowardly thrust" into their country, saying it came even as Doha was working on peace efforts for Gaza. They confirmed that the strikes deliberately targeted Hamas figures engaged in ceasefire talks and expressed hope that Sunday's emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha would yield practical measures against Israel's actions.

Jahanbakhsh linked with Coventry City

TEHRAN – Iranian international winger Ali-reza Jahanbakhsh has been linked with a move to Championship side Coventry City.

When it comes to conducting summer business, Frank Lampard's Coventry City weren't too active in the window, with only two notable signings coming through the door at the CBS arena. One being the highly rated Kaine Kesler-Hayden, who was brought to the club to replace the seemingly outgoing Milan Van Ewijk. However, things didn't plan out that way.

Another winger that could be shrewd business for Lampard's Coventry is former Brighton man Jahanbakhsh. The Iranian international is currently a free agent after spending last season with Dutch side Heerenveen, and the three seasons prior to that in the Eredivisie with Feyenoord.

Jahanbakhsh is well-known among England fans for his time spent at the AMEX Stadium with Brighton and especially for his audacious bicycle kick against Chelsea that he is most remembered for.

With the 32-year-old now without a club, a move to the Championship in the way of Coventry City could be a solid option for him to add to their already dangerous attacking threat.

Tractor complete signing of Marko Johansson

TEHRAN – Swedish goalkeeper Marko Johansson officially joined Iran's Tractor football club.

He trained under supervision of Tractor goalkeeping coach Mladen Žganjer on Wednesday.

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

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

Johansson has played for Sweden's U-17, U-19, and U-21 football teams.

Iran water polo know rivals at 2025 Asian Aquatics Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's men's water polo team discovered their fate at the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships.

Team Melli are drawn in Group A along with China, Kuwait, Uzbekistan, and Hong Kong.

Japan, Kazakhstan, India, Thailand, and Singapore are in Group B.

Iran will play China in their opening match on Oct. 4.

The 11th Asian Aquatics Championships will be held from Sept. 28 to Oct. 10 in Ahmedabad, India.

FIFA President Infantino to travel to Iran: Spox

TEHRAN – FIFA President Gianni Infantino will travel to Iran ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Infantino attended the final match between Uzbekistan and Iran in the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup, where Team Melli lost the match 1-0 in Tashkent.

Amir Mahdi Alavi, the spokesperson of the Football Federation, stated that Infantino visited Iran's locker room and assured the team members that FIFA will do its utmost to resolve visa-related issues and facilitate the teams' participation in 2026 World Cup.

According to Alavi, the FIFA President will travel to Tehran ahead of the World Cup.

Young wrestler Ahmadi set to Adjust to senior Level: UWW

TEHRAN – World U20 champion Payam Ahmadi will adjust to the senior level in the World Championships 2025 Greco-Roman.

Iran has sent the wrestler over Poya Dad Marz after the former won a selection bout, UWW reported.

It will be interesting to see how the young wrestler adjusts to the senior level.

Vakhtang Lolua (GEO) and Taiga Onishi (JPN) are also potential podium finishers at 55kg.

The 2025 World Championships will be held in Zagreb, Croatia from September 13 to 21.

Mehdi Taremi joins FIFA Century Club

TEHRAN – Iran football team forward Mehdi Taremi celebrated his 100th international cap in 2025 CAFA Nations Cup.

Taremi was part of Team Melli in the competition, where they finished in second place after losing to Uzbekistan in the final match.

Taremi made his debut against Uzbekistan in a friendly match on 11 June 2015 and made his 100th cap once again against Uzbekistan.

The Bushehr born player has scored 56 goals for Iran national football team.

Javad Nekounam is the Iran's most capped player of all time with 149 matches.

Ex-Persepolis forward Dursun signs for Kocaelispor

TEHRAN – Serdar Dursun, who wore the Persepolis jersey last season, joined Turkish side Kocaelispor.

Kocaelispor, who has returned to the Süper Lig, officially announced the signing of experienced Turkish striker Dursun just hours before the transfer window closed.

The 33-year-old forward has signed a one-year contract. Dursun has prior Süper Lig experience with clubs including Fenerbahçe, Karagümrük, and Alanyaspor.

Infantino assures Iran for 2026 World Cup's participation

TEHRAN – FIFA President Infantino assured the team members of Iran national football team that FIFA will do its utmost to resolve visa-related issues and facilitate the teams' participation in upcoming tournaments, including the 2026 World Cup.

Infantino visited Iran's locker room shortly after the 1-0 loss against Uzbekistan in the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup final.

Team Melli were heartbroken in the 120th minute after Khojiaqbar Alijanov found the back of the net with a header.

Infantino assured the team members that FIFA will do its utmost to resolve visa-related issues and facilitate the teams' participation in the 2026 World Cup.

The FIFA president said there will be no serious problem for the Iranian national team's trip to the United States.

In recent months, many Iranian athletes have been denied visas to participate in international competitions, mainly in the U.S. and European countries.

Also, the team's members took a photo with Infantino and Team Melli's No. 7 shirt was presented to the FIFA President.

Iran in talks with Chinese firms to expand solar, energy storage projects

TEHRAN – Iran is negotiating with several Chinese companies to develop solar power plants and battery energy storage systems (BESS) as part of efforts to boost renewable capacity, a senior official at the Iran Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Company (Tavanir) said.

Mohammad Allahdad, Tavani's deputy for transmission and foreign trade, told IRNA that Chinese firms were chosen because they are global leaders in solar panel installation and storage systems.

“With Iran moving toward expanding solar power plants, given the country's high number of sunny days, we must use storage systems to increase efficiency,” he said. “Solar plants can only generate during the day, but with these systems, their electricity can be used at night.”

Allahdad said talks were held with two major Chinese companies active in solar energy. He noted that China operates the world's largest fleet of solar power plants, many of which are paired with storage systems.

The official added that Chinese companies also have strong expertise in pumped-storage hydropower plants and have previously partnered with Iranian firms in dam construction. He said the talks included provisions for transferring technical know-how on storage systems to Iranian companies alongside joint solar development.

According to Allahdad, this cooperation would both advance Iran's solar expansion plans and localize storage technology.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has projected that rapid growth in solar and wind generation pushed renewables beyond 4,000 terawatt-hours in 2024, and output is set to exceed 6,000 TWh by 2026. Renewables are expected to supply over 90 percent of the increase in global electricity demand through 2026, supported by rising hydropower production.

The IEA said demand growth, forecast at 3.3 percent in 2025 and 3.7 percent in 2026, will outpace the 2015–2023 average, driven by industrial consumption, higher household appliance use, growing reliance on air conditioning, electrification of heating and transport, and expansion of data centers.

The executor of the 3-megawatt solar power plant projects elaborated on the process of constructing these power plants in the country.

Mohammad Doust-Mohammadi, the executor of the 3-megawatt solar power plant projects, has stated: “At the end of Bahman last year (February 2024), under the directive of the President regarding addressing the electricity supply-demand imbalance, a mission was assigned to construct 1,000 solar power plants with a capacity of 3 megawatts each. This initiative was placed on the agenda of the Ministry of Energy and the SATBA (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization) group.”

He added: “Overall, after six months, we are witnessing that these power plants, which were planned to facilitate grid connection, are gradually being connected to the national electricity grid.”

“Today, we see that 54 megawatts from these power plants are being connected to the grid in the provinces of Qom, Tehran, Semnan, Alborz, Markazi, Qazvin, and Isfahan,” he added.

The energy production of these power plants amounts to 268 kilowatt-hours, which is equivalent to saving 26 million cubic meters of liquid fuel used in thermal power plants, the official further announced.

Meanwhile, referring to the government's pol-



icy of developing solar power plants in the country, the director of the engineering office of the Iranian Water and Power Resources Development Management Company said: “Based on this, the construction of solar power plants next to dams has been put on the agenda.”

Hassan Ahmadi added in an interview with IRNA's economic correspondent: “A memorandum of understanding was recently signed with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) to develop a solar power plant at the site of the dams that have been built, given the availability of ready land, the existence of the electricity grid, and other advantages.”

