

The Big Satan Doesn't Protect the Region From the Small Satan

Following Doha attack, Larijani tells Arab states to form 'joint operations committee' to confront Israel



Any lasting solution must uphold Palestinians' right to self-determination: Iran at UN

TEHRAN – The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations has issued a statement on the recent UN General Assembly resolution concerning Palestine, emphasizing that any genuine solution must recognize the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and firmly reject forced displacement.

In its address, Iran's mission criticized the occupying power's policies of "systematic discrimination, territorial expansionism, and disregard for international humanitarian norms," warning that such actions threaten the values of humanity, justice, and integrity. ▶ Page 2

Reported Zionist summit in Baku sparks criticism from Ayatollah Khamenei's advisor

TEHRAN – Ali Akbar Velayati, senior adviser on international affairs to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has condemned the reported hosting of a Zionist rabbis' summit in the Republic of Azerbaijan, describing it as a shocking and anti-Islamic step that undermines the dignity of Shiism worldwide.

In a social media post, Velayati said the move was "astounding and regrettable," adding that he hoped the news would prove untrue. "This is the first time that such a transgression has been carried out by the government of Azerbaijan, and it is an anti-Islamic measure and an affront to the global standing of Shia Muslims," he declared.

He reminded that the people of Azerbaijan have been Muslim for nearly 1,200 years, stressing that they will not approve of actions that run against their faith and traditions. Velayati suggested the summit may be linked to attempts at expanding the so-called Abraham Accords and drawing Azerbaijan into them. He warned that cooperation with Israel, a regime hostile to many regional states, would eventually harm Azerbaijan itself. ▶ Page 2

Iran, Russia culture ministers meet in St. Petersburg

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and Russia's Minister of Culture met in St. Petersburg and discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Seyed Abbas Salehi, who traveled to St. Petersburg at the official invitation of his Russian counterpart Olga Lyubimova, referred to the recent meeting between the presidents of Iran and Russia on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in China and noted that the discussions between Masoud Pezeshkian and Vladimir Putin were among the longest bilateral meetings during the summit, an evidence of the two leaders' commitment to expanding relations, Mehr reported. ▶ Page 8

"Children of Gaza, don't lose hope, we are by your side": Dutch activist on Sumud mission says

TEHRAN – As the Sumud humanitarian flotilla voyages waters of Tunisia with the aim of breaking the siege on Gaza, international activists are stepping forward to challenge the blockade through non-violent action. Among them is Dominique, the only delegate from the Netherlands, who spoke to the Tehran Times about their motivation, readiness to face risks, and heartfelt message to Palestinian children.

Please introduce yourself — where are you from and why are you here?

My name is Dominique. I am the only delegate here in Tunisia from the Netherlands. I joined the flotilla — it wasn't a choice. I knew immediately that I wanted to join. I have been protesting for Palestine for a long time, and this is the next step in international solidarity.

From trade bans to cultural boycotts: The Netherlands' comprehensive stand for Gaza justice

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Standing by as catastrophe advances in Gaza—fueled by Israel's unrelenting military aggression—gross human rights violations, and a deepening humanitarian crisis should compel the world, especially European countries, to take stronger and united action. This means pressing Israel to halt the violence and extending unequivocal support to the people in dire need in Gaza. The bold intervention by the Netherlands in September 2025 remains a crucial wake-up call, underscoring the urgent necessity of immediate sanctions, trade restrictions, and diplomatic isolation. Such measures are essential for ensuring accountability and preventing further atrocities.

Israel is seeking to become hegemon in the region

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – After committing genocide for 23 months in Gaza with Western support, especially from the United States, and killing a number of top Hamas leaders in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran, and finally attempting to assassinate Hamas chief negotiator Khalil Al-Hayya in Doha, Israel has proven that it is seeking to become a hegemon in the region with U.S. backing.

Hamas's attack on Israel in October 2023 served as a pretext that expedited Israel's move to realize its vision of regional hegemony. While the Hamas team was meeting in Doha to assess the United States' ceasefire plan for Gaza and a prisoner exchange, Israel struck the Hamas office. The attack on Hamas leadership clearly proves that Israel is not seeking peace; rather, it is pursuing dominance in the region.

UNGA vote highlights growing isolation of Israel and U.S.

By Faramarz Koochpayeh

TEHRAN – Israel and the United States appear to have become more isolated following the approval of a United Nations General Assembly resolution that paves the way for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The resolution, backed by 142 countries and opposed by only 10—including the U.S.—was adopted on Friday. It endorsed the "New York Declaration," a framework put forward in July by France and Saudi Arabia that reaffirms support for a two-state solution.

The declaration's approval is expected to set the stage for a one-day UN conference on the two-state solution, scheduled in New York just ahead of the General Assembly's high-level week. At the meeting, several countries—including France, the UK, Canada, and Australia—are expected to formally recognize Palestine as a state.

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Selective mourning: Power, death, and recognition in contemporary necropolitics

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The death of Charles Kirk and the way it has been received in public and media spheres allows for a profound political analysis of how the right to mourning and commemoration is regulated in the contemporary world.

Kirk, despite being an extremist and highly polarizing figure—whose rhetoric and actions have been marked by direct attacks on immigrants, women, and minorities—has received significant public recognition upon his death, even in liberal media outlets that do not share his ideology. This phenomenon offers a starting point to understand how symbolic and political hierarchies are constructed around which bodies deserve to be mourned and which are systematically stripped of that right. ▶ Page 2



Archaeological work begins at Persepolis

TEHRAN – A new phase of archaeological excavations has begun in the core protected zone of Persepolis in southern Iran to determine the exact boundaries of historic remains, the site director said on Saturday.

Mohammad-Javad Jafari, head of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Persepolis, said the excavations started in early September to identify the extent of monuments and to support preservation and management plans.

"The first-degree protected zone of Persepolis covers more than 6,000 hectares, where nearly 110 archaeological sites have been identified, of which 70 are registered on the national heritage list," Jafari explained.