Stating that within the framework of this memorandum, 500 megawatts of electricity can be produced in this way, he noted: “Given the country's capacity in terms of sunny hours, the development of solar power plants is a good source of electricity supply.”

Iranian energy minister has said that the government fully supports private sector investment in renewable energy, as the country continues expanding its solar power infrastructure to address long-standing imbalances in the electricity sector.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran's heavy crude stands at \$69.18 in August as OPEC output rises

TEHRAN – The price of Iran's heavy crude fell in August in line with declines across OPEC's basket of crudes, the producer group said in its latest monthly report.

Iran's heavy crude averaged \$69.18 a barrel in August, down \$1.63 from \$70.81 in July. The year-to-date average stood at \$71.69, compared with \$82.86 in the same period of 2024.

The OPEC basket averaged \$69.73 a barrel in August, a month-on-month drop of \$1.24. So far this year, it has averaged \$71.61, down from \$83.04 in the same period last year.

Benchmark Brent crude dropped \$2.71 a barrel in August, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate fell \$3.29 for forward delivery.

OPEC crude production rose by 478,000 barrels

per day (bpd) in August to 27.95 million bpd, the report said, citing secondary sources. Iran's output slipped by 27,000 bpd to 3.22 million bpd.

Production by OPEC's allies in the wider OPEC+ group rose by 31,000 bpd to 14.45 million bpd. Combined OPEC+ output stood at 42.40 million bpd, an increase of 509,000 bpd from July.

OPEC left its forecast for global oil demand growth unchanged, expecting consumption to rise by 1.29 million bpd this year. The group said the global economy is maintaining strong growth momentum in the second half of 2025.

The upbeat outlook came shortly after OPEC+ agreed on Sunday to raise production quotas from October, as Saudi Arabia, the group's largest producer, seeks to regain market share.

Tehran, Yerevan discuss expanding energy cooperation

From Page 1 ► He cited opportunities for future collaboration in areas such as petroleum trade, development of liquefied and natural gas infrastructure, joint investments in energy projects, and better use of regional transport and logistics networks.

In a separate meeting, Azimifar also held discussions with Deputy Economy Minister Simonyan on joint plans for fuel production and trade.

On August 20, Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Minister said tariffs on 87 percent of goods traded between Iran and Armenia have been eliminated, as Tehran presses ahead with efforts to expand a preferential trade pact with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak said Iran has been formally recognized as a permanent observer in the EAEU, a status that allows the country to broaden ties with member states.

He noted that in recent years Tehran has sought to strengthen commercial links with neighbors, particularly Armenia, which he described as Iran's gateway to the Eurasian market.

Atabak said the preferential trade agreement that came into effect in May marked a significant milestone, reducing tariffs on the majority of goods traded with Armenia to zero. “This development has already spurred an upward trend in trade volumes with Armenia and other EAEU members,” he said, adding that negotiations to expand the pact to cover other sectors are continuing.

The announcement coincided with President Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to Yerevan, where he was received by senior Armenian officials.

On the sidelines of the trip, Iranian vice president and head of the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi held talks with Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan.

The two officials reviewed opportunities to expand cooperation in infrastructure and transportation, including boosting road and transit capacity between the two countries.

They also discussed energy trade, such as electricity exchange, sales of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and potential Iranian exports of oil and natural gas to Armenia.

Iran also proposed supplying fuel to Armenian airlines.

In the meeting, the two sides agreed to establish joint working groups to monitor and implement agreements.

President Masoud Pezeshkian accompanied by a delegation of his cabinet members, visited Armenia to strengthen bilateral relations across transport, infrastructure, and trade sectors.

During the visit, Pezeshkian met with top Armenian officials to discuss strategic cooperation, particularly in transit corridors, regional connectivity, and economic part-



nerships.

In this trip, in order to enhance the level of relations, high-ranking officials of the both countries signed a joint statement and 10 memorandums of understanding and cooperation documents in the political, social, cultural, tourism, industrial, educational, road and urban development, art, and health fields in the presence of President Pezeshkian and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

On the sidelines of the visit, Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Davit Hovhannisyanyan held a key meeting to advance transportation infrastructure, enhance logistic networks, and resolve transit disputes.

In this meeting, Sadegh highlighted the strategic importance of north-south and Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridors and urged improvements in Armenian road, rail, and logistics systems to facilitate the transfer of goods.

She also called for a revision of the roughly \$330 disparity in tariffs between the two countries and stressed that new transit routes should avoid geopolitical disruptions.

Sadegh described the reopening of the Jolfa-Yerevan-Georgia rail link as a major step in boosting regional transit and characterized President Pezeshkian's visit as a turning point in Tehran-Yerevan transport and logistics relations.

Hovhannisyanyan thanked Iran for its support, particularly following the 2024 earthquake, praised Iranian contractors' performance, announced a tender for a new segment of the north-south route, and confirmed the formation of a joint working group to address tariff discrepancies for Iranian vehicles.

In the economic arena, Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Seyed Mohammad Atabak met with Armenian Minister of Economy Gevorg Papoyan and announced a target to increase bilateral trade to \$3.0 billion.

Both ministers proposed establishing a joint working group, including their deputies, to expedite agreements and facilitate commerce in industrial and trade sectors, highlighting the broader aim of deepening Iran-Armenia economic cooperation.

In another meeting, Mohammad Reza Bahraman, deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, In-

dustries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), met with the deputy head of Armenia's State Revenue Committee to propose the creation of a joint four-party committee, including Iran and Armenia's chambers of commerce and customs authorities.

The committee aims to resolve issues related to certificates of origin and other border and customs matters while fostering private-sector cooperation.

Bahraman emphasized that transparent border procedures benefit both Iranian traders and their Armenian counterparts.

He invited the Armenian delegation to visit Iran for joint events to further explore investment opportunities and strengthen relations.

In parallel, Hamid Asgari, ICCIMA's international deputy, noted that Iran expects to leverage “green corridor” mechanisms, particularly for perishable goods, and stressed the importance of digitalizing customs processes to accelerate information flow and certificates of origin issuance.

Armenia's State Revenue Committee deputy, Rafael Gorkian, confirmed that Armenia has increased investment in border infrastructure, including awarding a contract for a new border road to an Iranian company. He emphasized that illegal crossings will be strictly prevented and expressed hope that these measures will enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

In mid-July, Iran's ambassador to Yerevan said that bilateral trade between Iran and Armenia has reached nearly \$1.0 billion, reflecting deepening economic ties between the two neighbors.

Speaking to Armenian state television, Ambassador Mehdi Sobhani said trade volume between the two countries has grown steadily and is now approaching the \$1.0 billion mark.

Data from Armenia's official statistics agency, Armstat, shows that bilateral trade reached \$737.4 million in 2024, a 6.5 percent increase compared with 2023. Trade in the first five months of 2025 totaled \$278.7 million, up four percent year-on-year.

Earlier this year, Sobhani said Tehran aims to boost annual trade with Yerevan to \$1.0 billion by 2025, a goal that now appears within reach.

The ambassador also highlighted growing tourism flows between the two countries.

“In the first 11 months of last

year, around 276,000 Armenian citizens visited Iran, while 176,000 Iranian tourists traveled to Armenia during the same period,” he said, calling the trend a “natural process” amid expanding ties.

In the first 11 months of 2024, the number of Iranian visitors to Armenia rose 20 percent compared with 2023, according to the Armenian Tourism Committee. Iranians accounted for eight percent of Armenia's 691,900 tourist arrivals in the first five months of this year — the third-largest group after visitors from Russia (37 percent) and Georgia (15 percent).

Iran and Armenia have been strengthening energy, transport, and trade cooperation in recent years, with joint infrastructure projects including a nearly complete electricity transmission line and expanded border crossings. The two sides have also committed to removing obstacles to deeper integration, especially in light of Armenia's strategic shift toward alternative trade routes following tensions with Azerbaijan.

Also, in mid-April, Armenia's ambassador to Iran Grigor Hovhannisyanyan called for expanded bilateral cooperation to raise trade volume between Tehran and Yerevan to \$3.0 billion, stressing that current economic ties fall short of the two nations' strong political relations.

According to Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Hovhannisyanyan made the remarks during a meeting with the chamber's president, saying Armenia places high priority on ties with Iran and is eager to strengthen cooperation across economic, political, and cultural spheres.

“We face no restrictions in deepening our relations. To reach our initial goal of \$1.0 billion in trade and eventually hit the three billion mark, we need joint efforts, especially between the chambers of commerce of both countries,” the ambassador said.

He emphasized the need to facilitate trade delegations and promote investment opportunities in Armenia, adding that the Armenian embassy is ready to assist Iranian investors in exploring the market.

Hovhannisyanyan highlighted the vital role of the private sector in advancing bilateral economic relations and invited Iranian businesses to participate in expos and explore joint venture opportunities.

He also called for the creation of mechanisms between the two chambers to resolve challenges hindering trade.

Pointing to Iran's observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union and the prospects of free trade with the bloc, he said the two countries could jointly manufacture goods for export to the Eurasian market.

During the same meeting, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh said Iran possesses significant capacity to cooperate with Armenia and sees the country's location in Eurasia and shared cultural and social ties as strategic advantages.

Iran, Pakistan, Turkey agree with ECO to revive ITI transit rail corridor

TEHRAN – Iran, Pakistan and Turkey have agreed with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to revive monthly freight services along the 6,540-km Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) rail corridor, aiming to cut trade times and boost regional competitiveness.

During a two-day meeting in Islamabad, representatives from the three countries and ECO Secretary-General Khusrav Noziri, joined by senior officials from Pakistan Railways, pledged to remove tariff, customs and logistics barriers that have hindered the route's operation.

The parties signed a memorandum outlining commitments to harmonized and competitive freight tariffs, reliable train schedules, full train loading at both ends, customs facilitation and improved transshipment pro-

cedures at border crossings.

One key outcome was the agreement to operate at least one freight train per month along the ITI corridor. The service, covering 6,540 kilometers in under 10 days – about one-third the time of maritime transport – is expected to cut costs and speed up trade among the three nations.

Officials described the move as a significant step toward strengthening regional transport cooperation and positioning the ITI corridor as a competitive alternative for Eurasian trade flows.

The ITI rail corridor, launched as a pilot project in 2009 under the ECO framework, was envisioned as a strategic land route linking South Asia with Europe via Turkey. While the line has seen intermittent services over

the past decade, technical hurdles, uneven infrastructure and lack of tariff coordination prevented its regular use.

Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have long argued that the ITI corridor could transform regional connectivity by offering a cheaper and faster alternative to sea freight. It also has potential to integrate with the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and China's Belt and Road Initiative, creating a wider Eurasian logistics network.

For landlocked Central Asian states, the ITI could open new access to seaports in Pakistan, while Turkey views it as a complementary route to its role as a transit hub between Asia and Europe. Iran, situated at the heart of the corridor, stands to benefit from transit revenues and stronger regional trade links amid efforts to diversify its economy.

Israel’s attack on Doha; will Arab states wake up?

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Israel’s reckless air-strike in Doha this week has shifted the political landscape in West Asia.

The attack struck a residential area in the Qatari capital on Tuesday, where a Hamas delegation was meeting during a U.S.-proposed ceasefire talks over the Gaza conflict. The strike killed five lower-ranking Hamas members, while the leadership survived. A Qatari security officer also lost his life.

This was far more than an attack on a political group. It was a breach of Qatari sovereignty, an affront to the nation’s dignity, and a direct challenge to the wider Arab-Islamic community.

A dangerous escalation

For decades, Israel has waged wars in Lebanon, Gaza, and Syria. But striking the Qatari capital — a nation renowned for its mediation and humanitarian efforts — marked an unprecedented escalation. It reflected not only disregard for Palestinian lives but open contempt for the sovereignty of a state facilitating dialogue.

Normalization illusions shattered

The strike also exposed the limitations of normalization. The Abraham Accords promised peace



and prosperity, but the Doha attack proved that engagement does not restrain Israel — it emboldens it. Instead of moderating Tel Aviv, normalization has weakened Arab leverage, leaving the region more vulnerable.

Qatar, which resisted pressure to normalize, now stands vindicated. Its independent approach — prioritizing mediation, humanitarian relief, and the defense of Arab dignity — contrasts sharply with the compromises of other states.

International condemnation

The global response underscored Israel’s growing isolation. In a rare show of unanimity, the United Nations Security Council condemned the strike and called for

de-escalation, with all 15 members, including the United States, backing the move.

While the administration of President Donald Trump attempted to distance itself from the attack, evidence points to coordination between Israeli forces and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), including cooperation with U.S.-controlled air defense systems. The attack on Qatar also raises concerns that Israel may target other regional countries in the future.

Qatar welcomed the UN Security Council’s condemnation, stating: “Qatar welcomes condemnation of Security Council of treacherous Israeli attack on Hamas delegation, which undermines the international order,

as I emphasized to the Council. We’re committed to our humanitarian and diplomatic role, and right to protect our sovereignty and security,” Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani said.

This statement framed Qatar not only as a defender of its own security but also as a custodian of international norms.

From words to action

Doha will host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit on Sunday and Monday, which will carry urgency. Analysts suggest concrete measures are likely to emerge.

“We will see at least some measures that can be taken at the diplomatic level ... at least in terms of concrete measures,” Luciano Zaccara, a Middle East political analyst, told Al Jazeera.

Potential actions could include joint diplomatic pressure, restrictions in trade and technology, and coordinated efforts in international forums. The UAE’s decision to bar Israel from a major defense expo is already a precedent, and the confirmed attendance of Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian signals a willingness for a united stand.

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



Israeli drones strike Sumud flotilla twice; activists press on

The Global Sumud Flotilla, a civilian-led mission to break Israel’s naval blockade of Gaza, has faced two suspected drone attacks in Tunisian waters this week, drawing international condemnation and diplomatic pressure on Israel.

On Monday, the Portuguese-flagged Family—carrying activists including Greta Thunberg and several European lawmakers—was hit by an incendiary device. A day later, the British-flagged Alma sustained fire damage while docked at Sidi Bou Said. No casualties were reported.

Speaking aboard the flotilla off Tunisia, Thunberg called the mission “a marathon, not a sprint,” praising volunteers who regrouped after their June interception. Abandoning the effort, she said, would mean “losing our humanity.”

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese called the incidents a “test for humanity,” warning that proven state responsibility would show “impunity and fear.” Tunisian authorities labelled the attacks “premeditated aggression” and opened an investigation.

In a statement, UN experts urged Israel to halt threats against the flotilla, saying any attempt to block it would violate international law. Italy

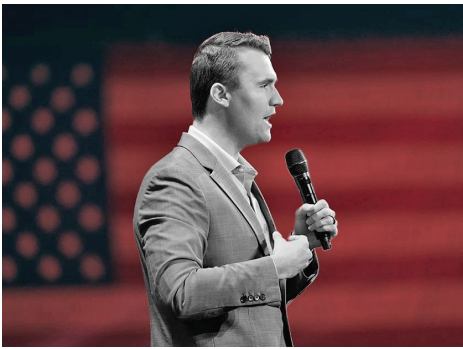


formally warned Israel to respect the rights of its citizens on board after Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani raised the issue with Israel’s Gideon Sa’ar.

Despite the strikes, participants remain resolute. “We are definitely sailing to Gaza—nothing will prevent us,” said Irish activist Tara Reynor O’Grady.

The flotilla—named for the Arabic word meaning “steadfastness”—includes volunteers from 44 countries and aims to deliver symbolic aid to Gaza’s famine-stricken population, mounting the largest maritime challenge to the blockade since the deadly 2010 Mavi Marmara raid.

The widening gyre: Charlie Kirk’s assassination and America’s spiral into political violence



By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN –In the shattered aftermath of Charlie Kirk’s assassination, America stares into a mirror cracked by its own hand. “Turning and turning in the widening gyre / The falcon cannot hear the falconer,” William Butler Yeats intoned in “The Second Coming,” evoking a world where order dissolves into chaos.