He said the sites include prehistoric mounds, caves, rock shelters, cemeteries and mines dating from prehistory to later historical periods. ▶ Page 6

Exclusive Interview
U.S. isolation inevitable if 'snapback' mechanism revived, cautions nuclear physicist



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Why and how to negotiate?

Jam-e-Jam, in an analysis, discussed the nature of the Iran-IAEA negotiations and wrote: According to the parliamentary law, relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency were suspended.

However, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, contrary to his claims that he avoids politics or serving the U.S. and Israel's interests, opened the way for Israel and the U.S. to take hostile action against the Iranian nation.

What could the serious interests of the head of the Agency in reestablishing contact with Iran and resuming inspections mean except that its inspectors are practically acting as Israeli spies.

They enter the country to prepare reports on the current status of Iran's nuclear facilities, the extent of damage from U.S.-Israeli strikes (in June), and strategies for future U.S. and Israeli operations to cause the greatest possible damage to the Iranian nuclear facilities.

In these circumstances, the foreign minister must be aware of his responsibility and consider the possible prospects, in a way that the country's nuclear facilities will not be bombed again.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Is extremist wing concerned about national interests or settling factional scores?

In an article, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the extremists' performance in regard to country's critical situation and said: The extremist wing has tried to keep the country's political atmosphere inflamed at various stages by making claims and putting continuous pressure against government officials, from pressure on negotiating teams to open threats against political and military figures.

The reality, however, is that such behavior resembles a factional settling of scores rather than being concerned about national interests.

It seems that proposing plans such as withdrawing from the NPT or closing the Strait of Hormuz is an excuse to keep the country in an atmosphere of constant tension; an atmosphere that benefits them more than anything else to maintain their political power.

By exaggerating threats and attacking the architects of the JCPOA, the extremists are trying to instill the image that every failure today is the legacy of previous governments (particularly the Rouhani government).

Experience will prove that extremism achieves nothing except increasing costs and undermining national interests.

Ham Mihan: Snapback not the end of the world, but the return of sanctions is damaging

In a commentary, Ham Mihan dealt with the path ahead of the diplomatic apparatus regarding the activation of snapback mech-

anism.

It quoted Abdolreza Faraji Rad, a professor of geopolitics at the university, as saying: The fact that implementing snapback will not be the end of the world for us is true, but on the other hand, this process will bring losses to us and will increase tensions.

The Europeans have made clear their three main conditions: first, Iran's cooperation with the IAEA; second, addressing some concerns related to the quality of the (IAEA-Iran) agreement; and third, entering into negotiations with the United States.

Regarding the third condition, namely direct negotiations between Iran and the United States, it must be said that Iran has not yet shown much interest.

However, if the agreement between Iran and the Agency is finalized, it can be said that Europe's two main conditions will be met, and this could be the basis for extending the snapback deadline for six-months and even lifting sanctions by Europe.

Therefore, the minimum achievement that can be hoped for is a six-month postponement of the implementation of the snapback sanctions, and the maximum is the lifting of sanctions based on the JCPOA and the complete removal of Security Council pressure.

This issue is considered a very important point in the current negotiation process.

Kayhan: The West's goal is to present Iran into enemy of Arabs

In an article, Kayhan addressed the West's goal of Iranophobia and creating hostility between Iran and Arab countries, and wrote: After the Zionist regime's aggression against Qatar, it has been proven more than ever before that Iran's logic that that "Israel is a cancerous tumor" has become clearer.

One of these goals is the issue of the three Iranian islands, which was put on the agenda after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, under the provocation of the West and the Zionist regime, to turn Iran into an "enemy of the Arabs."

In fact, the Westerners who gave the green light to attack Qatar, through Iranophobia and creating a gap between Iran and the Arabs by questioning Iran's ownership of the three islands, presented our beloved country as a "danger" and, with this dirty policy, obtained the Arabs' petrodollars.

That is, by selling them modern weapons and dominating the skies of these countries, they announced that they would protect them from the threat of an Iranian attack.

However, during the Israeli regime's aggression against Qatar, they did not activate any of these weapons or air defense systems and they themselves invaded Qatar!

Reported Zionist summit in Baku sparks criticism from Ayatollah Khamenei's advisor

From page 1 ► Azerbaijan and Israel have forged close ties over the past three decades, largely built on energy and defense cooperation.

Baku is Israel's largest oil supplier, covering around 65% of its crude imports through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline.

In return, Israel has become one of Azerbaijan's top arms providers, supplying drones, missile systems, and intelligence technologies.

President Ilham Aliyev himself once compared the relationship to an iceberg — with most of it hidden beneath the surface.

By 2023, Azerbaijan's oil exports to Israel reached \$1.4 billion annually, while Israeli arms accounted for nearly 70% of Azerbaijan's military imports between 2016 and 2020.

Velayati's warning comes at a time when Israel is facing unprecedented isolation following its airstrike on Doha on September 9.

The attack targeted a Hamas delegation during U.S.-proposed ceasefire talks, killing several members as well as a Qatari security officer.

Beyond the casualties, the strike was viewed

as a violation of Qatari sovereignty and an affront to the wider Arab-Islamic world.

The United Nations Security Council issued a rare unanimous condemnation of the attack, with even the United States backing the resolution for de-escalation.

Analysts say the move has exposed the limits of normalization under the Abraham Accords, proving that engagement has not moderated Israel's behavior but instead emboldened it.

Qatar, which has long resisted pressure to normalize with Tel Aviv, is now preparing to host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit to discuss joint measures.

Against this backdrop, Velayati cautioned that Azerbaijan's alignment with Israel could leave it isolated among Muslim nations.

"The proud people of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus will be dissatisfied with this anti-Islamic and anti-religious move, and this irrational action will ultimately harm Azerbaijan itself," he said.

Any lasting solution must uphold Palestinians' right to self-determination: Iran at UN

From page 1 ► The statement highlighted that nearly two years of relentless Israeli military aggression — particularly in Gaza — have resulted in mass killings, displacement, starvation, and widespread destruction of civilian life and infrastructure, all in flagrant violation of international law. It further argued that Israel's repeated attacks on neighboring states have deepened instability across the region and endangered international peace and security.