On September 10, at Utah Valley University, that gyre spun viciously as a sniper’s bullet struck the 31-year-old conservative powerhouse mid-debate, piercing his neck from 200 yards away and sending him crumpling before a horrified crowd.

Kirk’s murder feels less like an aberration than an alarm, marking the descent of American politics into a more dangerous chapter of its history—one of nihilistic violence where ballots yield to bullets, disputes are settled by force, and the center cannot hold.

He was no radical outlier; he embodied the pro-establishment right, founding Turning Point USA into a \$100 million juggernaut that mobilized young conservatives for Trump.

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

How Lebanon’s Resistance may adapt under pressure

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – The supportive environment for the resistance movement in Lebanon has limits to how much pressure it can endure in the face of repeated Israeli violations, with full American backing. It may erupt in uncalculated ways and affect the situation.

The resistance in Lebanon may consider granting freedom of decision to its military wing, considering them the field decision-makers in responding to violations, as a result of pressures that cannot be compromised.

In this case, the ball will be in the court of the other parties who feel fear from the resistance. The local parties that are hostile to the resistance will then be in the circle of reactions to the decisions resulting from the actions of the resistance, and not from their own actions as hostile forces.

This deprives the internal opposition forces of the room to maneuver, forcing them to react to the real movements on the ground from a position of incapacity and weakness. This will be rather than having the initiative to push the resistance off its course against the Israeli occu-

pation entity, into some form of internal conflict that the resistance strives to avoid.

The resistance will strive to deprive them of this luxury of time and decision. These factors are used as pressure tools that must be absorbed by the authorities to avoid falling into internal disaster and civil war, and are actual possibilities so long as the pressure continues.

Many times, the resistance has been tested and managed to overcome pressures through concessions. But if matters cross the red lines that form the foundation of the resistance’s existence, entity, and identity, then this is a threat that cannot be accepted.

Concessions have already been made by the resistance, such as acceptance of America’s man, Joseph Aoun, as President of the Republic; acceptance of Saudi Arabia’s man as Prime Minister—despite the possibility of blocking them.

The resistance also accepted the ministerial statement, despite wordplay favoring the other side, and handing over weapons South of the Litani.

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

Exclusive: Trump okayed Israel’s strike on Hamas leadership in Doha, Aleef Sabbagh says

Host countries must know Israel ignores state sovereignty when backed by US, political expert says



TEHRAN- As the repercussions of Israel’s latest strike targeting Hamas leaders in Doha reverberate across the region, questions are mounting over the future of ceasefire negotiations and Qatar’s role as a trusted mediator.

The September 9 attack, which coincided with the opening of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, has cast

new doubt on Washington’s credibility as a broker and underscored the vulnerability of Arab capitals hosting sensitive talks.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Aleef Sabbagh, a Palestinian political analyst in Quds (Jerusalem) specializing in the Zionist regime’s strategies examines Israel’s broader objectives, the complicity of the United States, the risks facing host countries, and the potential consequences for regional diplomacy at a time when Gaza remains at the epicenter of global attention.

Below is the full text of the interview:

Will Israel’s strike on targeting Hamas leaders in Doha affect mediation efforts and ceasefire negotiations in the region?

Yes, I believe the negotiations will be affected by the terrorist operation carried out by Israel and the U.S. in Doha, and they may be disrupted, even if only temporarily—possibly for days or weeks.

The Qatari Prime Minister has announced

the “suspension” of Qatar’s participation in mediation. The negotiations could later resume along one of two paths:

The first path is that Israel and the U.S. might try to move the negotiations to Cairo in order to tell Qatar that it cannot influence what America and Israel want. However, I believe Egypt and Hamas will not allow this at present.

The second, and better, path could emerge as a result of the U.S. and Israel’s terrorist operation against the Palestinian negotiating delegation in a capital of an Arab country that considers itself an ally of America—particularly a Persian Gulf state—which has provided significant services to Israel over decades.

In this path, the U.S. would be removed from the role of mediator and sponsor, and the United Nations would become the official sponsor, managing negotiations between Israel and Hamas through a special envoy of the Secretary-General.

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

“Alarming” rise in Gaza child malnutrition

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has reported an alarmingly sharp increase in child malnutrition in Gaza, with rates reaching 13.5% last month.

UNICEF has warned that acute malnutrition rates among children in the Gaza Strip are rising at an alarming pace.

According to UNICEF, the latest data show an unprecedented surge in severe malnutrition among children examined in August.

The percentage of children suf-

fering from acute malnutrition rose to 13.5% last month, up from 8.3% in July.

In Gaza City, where famine was confirmed last month, the percentage of children admitted with malnutrition was even higher, at 19 percent, up from 16 percent in July.

However, in August, fewer children were screened because ten outpatient treatment centers in Gaza City and North Gaza had to close due to the occupying regime’s evacuation orders and increasing Israeli massacres.

In July, when there were more

screening capacity and fewer Israeli massacres in northern Gaza, 13,000 children were identified as severely malnourished.

Catherine Russell, UNICEF’s Executive Director, highlighted that one in every five children in Gaza City was diagnosed with acute malnutrition in August and urgently needed additional lifesaving nutritional support provided by UNICEF.

Russell also noted that although UNICEF is able to bring more supplies into Gaza, military escalation has forced nutrition centers to

shed its cloak of resistance and confrontation with the enemy.”

Al-Ayoubi called on the Lebanese government to “convene a dialogue session to discuss a strategy for defending Lebanon in light of the ongoing attacks, instead of talking about disarming the resistance under flimsy pretexts.”

Al-Jama’a al-Islamiyah’s leading figure further noted that “there is nothing to guarantee that when the enemy invades our land, the state will be present and have the strength to confront an enemy that is lurking for our nation.”

He warned that “the enemy, and behind it the evil American administration, does not want Lebanon or its army to be strong. We have all heard the positions of the enemy leaders when

Conspiracy against Resistance doesn’t target Hezbollah alone!

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Following the Lebanese government’s sinful decision in August to ban arms, the Islamic Group in Lebanon (al-Jama’a al-Islamiyah) stated it prefers discussing a defensive strategy to form a military force that includes Lebanese of all stripes, with the aim of confronting the Zionist enemy.

On Sunday, during a mass rally organized by the group in support of Gaza in Tripoli, Azzam al-Ayoubi, a leading figure, pointed out that the group “has prepared itself to thwart normalization [with Israel in Lebanon], just as it thwarted the May 17 agreement.”

He added, “There are efforts and conspiracies aimed at subjugating the nation so that it will

Rock carving of Sassanid 'nobleman' discovered in southern Iran

TEHRAN – A Sassanid-era rock carving estimated to be more than 1,500 years old has been discovered on the cliffs of Marvdasht in southern Iran's Fars province, an Iranian historian said on Thursday.

Abolhassan Atabaki said the find is one of the smallest and most detailed known Sassanid carvings. It depicts a nobleman in what he described as a "needlepoint style" engraving.

"The newly found carving could change the stylistic categorisation of Sassanid rock art," Atabaki said. "These needlepoint motifs are not limited to the early Sassanid rulers but also belong to the late Sassanid period, while still preserving the principles of composition and contrast."

Atabaki said Marvdasht has been home to more than 50 historic finds from Elamite, Achaemenid and Sassanid civilizations, most of them inscriptions and rock carvings.

Najmeh Ebrahimi, a history researcher, said the carving shows a male figure in profile, measuring about 4 by 5 centimetres. She said the piece had suffered partial damage from a later Islamic-era carving but still showed details of an ornate necklace, flowing ribbons and elaborate dress.

"These elements suggest the figure belonged to a late Sassanid nobleman or cavalry officer in Estakhr and the wider Fars region," Ebrahimi said.

Atabaki had earlier this year announced the discovery of another rare Sassanid inscription in Marvdasht condemning the breaking of promises. Last month, he reported finding what he called the world's smallest known ancient inscription, a 1,600-year-old text from the same region.

The Sassanid Empire, which ruled Persia



An exact sketch of a Sassanid-era rock carving of a 'nobleman' discovered in Fars province, southern Iran.

from 224 to 651 CE, is known for its art and architecture, with major sites including Bisapur, Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rostam in Fars province.

Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"— to its World Heritage list.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Stari Ras and Sopocani

Stari Ras and Sopocani is a serial property consisting of four separate components located in the Raška region of southern Serbia: Sopocani Monastery, Djurdjevi Stupovi Monastery, Holy Apostles St Peter and St Paul Church (St Peter's Church), and the archaeological site of the Medieval Town of Ras.

The impressive collection of three ecclesiastical monuments dating from the 10th to the 13th centuries eminently illustrates the birth of artistic activity in medieval Serbia, which attained the highest standards in the art and culture of the Byzantine Empire and the regions of Central and Southeastern Europe. The unique architectural complex formed by numerous structures in Stari Ras (Old Ras), situated at a crossroads of eastern and western influences, testifies to the period from 12th to the early 14th centuries when the ancient town was the first capital of the Serbian state.

The frescoes in the Sopocani Monastery church, dating from about 1270-1276, are among the finest in Byzantine and Serbian medieval art. These exceptional paintings represent the work of the best artists of that period who were unable to work in the territory of the Byzantine Empire and found refuge at the court of the Serbian king. At Sopocani these artists introduced a refined spirit of antiquity to the prevailing medieval conventions. St George's Church in the Djurdjevi Stupovi Monastery, founded in 1170-1171, is the earliest example of a distinctive new regional

architecture that blended Romanesque and Byzantine styles. Known as the Raška School, this style came to dominate architecture in this area for almost a century and a half. The church also features two layers of preserved frescoes dating from 1175 and 1282-1283 that are among the finest from that period in the Balkans. The preserved frescoes in St Peter's Church, built in the 10th century on the foundations of a 6th-century baptistery and now the oldest surviving Christian church in the Balkans, also present evidence of the developments that took place in pictorial art between the 10th and 14th centuries.

Stari Ras is located along the mountainous setting near the confluence of the Raška and Sebe?evo rivers, and it became the first capital of the Serbian independent state on the accession of the Nemanji dynasty in 1159. It was the focal point of all the decisive events underlying the state's birth, development and consolidation. Now an archaeological site, it contains the remains of structures built from about the 9th century onwards, including the hilltop fortress of Gradina and the lower town of Trgovište. The combination of historical, cultural, artistic and natural values gives this group of monuments its significance. Together, they represent a unique contribution of the Serbian nation to the culture of Slavonic and other nations during the Middle Ages.

(Source: UNESCO)

Global tourism rises 5% in first half of 2025, UN Tourism says

TEHRAN – International tourist arrivals across the globe grew 5% in the first half of 2025 compared with the same period a year earlier, exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 4%, according to UN Tourism.

Nearly 690 million people travelled abroad between January and June, 33 million more than in 2024, though results varied by region, the agency said in its latest World Tourism Barometer.

"In the face of global challenges, interna-

tional tourism continues to see strong momentum and resilience," UN Tourism Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said in a statement. "This growth contributes to local economies, jobs and livelihoods, but it also reminds us of our responsibility to ensure it is sustainable and inclusive."

According to statistics compiled by the UN body, Africa recorded the strongest growth, up 12% year-on-year, with both North Africa (+14%) and sub-Saharan Africa (+11%) posting double-digit increases.

Iran tour operators welcome restrictions on unplanned foreign travel

TEHRAN – Iranian tour operators have welcomed new guidelines requiring foreign visitors to travel with visas and licensed guides, saying the move will support the tourism industry and local communities.

Mostafa Shafiei-Shakib, head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association, told Mehr news agency that authorities recently informed travel agencies that foreign tourists must enter Iran as part of an organized tour and be accompanied by a tour guide.

A couple of weeks after the 12-day Israeli-imposed war on Iran, the Islamic republic required foreign tourists to enter only through organized tours booked with registered agencies. The change reportedly bans independent travel, requiring tourists to submit additional documentation, including a detailed resume, tour operator contract, and confirmed hotel bookings.

Earlier, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, the minister of cultural heritage and tourism, had said no official restrictions on foreign tourists' entry had been imposed and no such directive had been sent to the ministry.

"This is a good step because it prevents people from entering without visas or travel plans," Shafiei-Shakib said. "In the past, such travelers moved from city



to city with tiniest expenditure, stayed in [mainly] private homes, and did not generate income for agencies or local communities. Some of them also created security problems."

Shafiei-Shakib said under the new rules, tourists will need to coordinate their trip through an agency, which will also may be responsible for their visa arrangements. "A tourist can obtain a hotel booking from one agency and a visa from another," he said, adding that the system would ensure

revenue for licensed operators.

He noted that in previous years, many individual guides or tourism workers would organize foreign arrivals independently, without oversight. "Now, unplanned travel is eliminated and foreign trips will be organized," he said. "If implemented properly, it will benefit everyone in the long run."

According to Salehi-Amiri, Iran generated about \$7.4 billion from foreign tourism in the past Iranian calendar year (ended in March 2025), with more than 7 million

international visitors arriving in the country. "Each foreign tourist spent on average between \$1,000 and \$3,000 during their stay in the Islamic Republic."

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 28 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Iran considers importing tourism vehicles from China



TEHRAN – Iran considers importing tourism vehicles from China and drafting a joint road map to strengthen transport infrastructure for the sector, the head of Iran's Touring and Automobile Club said on Thursday.

Mohammad Hossein Soufi, managing director of the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran, made the announcement during a visit to the Guangzhou export and import center (China Import

and Export Fair Pazhou Complex), CHTN reported on Thursday.

Soufi said the initiative marks a new phase of international cooperation in tourism and aims to address infrastructure gaps while supporting Iran's Seventh National Development Plan.

"One of the requirements for strengthening Iran's tourism industry is to develop the specialized transport fleet. By importing high-quality vehicles

custom-made to tourism needs, we will act as an executive arm of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts," he was quoted as saying.

The Guangzhou center, a major hub for vehicle exports to markets in Africa, South America and West Asia, held talks with the Iranian delegation on selecting vehicles suitable for Iran's tourism sector and adapting them to cultural and climatic conditions.

Managers at the Guangzhou center welcomed the partnership and said that, following formal orders, limited pilot exports of tourism vehicles to Iran could begin to assess the market. They added that a comprehensive proposal outlining the framework for future cooperation would be submitted.

At the end of the visit, Soufi invited Guangzhou managers to attend Iran's specialized exhibitions on tourism, camper vans

and caravans.

Tourism vehicles and buses are specially designed and customized to meet the needs of travelers, offering both comfort and functionality during journeys. Unlike standard passenger transport, these vehicles are equipped with features that enhance sightseeing, long-distance travel, and group excursions. They often include large panoramic windows for better views, reclining seats for comfort, on-board restrooms, and entertainment systems. Many are fitted with air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and charging ports to make travel more convenient.

By combining safety, comfort, and specialized design, custom-made tourism vehicles play a vital role in shaping the travel experience, making journeys not only practical but also enjoyable and memorable.

Nair hosts national festival of Ash and traditional foods



food tourism and showcase the region's capacity for attracting visitors," he said.

Jabbari added that such festivals help boost tourism in Ardabil province. "This event itself has become a factor in increasing travel to Ardabil and encourages families to include the province and its festivals in their travel plans for future years," he said.

The program included cultural and artistic performances, cooking competitions, traditional games and exhibitions of handicrafts.

Ash, which is central to the festival, is typically prepared with noodles, legumes such as chickpeas and beans, herbs including dill, mint and coriander, and sometimes meat. Variations use different grains, vegetables, yogurt, and spices such as saffron and turmeric.

Iranian cuisine combines influences from Near and West Asia, India and East Asia, reflecting the country's location on the Silk Roads. Culinary traditions are often described as both cultural and medicinal, with food serving as a gateway to Iran's history and identity.

According to IATA, international air traffic and capacity both rose 7% in the first six months of the year. Global hotel occupancy stood at 69% in June and 71% in July, broadly unchanged from 2024.

In addition, UN Tourism's confidence index for September-December rose to 120 from 114 in the previous four months, with half of surveyed experts expecting stronger results in the remainder of the year. The agency maintained its January forecast of 3% to 5% growth in international arrivals for 2025.