Iran underscored that decades of concessions, peace initiatives, and normalization efforts have failed to halt Israel's "crimes and illegal occupation." Instead, it said, these efforts have emboldened expansionist and colonial policies. Tehran pointed to repeated Security Council vetoes and the steady supply of arms to Israel as evidence that current international approaches cannot deliver their stated goals.

According to the statement, a just and lasting peace requires binding UN resolutions that address the root causes of the conflict, hold Israel accountable, and safeguard Palestinians' rights.

Iran reiterated its consistent calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, unimpeded humanitarian access, and reconstruction efforts that respect Palestinian sovereignty.

It reaffirmed support for what it called the "legitimate resistance" of the Palestinian people against occupation, foreign intervention, and apartheid policies, stressing that peace can only come through ending the occupation and realizing full Palestinian independence.

Citing UN document S/2019/862, Tehran again proposed holding a free and comprehensive referen-



Displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza carry their belongings along the coastal road towards southern Gaza.

dum across Palestine with the participation of all original inhabitants — Muslims, Christians, and Jews — as the only democratic and lasting path forward.

The mission concluded that the international community should urge the UN Security Council to recommend Palestine's admission as a full member state and hold Israel accountable for "war crimes, genocide, and prolonged illegal occupation," including through sanctions and the suspension of its UN membership.

The statement came after the UN General Assembly on Friday adopted a resolution supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state under the "two-state solution." Iran, along with Iraq and Tunisia, abstained from the vote. Tehran has repeatedly maintained that the Palestinian question cannot be re-

solved through such a framework, arguing that the two-state plan fails to ensure the full rights of Palestinians and does not address the core issue of Israeli occupation.

According to Iran, the resolution overlooks the continued presence of Zionists on Palestinian land, which it described as part of a broader colonial project in West Asia — the root cause of regional crises. It accused the drafters of deliberately ignoring the role of Israel and the United States as the main obstacles to realizing the two-state formula.

"As long as occupation and apartheid policies persist, the two-state plan will not succeed in ending the conflict," the statement said. Under international law, Tehran noted, people under occupation have the right to resist colonial and apartheid systems in pursuit of

self-determination.

The statement also addressed the events of October 7, insisting that Palestinian actions must be seen either as legitimate self-defense or as an inevitable outcome of Israeli aggression.

Iran concluded that the only durable resolution lies in ending occupation across all Palestinian lands and holding a nationwide referendum that includes displaced Palestinians returning to their homeland.

"The only democratic solution to the Palestine issue will be possible through this path," the mission declared, reaffirming Iran's support for Palestinian resistance groups, which it said operate within international law recognizing the right of occupied peoples to resist apartheid and colonialism.

Selective mourning: Power, death, and recognition in contemporary necropolitics

From page 1 ► The essential issue lies in the fact that Kirk, by virtue of his belonging to certain social and political groups and the visibility he occupies within the Western political system, is granted legitimacy to be commemorated. His death is inserted into narratives that, while acknowledging his contradictions and extremism, defend his humanity, his right to memory, and public protest against his assassination.

This public legitimization extends even to actors critical of his ideology, who understand that condemning his murder constitutes a defense of democratic values and freedom of expression.

However, this inclusive and legitimizing logic of mourning is not applied equitably to other populations.

In particular, Iranian victims of Israeli attacks during the twelve-day war, as well as Palestinians killed in the genocide in Gaza, face systematically limited or denied media and political recognition.

Although these lives have been subjected to systematic and massive violence, their right to public mourning and political commemoration is denied. In the case of Palestinians, media visibility consolidates only when the scale of violence and the number of victims make total silence impossible.

This forced presence, however, does not guarantee full humanization or equal recognition; rather, it reflects an exception imposed by the brutality of the events, as under normal circumstances these lives remain invisible and stripped of the status of subjects worthy of international mourning.

Meanwhile, Iranian victims of the recent war remain in a political and media limbo. Their names rarely appear in public narratives, and the grief accompanying their deaths is erased or displaced from the global collective memory. This exclusion renders their deaths "unmournable": they do not occupy a symbolic space of shared humanity, are not the object of legitimate mourning policies, nor of universal demands for justice or reparation.

The hierarchy of mourning thus has a deep political significance. Recognition or exclusion from the right to be mourned functions as a device of power through which the humanity of certain bodies is regulated while others are dehumanized. Death ceases to be a mere biological

fact and becomes a political problem that teaches how power relations and exclusion operate on a global scale.

Within this framework, Kirk can be assassinated but is not discarded as a human being worthy of mourning. His extremist and contradictory figure is symbolically reconstructed so that his death evokes collective emotions and public protest.

In contrast, when Palestinians or Iranians die, the global system denies them that affective and political space, reaffirming their condition as marginal and subordinate bodies.

The media visibility of Palestinians killed in Gaza, especially during the recent genocide, has been a complex phenomenon. Only the unprecedented scale of violence and the continuously increasing number of victims have managed to open spaces for visibility.

However, this media presence does not necessarily translate into a universal right to mourning and dignified memory. Exposure is often fragmented, politicized, and conditioned by global strategic interests. Frequently, narratives about these deaths are reduced to numbers or presented as isolated episodes of violence, stripping the bodies of their human dimension and the possibility of full empathy.

Kirk's case exemplifies the political arbitrariness in the selection of recognized mourning: it does not matter that his ideas were rejected or condemned, his death receives visibility and public debate.

Mainstream media links the right to mourn someone to their citizenship, belonging, race, religion, and geopolitics

The politics of death and grief, therefore, not only legitimizes individual loss but reveals the social and political position of the body that dies within a racialized and hierarchical global order.

The right to be mourned is consequently a power-mediated and regulated right that determines who deserves to be recorded in public memory and who is relegated to oblivion. Possible mourning is linked to discourses of citizenship, belonging, race, religion, and geopolitics. Legitimate mourning not only recognizes the loss but also legitimizes the life that was lost and reproduces political and symbolic hierarchies within the global human community.

Thus, Kirk's death, in a context where his privileged and recognized positioning prevails, becomes a mobilizing public event. In contrast,



Charles Kirk was an American right-wing extremist shot during a gathering in a U.S. university

the deaths of Iranian and Palestinian victims — only exceptionally visible during mass crimes or genocides — remain outside the framework of recognition and empathy, reaffirming their symbolic marginalization.

This observation is key to imagining a truly universal and just politics of death and mourning. Questioning these hierarchies implies claiming a right to mourning that does not discriminate based on identity or geopolitical location. It means defending the dignity of all bodies and the political respect for all losses, transforming collective memory into an inclusive and just space. Finally, the political discussion about who can be mourned and who cannot must interrogate the roots of racial, political, and economic exclusion operating in global necropolitics. Memory and mourning, far from being mere sentimental exercises, constitute the spaces from which legitimate forms of life and death are contested, and, by extension, the possibilities of justice and shared humanity in a world marked by violence and inequality.

To expand the analysis, it is necessary to consider how these mourning hierarchies intersect with media narratives and the construction of what could be called the "symbolic value of life."

Public recognition of Kirk does not arise from his intrinsic humanity but from his placement within a system of values that prioritizes certain bodies over others. In other words, the right to mourning is articulated around global, racial, and political power networks that determine which losses matter and which can be ignored.

Moreover, comparison with other political deaths throughout history shows that this practice is not new.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The Big Satan doesn't protect the region from the Small Satan

Following Doha attack, Larijani tells Arab states to form 'joint operations committee' to confront Israel

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – The Israeli fighter jets that violated Saudi Arabia's airspace on Tuesday and rained missiles on residential buildings in the Qatari capital of Doha was a reminder of how brazen the Israeli regime has got in the past two years. It also highlighted the fact that no country in the region can insulate itself from the regime's violence, even if, like Qatar, it hosts the largest regional American base, gifted the U.S. President a \$400 million aircraft, and has poured billions of dollars into the U.S. economy in recent years.

These are facts Iranians have repeatedly emphasized over the past two years: that Israel seeks domination, and that it believes no country in West Asia should have the right to sovereignty. However, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed Al Thani may have only truly grasped this reality as he attended a UN Security Council session the day after the attack. There, he listened to Israel's representative threaten another strike on Qatar if it didn't expel members of Hamas, the Palestinian Resistance group whose political wing resides in Doha and which has been the primary military force fighting Israelis in Gaza since the outbreak of war in October 2023. The Israeli strikes in Doha failed to assassinate the group's political leaders, who were reportedly not in the targeted buildings at the time of the attack.

Al Thani smirked bitterly and fidgeted in anger as the Zionist representative threatened not only Qatar, but also "any country" in the region choosing to establish ties with Palestinian groups. The Arab official appeared calmer later, as he joined President Donald Trump, along with his foreign secretary and vice president, for dinner. The day Doha was struck Trump expressed his displeasure with the Israeli aggression and claimed he was unaware of the impending attack; assertions he likely reiterated during the dinner with Qatar's Prime Minister. But whether the Qataris choose to believe the U.S. President makes little difference, according to Amir Ali Abolfath, an expert on North American affairs.



A UNSC meeting addressed Israel's aggression against Qatar on Friday

"There are two possible scenarios: either the U.S. knew of Israel's planned attack on Qatar and approved it, or Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu didn't feel the need to inform the Americans, knowing Washington would support his actions regardless," Abolfath explained. "In either case, the message received by Arab allies of the U.S. is that their alliance with Washington does not protect them from Israel."

Whether through complicity or impotence, it is now widely believed that American politicians' relationship with Israel will ultimately cost the United States in its relations with the Arab world, especially with wealthy Persian Gulf states that create jobs for Americans through their investments and purchase billions of dollars' worth of weapons from U.S. manufacturers each year. "Arabs are not going to make dramatic decisions regarding their ties with Washington, but they will now look to solidify relations with U.S. rivals, particularly China, to ensure their long-term security. This won't happen overnight, but will likely unfold in the coming years," the expert stated.

There are, however, concerns that the rapid pace of developments in the region will outstrip the ability of Arab nations to forge new security guarantees. Over the past two years, Israel has attacked seven countries, occupied new territories in Syria and Lebanon, and ruled to integrate the West Bank. These actions have resulted in the deaths of at least 60,000 Palestinians, over 1,000 Iranians, around

6,000 Lebanese, and hundreds of others in the region.

An upcoming Arab-Islamic summit in Doha is widely hoped to become the first step in producing a plan that would prevent further Israeli violence. Iran's top security official Ali Larijani took to X on Saturday to warn Muslim states that another session filled only with "speeches and condemnations" will no longer cut it.

"Without practical results (as is the case with Security Council meetings) is in fact equivalent to issuing a permit for the Zionist entity to carry out more attacks!" the veteran statesman wrote. "Since you have done nothing for the starving and oppressed Muslims in Palestine, at least make a modest decision to avoid your own annihilation!"

Larijani urged regional rulers to "at least form a joint operations committee" to confront Israel.

Since the outbreak of the Gaza war, Iran has repeatedly urged regional countries to sever economic, diplomatic, and political ties with Israel. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has stated that even a temporary suspension of relations would compel the Israeli regime to alter its behavior. In remarks to the Tehran Times, Khaled Qadomi, the Hamas representative in Iran, stated that this time, more than just Gaza and Palestine are at stake: "The dignity and honor of Arabs is on the line."

Qadomi elaborated, "Nobody expects Arab states to take military action against Israel, though threatening of having all options

on the table may be of high value. Still, there are important less costly steps they can take which would pressure the Israelis and prove to be effective." His vision is similar to Iranian suggestions: "The least regional countries can do is recall their ambassadors from the occupied territories. Boycotting the regime economically and politically are some of the other actions that can be taken."

The Hamas representative warned that without firm and definitive actions, any country participating in the upcoming summit could become Israel's next target, adding, "The International Court of Justice (ICJ) declared Netanyahu a war criminal over a year ago, but no action has been taken, practically the genocide is still being perpetrated by him and his army."