Europe welcomed about 340 million visitors, 4% more than in 2024 and 7% above 2019 levels. Northern, Western and Southern Mediterranean Europe each grew by 3%, while Central and Eastern Europe rose 9% but remained 11% below 2019.

The Americas saw a 3% overall increase, driven by 14% growth in South America. Central America rose 2%, while North America and the Caribbean were flat, with weaker demand from the United States affecting results.

Arrivals in Asia and the Pacific increased 11%, reaching 92% of pre-pandemic levels. North-East Asia led growth with a 20% rise compared to 2024, though still 8% below 2019. Japan, Vietnam, and Morocco posted some of the strongest national gains, each recording double-digit increases.

The Middle East (West Asia) saw a 4% decline after a strong rebound in previous years, but still recorded 29% more arrivals than in 2019, the highest recovery rate relative to pre-pandemic levels.

Tehran, Baghdad hold joint meeting on combating drugs

TEHRAN –Participating in the 2nd joint meeting of committee on combating drugs and psychotropic substances in Baghdad, Iranian and Iraqi officials have underscored their commitment to combat drug-related crimes.

The first joint meeting was held in January, and the second meeting was held at the invitation of Iraqi Health Minister Saleh al-Hasnawi, who is also the head of the Supreme Committee for Combating Drugs in Iraq, Mehr news agency reported.

During the Wednesday meeting, Brigadier General Hossein Zolfaqari, the secretary general of the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), and Iraqi Interior Minister Abdul Amir al-Shammari highlighted the two countries' commitment to combat narcotics as one of the biggest social and security challenges of the modern era.

“This ominous phenomenon has targeted national security and the health of the society, particularly youth, as well as the economic stability of the two nations. Our shared geography should be a source of prosperity and progress,” IRNA quoted Zolfaqari as saying.

Elaborating on the initial achievements in the fight against drugs, he said, “sharing information and expertise on narcotics has paved the way for taking effective measures. However, our common enemy is sophisticated, armed, and equipped with the latest means of technology. Therefore, these initial successes should not deter us from our commitment to address broader dimensions of the threat.”

The official went on to propose the establishment of a joint border security operation center with liaison officers from the two countries to enable the exchange of information in real-time and coordinate joint missions with greater accuracy.

He also voiced Iran's readi-



ness to hold specialized training courses on the latest strategies to detect and combat organized smuggling and money laundering for both Iranian and Iraqi anti-narcotics police.

The development of a legal sub-committee was another proposal made by Iran. It aims to identify and freeze assets of smuggling networks operating in the two countries, as well as facilitate and expedite coordination in the field of judicial laws and protocols.

The collaborative efforts in the war against drugs should not be limited to land borders. Coordination in monitoring drug trafficking at air borders, cyberspace, and social networks will significantly impact smugglers.

During the official visit to Iraq, Zolfaqari also held a meeting with Iraq's Health Minister al-Hasnawi.

Following the meeting, al-Hasnawi said, “There is serious cooperation between the Iraqi and Iranian security and health authorities in combating drugs.

This cooperation has advanced to reduce drug smuggling crimes across the two countries,” rudaw.net reported.

These meetings are the fruit of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Supreme Committee for Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances in Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran two years ago, the official added.

The Iraqi government official

delled into further details that “the meeting's recommendations were effective, realistic, and applicable,” expressing his hope for “further consolidation of relations between the two countries, as well as between Iraq and neighboring countries, to curb the phenomenon that has invaded society.”

On the last day of the trip, Zolfaqari attended a press interview. “The second joint meeting highlights adopting a unified approach in the fight against illicit drugs. The main objective of this initiative is to strengthen the security of joint borders, exchange information and conduct collaborative missions, reduce drug-related crimes, as well as share successful experiences in lowering demands,” he noted.

The official underlined that Iran and Iraq are committed to creating a safer place for their citizens through addressing challenges posed by drug trafficking more effectively. It will enhance the stability in the region, as well.

Combating drug trafficking

In January, the Iraqi anti-narcotics police chief, Ahmed Al-Zarkani, highlighted the need to enhance joint activities on combating drug smuggling and sharing expertise between the two countries.

Lauding Iran's efforts in the war against narcotics, Al-Zarkani said, “We welcome boosting joint activities with Iran's anti-narcotics police and look forward to expanding

cooperation on other drug-related issues,” ISNA reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart, Iraj Kakavand.

The Iraqi official highlighted the significance of exchanging information on drug traffickers, as well.

“Targeted, comprehensive fight against anti-narcotics requires a lot of efforts and goes beyond the national borders of the two countries; by fostering cooperation, we will be able to adopt appropriate measures to deal more decisively with drug trafficking,” Al-Zarkani noted.

The Iranian official, for his part, underscored the need to intensify the fight against armed drug traffickers on the joint borders.

Controlling the borders and drug traffickers who buy and sell weapons in exchange for drug trafficking on joint borders will lower the opportunity for any criminal activities by the armed drug smugglers at borders, Kakavand stressed.

Following formerly signed memorandums of understanding, Iran's anti-narcotics police is willing to boost collaborations on simultaneous border patrols, learning about the drug smuggling methods and transit routes, establishing a specialized team to deal with specific cases, and exchanging information on smugglers and those arrested.

Some 160 earthquakes shake Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 158 earthquakes were recorded across the country in a week from August 30 to September 5, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 138 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3; 18 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4; and two earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, IRNA reported.

Of the total quakes, one had a magnitude of 4.6 on the Richter scale, which occurred on August 31st in Kerman province.

Among the provinces of the country, Yazd,

with 18, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by Khorasan Razavi and Khuzestan provinces, with 17and 16 earthquakes, respectively.

During the same period, no earthquakes were recorded in Tehran, East Azarbaijan, Ardabil, Alborz, Zanjan, Qazvin, Golestan, Gilan, and Hamedan provinces.

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

Out of registered earthquakes, 150 were

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

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

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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran working with Green Climate Fund

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) is working with the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to reduce the effects of climate change.

FAO and the Department of Environment as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), partnered to bring together local, national, and international stakeholders in a three-day workshop, the last one in a series of iterative events held under the project «Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Program of Iran.»

“Throughout the implementation of this Project, FAO as the delivery partner has always stayed committed to providing its technical expertise, data, and tools to support the country in its efforts to strengthen the national capacities to effectively access and efficiently manage, track and guide climate financing with particular attention to the requirements of the GCF,” said Gerold Bödeker, FAO Representative to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

همکاری ایران با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل

سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست به عنوان مرجع رسمی ایران در زمینه حفظ محیط زیست با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل با محوریت سازمان خواربار و کشاورزی ملل متحد (فائو) در راستای کاهش تاثیرات تغییر اقلیم همکاری می کند. فائو و سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور به عنوان مرجع صلاحیت دار ملی ایران و صندوق اقلیم سبز با همکاری یکدیگر، این پروژه را پیش بردند و در قالب چند برگزاری چند کارگاه اقدامات را بررسی کردند، بر این اساس در آخرین کارگاه، ذینفعان محلی، ملی و بین المللی را به عنوان آخرین حلقه از زنجیره رویدادهای پروژه «برنامه آماده سازی جمهوری اسلامی ایران برای همکاری با صندوق اقلیم سبز» گرد هم آوردند.

گروld بودِکر نماینده فائو در جمهوری اسلامی ایران گفت: در طول اجرای این پروژه، فائو، به عنوان شریک اجرایی، همیشه متعهد به ارائه تخصص فنی، داده ها و ابزارهای سیاستی خود برای حمایت از کشور در تلاش های خود برای تقویت ظرفیت های ملی برای دسترسی موثر و مدیریت کارآمد، ردیابی و هدایت تأمین مالی اقدامات اقلیمی با در نظر گرفتن الزامات صندوق اقلیم سبز بوده است.

SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

‘Environmental helpers’ to be trained in elementary schools

TEHRAN – Since education plays a key role in boosting environmental protection, the Department of Environment (DOE) is planning to implement a national project which aims at training eco-friendly students, dubbed as ‘environmental helpers’, in 20 percent of elementary schools across the country.