Arab countries, in fact, have a history of employing non-military tactics against Israel, Qadomi pointed out. Following the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) imposed an oil embargo on the United States, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom in response to their support of Israel. This action triggered an oil crisis in the West, leading to economic decline and recession. Although long-term changes in Western policies toward West Asia were limited, the unified decision made by Arab nations that year demonstrated their capacity to influence Israel and its patrons through non-military means, even when facing a military disadvantage.

Exclusive: U.S. isolation inevitable if 'snapback' mechanism revived, cautions nuclear physicist

Dr. Khaled Hussein points to Washington's domination of global oversight mechanisms and calls for respect of Iran's legal rights

TEHRAN- As debates over Iran's nuclear rights and Western pressures on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) framework continue to dominate regional and international discourse, questions are being raised about the credibility of global nuclear governance.

From the use of the "snapback" mechanism to the politicization of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the balance between nuclear rights and obligations has become a central issue West Asian security.

To explore these complex dynamics, the Tehran Times conducted an exclusive interview with Dr. Khaled Hussein, a distinguished scientist and university professor. A graduate in Nuclear Physics from Claude Bernard University in Lyon, France, and a member of Lebanon's National Council for Nuclear Research, Dr.

Hussein offered a detailed perspective on the rights of Iran under the NPT, the challenges posed by sanctions, and the broader implications of U.S. and Israeli pressures on regional stability.

Below is the full text of the interview:

How do you evaluate Iran's rights under the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), and to what extent are these rights respected internationally?

Iran has the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Iran has never turned at all towards the prohibited uses and has adhered to international standards regarding the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and it respects international treaties, while others violate treaties without

any UN accountability.

What is your assessment of the use of the "snapback" mechanism by the European countries to pressure Iran, and how does it impact the credibility of international law?

The snapback mechanism since the Obama era gives the United States of America the right to return to the Security Council resolutions and put them into mandatory enforcement within 30 days without the right of veto from Russia and China, but it is not applicable.

This mechanism is used only once, and I lean towards its non-implementation despite the threats of it, because the differences are many between America and Europe, and America will be in international isolation and a great danger to the security of the Mediterranean Basin.

Therefore, I lean towards postponement and searching for a new consensual formula instead of destroying the 5+1 agreement from the foundation and wasting international laws.

In your view, is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) acting neutrally in its monitoring of Iran's nuclear activities, or is it influenced by political pressures?

The International Atomic Energy Agency is biased against Iran at all times, although Grossi has credibility and is keen on neutrality, most inspectors fall under pressure from the American administration, and this appeared in the past.

How do U.S. and Israeli pressures affect regional stability in the Middle East, particularly regarding nuclear energy and security?



Photo shows nuclear physicist Khaled Hussein

There is no stability in the Middle East as long as America supports Israel in all technical and security fields.

How would you assess the current state of Iran's nuclear program in terms of technological advancement compared to other countries in the region?

Iran enjoys high efficiency in its nuclear program and possesses capacities, competences, and experiences of about 50,000 nuclear experts. It is committed to the peacefulness of the nuclear program 100% and is keen on full transparency and clarity in all its practical steps, while Israel depends on the United States in everything and does not adhere to international nuclear treaties.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

A wake-up call for Team Melli: Iran's CAFA setback

TEHRAN – Iran's narrow 1-0 loss to Uzbekistan in the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup final was more than a missed opportunity, it was a reflection of deeper issues plaguing Team Melli.

Despite going down to 10 men just five minutes into the match, the late extra-time goal by Xojjakbar Alijonov only capped off a tournament that raised more questions than answers.

On paper, the runners-up finish after a group-stage win over Afghanistan and India, and a draw with Tajikistan, may seem acceptable. But the overall performance was far from convincing.

Defensive frailty remains the team's Achilles' heel: four goals conceded in four matches, and just three clean sheets in the last 10 games, underline a systemic problem that must be addressed.

The goalkeeping situation also adds to the concerns. With Alireza Beiranvand suspended and Hossein Hosseini still adapting to life at Sepahan, Payam Niazmand was handed the gloves but failed to impress. None of Iran's top three goalkeepers currently appear to be in peak form, a worrying sign with the 2026 World Cup less than a year away.

Furthermore, calls for a generational shift continue to grow louder. Iran fielded one of the oldest squads at the 2022 World Cup, and little has changed since. Although young talents like Arya Yousefi and Mehdi Ghaedi have been introduced, meaningful rejuvenation remains minimal. If the team are to navigate the demanding group-stage format of the 2026 tournament successfully, younger, fitter legs will be essential.

Critics have been vocal in questioning coach Amir Ghalenoei's tactical choices and the Iran Football Federation's decision to enter a low-stakes regional tournament instead of seeking tougher international tests. Yet, amidst the criticism lies opportunity. The CAFA disappointment could, and should, serve as a final warning to recalibrate.

With nine months to go until the World Cup, there is still time. Time to fix the backline. Time to restore public faith. Time to challenge stronger opponents and time, crucially, for the technical staff to acknowledge flaws rather than deflect blame.

The road to 2026 remains open, but only if Iran turn this setback into a purposeful advancement.

Iran to Play Egypt at 2025 Volleyball World Championship opener

TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship on Sunday with a match against Egypt.

Team Melli is drawn in Pool A along with Egypt, Tunisia and the Philippines.

Roberto Piazza's side will also play Tunisia and the Philippines on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively.

Italy is the defending champion, having won its fourth title in 2022.

Taking place in Manila, Philippines, 32 teams from across the world are competing for the coveted title, divided into eight pools of four teams, where the top two advance to the knockout stage.

Iran's fixtures at AFC Futsal Asian Cup qualification unveiled

TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2026 AFC Futsal Asian Cup qualification with a match against Malaysia.

Team Melli will face Bangladesh on September 20 at the Stadium Tertutup Sukpa in Kuantan, Malaysia.

Vahid Shamsaei's side will also face the UAE and Malaysia in Group G on September 22 and 24,

respectively.

A total of 16 teams qualified to play in the final tournament. The host country Indonesia qualified automatically, while the other 15 teams were decided by qualification, with the matches played between 20 and 24 September 2025 in centralized venues.

Iran runners-up at Asian Canoe Polo C'ships 2025

TEHRAN – Iran's U21 team finished in second place at the Asian Canoe Polo Championships 2025.

The Iranian team lost to Chinese Taipei 4-3 in the final match.

Iran had defeated Hong Kong, Japan, and Malaysia on its way to the final.

The 19th edition of the competition is being held at the Water Sports Complex in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from September 9 to 14.

Bam Khatoon handed tough draw at AFC Women's Champions League

TEHRAN – The AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26 cast discovered their path to glory following the Group Stage Draw at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Thursday.

The 12 teams were divided into three groups for the second edition of the continental showpiece and will do battle in a centralized league format between Nov. 9 to 23, 2025.

Group A will see top seeds and last season's beaten finalists Australia's Melbourne City FC doing battle with hosts Ho Chi Minh City FC of Vietnam, Philippines' Stallion Laguna FC and Lion City Sailors FC of Singapore.

Group B comprises defending champions and hosts Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC of China PR, Islamic Republic of Iran's Bam Khatoon FC, East Bengal FC of India and Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf.

The Group C challenge will be between Suwon FC Women of Korea Republic, Japan's Tokyo Verdy Belezha, Naegohyang Women's FC of DPR Korea and Myanmar's ISPE WFC who will host the group.

The group stage matches in Myanmar will be held between November 9 and 15, with games in Vietnam scheduled for November 13 to 19 and fixtures in China PR to be played from November 17 to 23.

Following the Group Stage, eight clubs — the top two finishers of each group and the two overall best third-placed clubs—will advance to the Knockout Stage, with the single-leg Quarter-final pairings to be decided by a draw and played in March 2026.

The centralized Semi-finals and Final are scheduled for May 20 to 23, 2026.

Iran fall to India at FIBA U16 Women's Asia Cup 2025

TEHRAN – Iran suffered a late 70-67 loss against India in a thrilling Division match of the FIBA U16 Women's Asia Cup 2025 on Saturday.

Indian Mahek Sharma finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds at the Karisma Arena in Seremban, Malaysia.

Sharma's heroics, furthermore, saved the efforts of her teammates in orchestrating the resistance, which saw Reva Kulkarni lead the way with a well-rounded performance with 20 points, 7 rebounds, and 6 assists.

Teams finishing first in their groups will advance directly to the Final Four.

Mobina Beheira, meanwhile, had 18 points to lead Iran in the loss. Elina Kazemvini made 13 points and 5 rebounds as the two led their third-quarter surge to take the lead, which they were able to grow to 11.

Sara Mokhtari added 11 points and 8 rebounds for the young Team Melli, who will try to notch their first win when they face Samoa on Sunday at 11:30 local time in a clash between teams hungry to break through.

NPC unveils petrochemical product specification system

TEHRAN – Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) launched a new system for technical specifications of petrochemical products, aimed at boosting transparency and supporting downstream industries.

Hassan Abbaszadeh, NPC's managing director, said during the unveiling ceremony that the platform, known as SAMAP, will improve the flexibility of downstream sectors by providing clear technical data.

The launch coincided with the third day of the Iran Plast international exhibition in Tehran.

Abbaszadeh, referring to recent remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said the country must move beyond the state of "neither war nor peace," adding that exhibitions and similar initiatives underline the need to step up production and economic activity.

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

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

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

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

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

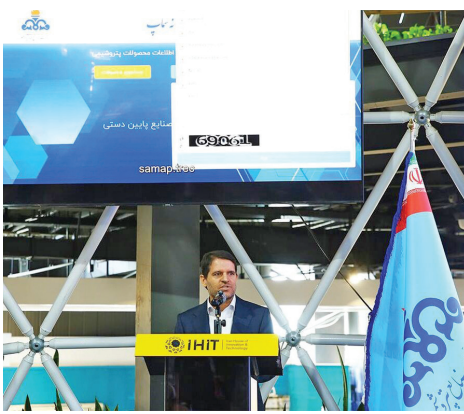
Iran produced 32 million tons of petrochemical products in the first five months of the current Iranian year to late August, with 13 million tons worth \$5.5 billion exported, the head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said.

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

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

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

He put the total planned investment for



2025 projects at \$6.0 billion, saying they would expand industry capacity by 9.8 million tons.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abbaszadeh also confirmed that Bakhtar Petrochemical and Petrofarhang Holding will develop upstream gas fields with a 35 million cubic meter capacity, while other firms are studying participation.

On regulation, he said the NPC statute was under parliamentary review and called for the Competition Council to define regulators for the industry by the end of the current development plan.

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

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

senior officials including Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of the TPO, along with the organization's deputies and directors.

Also present were officials from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, directors of foreign trade offices from 31 provinces, and local executives from Yazd province.

Road transit through Iran reaches 6.5m tons in 5 months

TEHRAN – More than 6.5 million tons of goods were transited through Iran's road network in the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 21 – August 22), according to the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization.

Javad Hedayati, head of the organization's Transit and International Transport Office, said 6,562,836 tons of goods were moved in transit during the period, carried out through more than 297,000 road trips.

He noted that some 6,219,000 tons of commodities were transported through Iran's land border crossings in inbound and outbound routes between March and August.

Highlighting the role of the private sector, Hedayati said around 2,578 companies are currently active in international freight transport, along with 64 firms and branches operating in international passenger transport.

He added that more than 40,000 vehicles with an average age of 12 years are operating on international routes, supported by over 51,000 drivers engaged in cross-border trade.

At present, 26 terminals across 12 provinces serve as hubs for the exchange of goods



and passengers between Iran and its neighboring countries, he said.

In late August, a senior Transport and Urban Development Ministry official said that Iran plans to double its annual transit volume to 40 million tons by the end of its Seventh Development Plan in 2028, highlighting the country's ambitions to become a regional transit hub.

Jafar Jamili, acting head of the ministry's Office for Commercialization and Trade Associations, said nearly 20 million tons of cargo transited through Iran in the past year, with about 88 percent moved by road and 12 percent by rail.