The project is scheduled to be implemented in cooperation with healthcare providers as of the beginning of the new academic year, on September 23, an official with the DOE has stated.

It aims to identify students who are interested in environmental issues, and encourage them to participate in a working group focusing on environmental-related subjects, IRNA quoted Mohammad Medadi as saying.

These students will later train other students to raise their environmental awareness. The project is assumed to cover all schools in five years, the official added.

Moreover, informal education in the format of extracurricular activities is planned to be carried out. Consequently, the development of a national environment subject is placed on the agenda. It will contribute to creating a roadmap for formal environmental education according to which relevant content would be included in the curriculum, he further noted.

To instill eco-friendly behaviors, environmental education has to be introduced at an early age, when children are in elementary school or even preschool. However, there will be some challenges. Education is an ongoing process; temporary or short-term courses would not induce long-standing behavioral changes. It requires time to see favorable results, Medadi said.

Education key to change

In May, the DOE, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, implemented an environmental project under the theme ‘education is the key to change’.

The main objectives of the project were to pro-

mote environmental literacy and promote a culture of environmental responsibility among students, Mehr news agency reported.

It also aimed to share environmental knowledge of the students utilizing the peer educators’ capacities; change students’ attitude and promote social responsibilities; make students familiar with indigenous, climatic, and local features; as well as boost students’ participation as eco-friendly individuals in raising environmental awareness at school, home, and other places.

In March, the head of the DOE, Shina Ansari, said environmental protection is a public duty, and national policy documents also emphasize the importance of environmental education, Mehr news agency.

Ansari underscored the significance of environmental education at an early age, saying that “to get out of the current situation, we need to focus on the education sector.”

The DOE, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, is planning to train eco-friendly students across the country to change the students’ attitude toward the environment, the official said.

For his part, Education Minister Alireza Kazemi said the ministry is planning to integrate environmental awareness into formal and informal curricula.

“Today, the world is facing numerous threats. If we fail to address them, humans will be in great danger with nothing left for the future.

The environmental crisis is one of the most important and fundamental challenges that humanity is facing. Environmental degradation has irreparable consequences that necessitate thinking of a solution,” he noted.

The official went on to say that teaching students about the environment and raising environmental awareness, as well as promoting the culture of conserving the environment, are among the fundamental solutions.

‘Burkina Faso needs Iran’s expertise for sustainable development’

TEHRAN – Burkina Faso's Ambassador to Tehran, Mohammadi Kaboureh, has highlighted the significance of boosting scientific ties with Iran, calling it essential for the sustainable development of the African country.

“Sustainable development without education is improbable; we need Iran's valuable expertise to achieve the goal. Burkina Faso is determined to enhance cooperation with Iran in all fields, particularly educational and scientific sectors,” IRNA quoted Kaboureh as saying.

The official made the remarks on Tuesday, in a meeting with the head of the Organization of Students Affairs, Saeed Habiba, in Tehran.

Lauding Iran's efforts in granting scholarships to Burkinabe students, the official expressed hope that more students have the chance to benefit from this opportunity.

Habiba, for his part, said, “Burkina Faso is one of Iran's friendly countries, we are interested in expanding scientific partnership and science diplomacy with the country.

According to the seventh national development plan (2023-2027), the country aims to attract 3,200 foreign students. Currently, some 500 students (70 percent are men) from Africa are studying in Iran, of which 10 percent receive a scholarship. “We are planning to grant scholarships to Burkinabe students for the first time,” the official noted.

Foreign students studying in Iran rise to 35,000

A total of 35,000 foreign students were studying in Iranian universities in the past academic year that started on September 22, 2024, compared with 27,000 students in 2023, Kianoush Suzanchi, an official with the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology, said in December 2024.

“Almost 62 percent of the students who are studying in Iran are post-graduate students, and we are about to fulfil our goals in scientific authority,” he noted.

The official called foreign students to promote the Persian language in their homelands.

In March, Hashem Dadashpour, the former head of the Organization of Student Affairs, said that the organization would offer new services to foreign students studying in the country's universities, ISNA reported.

Moreover, online language learning systems would be launched for applicants to take Persian language courses before entering Iran and prepare to study in universities, he added.

In September 2023, Dadashpour said the ministry of science was planning to increase the number of international students to some 320,000 from currently around 100,000 by 2026.

“There was an increase in the number of international students over the sixth National Development Plan (2017-2021). The seventh development plan (2022-2026) has also put increasing the figure to around 320,000 on the agenda,” he explained.

“Strengthening scientific authority, developing public diplomacy, and expanding the Persian language are the three main reasons for attracting international students,” Dadashpour said, IRIB reported.

He went on to say that the principle of attracting international students is a major strategy and plan for the Ministry of Science.”

Dadashpour stressed that the international campus of universities is the center of attracting international students and managing their affairs, but all university vice-chancellors are responsible for international students as much as Iranian students.

He pointed out that “International students’ attendance at the cultural events of the university helps Iranian students to get more familiar with them and their culture.”

“Also, international students can have their own cultural and artistic organization.”

The infrastructure of the university, educational and cultural planning, and the university staff should all attract students in a way that gives them a different positive view of Iran as they get back home.

The deputy head of the student affairs organization considered it important to provide suitable centers and platforms for teaching the Persian language to international students in universities.

Dadashpour stated, “Learning the Persian language is an important precondition for studying in Iran.”

The 61st meeting was held with the motto of cultural transformation of the university and smart governance.

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is reward for kindness to every living thing.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:00 Evening: 18:33 Dawn: 4:21 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:46 (tomorrow)

Hollywood stars join thousands pledging not to work with Israeli film institutions “implicated in genocide”

An open letter from a group that calls itself Film Workers for Palestine had amassed more than 4,000 signatures, with a slew of Hollywood stars and filmmakers pledging not to work with Israeli film institutions that have been “implicated in genocide and apartheid against the Palestinian people.”

“As filmmakers, actors, film industry workers, and institutions, we recognize the power of cinema to shape perceptions,” the pledge, which was published online earlier this week, states. “In this urgent moment of crisis, where many of our governments are enabling the carnage in Gaza, we must do everything we can to address complicity in that unrelenting horror,” NBC News reported.

The list of signees include Oscar, BAFTA, Emmy and Palme d’Or winners, such as filmmakers Jonathan Glazer, Ava DuVernay, Yorgos Lanthimos, Asif Kapadia, Boots Riley, and Joshua Oppenheimer; and actors Emma Stone, Joaquin Phoenix, Rooney Mara, Nicola Coughlan, Andrew Garfield, Harris Dickinson, Bowen Yang, Guy Pearce, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Fisher Stevens, Abbi Jacobson, Eric Andre, Elliot Page, Olivia Colman, Mark Ruffalo, Tilda Swinton, Javier Bardem, Ayo Edebiri, Riz Ahmed, Josh O’Connor, Cynthia Nixon, among others.

Those who signed the letter will refuse to work with Israeli festivals, cinemas, broadcasters, and production companies that have participated in “whitewashing or justifying genocide and apartheid, and/or partnering with the government committing them,” according to the pledge.

On its FAQ page, Film Workers for Palestine notes that the pledge doesn’t prohibit film professionals from working with Israeli individuals. “This refusal takes aim at institutional complicity, not identity,” the group states.

The letter cited the International Court of Justice’s ruling last January that there was a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza. The ICJ also ruled last July that “the State of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is

Cartoon of Day

The Green Light
Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

Documentary “Symphony of Cities; Windows of Friendship” screened in Astrakhan

TEHRAN – The Iranian documentary film “Symphony of Cities; Windows of Friendship” was screened in Astrakhan, Russia, on Thursday and was attended by officials and enthusiasts of culture and art from both Iran and Russia.

Produced by filmmakers from Gilan Province within the framework of the sister-city agreement between Rasht, capital of Gilan, and Astrakhan, the film explores the cultural, social, and historical similarities and affinities between the two cities, while highlighting common grounds for cooperation.