Most of the traffic consisted of petroleum products shipped

from Iraq's Kurdistan region through southern Iranian ports to Persian Gulf Arab states. Other transit flows passed through Bandar Abbas toward Afghanistan and from northwestern to northeastern borders.

Under the new plan, 70 percent of transit is expected to move by road and 30 percent by rail. Jamili said meeting the 40-million-ton target requires expanded road and rail infrastructure, upgraded border terminals, and streamlined customs and trade processes.

He noted that geopolitical tensions in maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb and the Suez Canal have increased global interest in overland routes, particular-

Kazakhstan shows demand for Iranian petrochemical products, trade envoy says

TEHRAN – Kazakhstan continues to seek imports of petrochemical products, including from Iran, despite its own investment in domestic production, according to Iran's commercial attaché in the country.

Speaking at a webinar on petrochemical trade challenges between the two countries, Nasrin Pabarja outlined Kazakhstan's market structure and said demand remains for Iranian products.

She noted that Kazakhstan, one of Central Asia's largest economies with vast oil and gas reserves, is aiming to become a regional player in petrochemical production and exports by attracting investment and joint ventures.

Its geographic position and access to Eurasian Economic Union markets, along with proximity to China and Russia, support that ambition, she said.

Based on Iranian customs data, exports to Kazakhstan in the first four months of the year included about \$6 million in petrochemical products, \$3 million in mining and mineral industries, \$22 million in industrial goods, and \$23 million in agricultural commodities, Pabarja said.

She added that while Kazakhstan has launched multiple petrochemical projects in recent years, its output has not met domestic demand, leading to continued imports from Russia, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Kazakhstan's petrochemical market structure is divided into three main categories: polymers and plastics, basic chemicals, and high value-added downstream products, she explained.

Despite projects such as polyethylene production, demand for these products in industries remains high, making them among the country's top imports, she added.

Pabarja also highlighted Kazakhstan's potential to act as a re-export hub for Iranian petrochemical products to other Central Asian countries and China.

"Although Kazakhstan is a consumer market, its geographic and logistical advantages could turn it into a platform for re-exporting Iranian goods," she said.

The session also reviewed challenges in

Iran-Kazakhstan trade and explored the export advantages of both countries in the petrochemical sector.

Earlier this month, Pabarja had referred to the volume of trade between the two countries, and reported an increase in exports compared to imports from Iran to Kazakhstan in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Pointing to Kazakhstan's suitable ranking on the list of target countries for Iranian exports, she stated: "In the first quarter of this year, over \$53 million worth of goods, weighing more than 96,000 tons, were exported from Iran to Kazakhstan, while during this period, \$9 million worth of goods, weighing 28,000 tons, were imported from Kazakhstan into Iran.

According to Iran's Commercial Attaché in Kazakhstan, the main goods included sunflower seeds, corn, barley, and livestock products.

She noted that the two countries have preserved their cultural and historical commonalities, adding: "Iran and Kazakhstan are neighbors via the Caspian Sea and, alongside maritime trade, enjoy a favorable situation in road and rail connections."

Pabarja stated: "400 export goods and 19 import goods in the trade basket of Iran and Kazakhstan indicate the superiority in the diversity of export products over import items. For instance, \$23 million worth of agricultural products, \$22 million from the industrial sector, \$5 million from petrochemical products, and over \$3 million from the mining and mineral industries were exported to Kazakhstan."

In early August, Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport Nurlan Sauranbayev have agreed to strengthen transportation cooperation and jointly draft a roadmap focused on boosting transit through the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Awaza, Turkmenistan,

where both ministers stressed the need for infrastructure coordination and swift implementation of earlier multilateral agreements signed between Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan.

Sadegh called for accelerated execution of the eastern branch of the INSTC, emphasizing Kazakhstan's central role.

She also proposed a comprehensive five-year agreement covering all modes of transport, a suggestion welcomed by the Kazakh side.

The two sides reviewed opportunities to enhance multimodal connectivity, including rail, road, maritime, and air transport.

Sauranbayev emphasized that Kazakhstan imposes no restrictions on Iranian flights and expressed interest in collaborative infrastructure development, particularly a Caspian Sea initiative akin to the "Caspian Bridge" project being developed with Azerbaijan.

The ministers agreed to assess the full potential of Caspian Sea routes for a "leap" in logistics cooperation, aiming to diversify transit paths to and from Iranian ports.

As part of a broader goal to increase bilateral trade to \$3 billion, discussions included expanding port capacity, streamlining customs, and organizing multilateral logistics meetings with neighboring countries—especially targeting routes toward the Caucasus and Europe.

In a forward-looking move, both sides agreed to form a joint technical committee tasked with drafting cooperation documents and a detailed roadmap prior to the upcoming state visit by the Iranian president to Astana.

They also agreed to hold regular virtual meetings to ensure continued progress.

These developments align with Iran's strategy to position itself as a critical transit hub linking Central Asia to global markets via the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

The 20th session of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Economic Committee was held in Astana, in mid-June, with the participation of Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeljeh, Iran's Minister of Agriculture and head of the Iranian delegation.

Germany exports non-oil products worth \$628m to Iran in 4 months

TEHRAN- Germany exported non-oil products worth \$628 million to Iran during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Foroud Asgari said that Germany was Iran's fourth source of non-

oil imports during the four-month period.

According to the official, Iran's non-oil imports during the four-month period totaled 17.6 million tons worth \$17.6 billion. Key import goods included gold bullion worth \$1.0 billion, corn at \$1.1 billion, rice worth \$688 million (634,000 tons), sunflower seed oil at \$132

million, soybeans at \$569 million, mobile phones at \$504 million, wheat at \$344 million, barley at \$310 million, and sesame and soybean products at \$212 million.

The UAE was the largest source of imports at \$5.4 billion, followed by China at \$4.5 billion and Turkey at \$2.5 billion, with Germany, Russia and the Netherlands supplying

smaller amounts, he said.

As previously announced by the official, Germany exported non-oil products worth \$454 million to Iran during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

He said that Germany was Iran's fifth source of non-oil imports during the three-month period.