According to the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Astrakhan, the screening ceremony opened with speeches by Ahmad Heydarian, the Consul

General of Iran in Astrakhan and the Minister of External Relations of Russia’s Astrakhan Region Vladimir Golovkov.

In his remarks, Heydarian emphasized the importance of cultural and artistic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of

Iran and the Russian Federation, describing the documentary as a symbol of the determination and will of the authorities of Rasht and Astrakhan to expand relations in all fields.

Later, Heydarian and Golovkov presented letters of appreciation from Rasht Municipality to the production team of the documentary, acknowledging their efforts.

“Symphony of Cities; Windows of Friendship” was warmly received by audiences in Astrakhan from various walks of life. Organizers expressed hope ‘ that the event would serve as a turning point in cultural and artistic cooperation between the two cities, paving the way for the further development of relations between Rasht and Astrakhan

Tehran center to host reading performance of “The House of Bernarda Alba”

TEHRAN-Neauphle-le-Chateau Theater in Tehran will be playing host to a reading performance of Federico Garcia Lorca’s famous play “The House of Bernarda Alba” on Saturday evening.

The performance will be directed by Morteza Sabahi based on a Persian translation by well-known Iranian translator Najaf Daryabandari.

The play will be read by a cast composed of Elham Rezaei, Mahboubeh Zarkesh, Yalda Abdi, Samaneh Ghadiri, Nirvana Vatankhah and Bitakhalaj.

The three-act tragedy was published in 1936 as “La Casa de Bernarda Alba: drama de mujeres en los pueblos de Espana” (subtitled “Drama of Women in the Villages of Spain”). It constitutes the third play of Lorca’s dramatic trilogy which also includes “Blood Wedding” and “Yerma”, and it was first produced in Buenos Aires in 1945.

“The House of Bernarda Alba” centers around the oppressive household of Bernarda Alba, a domineering matriarch who enforces strict rules following the death of her second husband. In adherence to family tradition, she imposes an eight-year mourning period, isolating her five daughters—Angustias, Magdalena, Amelia, Martirio, and Adela—from the outside world and any romantic prospects, leading to mounting tension within the house.

Bernarda’s eldest daughter, Angustias, inherits a significant fortune from her late father, thus becoming the object of desire for Pepe el Romano, a young suitor. This inheritance causes jealousy to brew among her sisters, particularly given that they have been left with little by their father. Angustias’s wealth gives her a sense of agency, which her sisters resent, especially Adela, the youngest, who yearns for freedom and happiness, symbolized by her decision to defy

her mother’s mourning dress code by wearing a vibrant green gown.

As the narrative unfolds, the household dynamics grow increasingly fraught. Adela’s initial spirit and desire for liberation are dampened when she realizes Angustias’s impending marriage to Pepe. Advising Adela, Poncia, the family’s maid, suggests that Angustias might not survive childbirth, hinting at a grim possibility for Adela to act on her desires. When the sisters occasionally catch a glimpse of Pepe, the anticipation and tension escalate, with Adela being torn between her burgeoning love for him and her loyalty to her family.

The emotional volatility reaches a breaking point when Bernarda discovers Angustias wearing makeup, a breach of her strict mourning rules. In a fit of rage, she forces the make-up off, illustrating her tyrannical control and the repression of her daughters. The situation intensifies as Maria Josefa, Bernarda’s elderly mother, who is usually confined to her room, expresses her own longing for freedom and warns Bernarda about the destructive nature of her oppression.

Adela and Pepe’s secret affair, a counterpoint to the family’s rigid moral code, amplifies tensions further. Adela’s rebellion manifests in destructive ways, particularly in her conflict with her siblings, especially Martirio, who harbors her own feelings for Pepe. The family atmosphere becomes charged with jealousy, resentment, and desperation as gossip about local women treated harshly for societal transgressions deepens their collective dread.

As the play hurtles toward its tragic conclusion, Bernarda’s refusal to acknowledge her daughters’ emotional turmoil culminates in violent confrontation. When a shot is heard out-

side, it is initially assumed that Pepe has been killed at Bernarda’s behest. In a heartbreaking turn, Adela, believing Pepe to be dead, takes her own life by hanging herself in despair, not knowing that he has survived.

In the aftermath of Adela’s tragic death, Bernarda reveals her preoccupation with the family’s reputation, insisting that Adela died a virgin—a manifestation of her rigid moral beliefs. She orders her remaining daughters to grieve in private, refusing to acknowledge the true nature of their struggles or the deep-rooted consequences of her oppressive rule. The play closes with a haunting reminder of the devastating impact of tyranny and societal expectations on personal freedom and emotional connection.

IAF cinematheque reviews “Faust”

TEHRAN- “Faust,” a 1994 drama film by Czech film director Jan Švankmajer, was reviewed during a session at the Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Thursday.

The screening of the film was followed by a review session.

“Faust” is a unique cinematic adaptation of the legendary tale, blending live-action footage with surreal animated sequences to explore themes of temptation, morality, and human folly. The film is a collaborative international production, with support from the Czech Republic, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany.

“Faust” takes inspiration from both classical and folk traditions, weaving together elements from Goethe’s 1808–1832 play and Christopher Marlowe’s 16th-century tragedy, alongside traditional Czech folklore.

The film’s narrative is infused with modernist and absurdist sensibilities, creating a Kafkaesque atmosphere that is both dark and humorous. Set against the backdrop of Prague, the city’s haunting architecture and moody streets serve as a fitting stage for the story’s allegorical journey. Although dark in tone, the film also incorporates humor, balancing despair with a sense of satirical wit.

The story opens on a bleak Prague morning, a stark contrast to the bustling, if mundane, activity of the city’s commuters. A nameless figure, played by Petr Čepek, emerges from a metro station, embodying the anonymity of the everyday citizen. His seemingly ordinary day takes an unsettling turn with a chance encounter: two men distributing flyers, one of which is a peculiar map with a marked location. The man, unfazed or perhaps uninterested, dismisses the flyer and heads back to his modest lodging.

His entrance is immediately punctuated by a jarring event – a black cockerel bursts from the doorway, an unexpected and unsettling omen. This premonition foreshadows the ominous events to follow. Inside, within the confines of his small apartment, he discovers an unsettling anomaly: a loaf of bread containing an egg. The discovery, though seemingly innocuous, takes a sinister turn when he cracks open the egg and finds it empty. This act of emptiness, both literal and symbolic, foreshadows the void and uncertainty that will consume the story.

The scene escalates rapidly with a sudden and violent shift in the atmosphere. Lights flicker erratically, the wind howls out-

side, and objects within the room begin to fly – a chaotic and unnerving display of forces beyond the man’s control. The sudden and violent shift in the atmosphere suggests a disruption of the mundane, signaling the incursion of something extraordinary and potentially dangerous. The man, caught in this maelstrom of disarray, looks out the window, witnessing the unsettling spectacle unfolding beyond his small apartment. The scene is now fraught with foreboding, leaving the reader with a sense of anticipation and dread, wondering what the next act of the unfolding narrative will reveal.

The unsettling interplay between the mundane and the extraordinary is highlighted through the character’s anonymity, the seemingly insignificant events, and the sudden eruption of chaos. The empty egg, the black cockerel, and the erratic weather all contribute to a sense of foreboding, suggesting that something extraordinary and potentially dangerous is about to occur. The story, now firmly established in a climate of unease, leaves the reader anticipating the revelation of the map’s significance and the nature of the looming threat.

The film was shot on location in Prague’s historic Old Town,

capturing the city’s atmospheric architecture, which enhances the film’s mystical and surreal qualities.

“Faust” was met with positive critical reception, earning a 73 percent score on Rotten Tomatoes based on 11 reviews. It was praised for its inventive visuals, atmospheric storytelling, and philosophical depth. The film was showcased at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival in the Un Certain Regard section, highlighting its artistic importance.

Additionally, it received awards at various festivals, including the Kecskemét Animation Film Festival where it won the Award of the Adult Audience, and the Czech Critics Award for Best Animated Film. It also garnered three Czech Lions and was nominated for four more. At the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, “Faust” was nominated for the prestigious Crystal Globe and won the Special Jury Prize, cementing its status as a significant work in Czech and international cinema