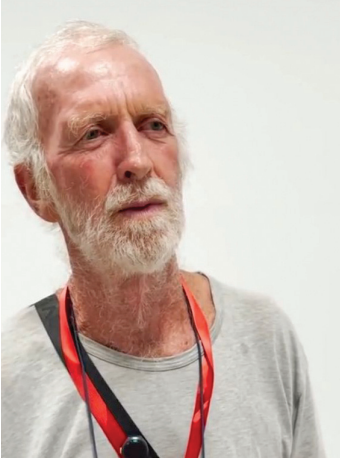
Yazd hosts national forum on foreign trade

TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) convened its first forum on foreign trade in the central city of Yazd on September 12-13, hosted by the provincial Industry, Mining and Trade Department.

The two-day gathering, titled "National Forum on Foreign Trade Consultation," brought together

“If Palestine can’t win, many principles are at stake,” says Italian activist who joins Sumud flotilla

Claudio, a volunteer from Sicily, says solidarity with Gaza is a continuation of historic liberation struggles



TEHRAN - The Sumud flotilla has brought together volunteers and sailing boats from across the Mediterranean, aiming to challenge Israel's blockade and deliver solidarity to Gaza. From Italy, dozens of boats are preparing to set sail. Among them is Claudio, an Italian activist from Sicily affiliated with the International Solidarity Movement, who shared his perspective with the Tehran Times in Tunis.

Could you please introduce yourself — where are you from and what brings you to Tunisia?

I'm Claudio from Italy. I arrived here with a sailing boat from Sicily



to deliver it for the flotilla. I came on Thursday; another boat arrived yesterday and perhaps another will arrive tomorrow. There are sailing boats from Sicily and Sardinia preparing to leave from here to Palestine.

How many people or boats from Italy are planning to join the flotilla?

From Italy there might be about 40 boats leaving from Catania and Syracuse. Some are also coming from Genoa. I'm joining them in Catania — it's really a big effort from Italy.

Are you representing any in-

stitution?

No, I'm not representing a government or NGO. I am with the International Solidarity Movement — they have been active many times in Palestine. I was in Palestine until last May. Our presence there is a protective presence; we try to support shepherds and peasants.

Are you prepared to face consequences if your flotilla is intercepted when you reach Palestinian waters?

Of course I'm ready. I've been arrested many times before, so I'm not particularly afraid. Maybe you

lose your job — but I'm retired, so I don't have that worry. If they capture you and put you in prison, you have to accept the risk. The worst that can happen is to experience what Palestinians already experience.

What motivated you to take part in the flotilla and travel to Tunisia?

I'm motivated by historical struggles for liberation — South Africa, resistance movements in Nigeria and Vietnam in the last century. Now it's Palestine's turn. If Palestine can't win and survive, I believe many principles are at stake. We feel solidarity is necessary.

You also mentioned recent attacks and wider regional tensions. What is your view of the current situation and the role of Israeli leadership?

From my perspective, leaders like Netanyahu often choose aggression. There were recent strikes and attacks that killed many people — these events push the region toward further violence. I think some leaders feel they must keep bombing; otherwise, they face political consequences. That's my impression and my criticism.

“Children of Gaza, don’t lose hope, we are by your side”: Dutch activist on Sumud mission says

Dominique, the sole Dutch participant in the Sumud flotilla, says ordinary citizens must act where governments fail



From page 1 ▶

What is the aim of your presence here with the flotilla?

We're all here together to try and break the siege — to let Palestinians know they are not alone, they are not invisible. Where governments will not act, the people — regular everyday people and civil society — will come together to show we will try our hardest to break the siege. We will never stop for them, not until Palestine is free.

If you reach Palestinian waters and intercepted or arrested, are you prepared for that scenario? Aren't you afraid?

I'm not afraid. I'm ready for any scenario. Anything that happens to us is nothing compared to

what Palestinians are going through. We have the privilege of our passports and the ability to leave; they don't. This is the next stage of international direct non-violent action — it requires risk-taking and sacrifice.

Do you have a message for the Palestinian people, especially the children in Gaza?

Yes. To the Palestinians — to the children in Gaza — we are always thinking of you. We are always there for you. Regardless of what our governments do, we the people are by your side. One million percent we will always be by your side and we will never give up. We are coming to you. So don't lose hope. We will do our best and we will never stop until Palestine is free. Inshallah.

From trade bans to cultural boycotts: The Netherlands’ comprehensive stand for Gaza justice

From page 1 ▶

Dutch government decree targets settlement imports

A pivotal Dutch government decree on September 11, 2025, exemplifies the decisive measures Europe must now adopt en masse: Foreign Minister David van Weel announced an immediate ban on imports of goods from Israeli Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, leveraging a rapid executive mechanism to enforce this restriction.

This unflinching condemnation of Israel's illegal settlement expansion—deemed unlawful by the vast majority of the international community under international law—targets settlement products precisely while preserving essential trade with Israel proper, offering a blueprint for calibrated yet firm economic leverage.

Cultural boycotts signal escalating diplomatic offensive

Complementing this economic frontline, the Dutch government's alliance with Ireland and fellow EU states in threatening a boycott of the Eurovision Song Contest 2026 should Israel participate signals an escalating cultural and diplomatic offensive that every European country—and indeed the global community—must amplify without delay.

This coordinated defiance against Israel's Gaza atrocities marks a vital pivot from passive diplomacy to aggressive accountability.

Grassroots protests challenge Dutch complicity

On the ground, Dutch civil society's unrelenting fervor from August 31 through early September 2025—where hundreds nationwide joined work walkouts, clanging saucepans and chanting “No supporting genocide” and “Free Palestine” across over 50 sites, including Amsterdam's Wereld Museum—highlights the grassroots momentum that must propel governments everywhere to act. Organizers framed their demands within the nation's binding duties under the 1948 Genocide Convention, condemning governmental inaction as outright complicity.

Universities, as epicenters of moral awakening, have amplified this urgency: at the University of Amsterdam, pro-Palestinian disruptions to the academic year saw students and faculty insist on boycotts of Israeli entities tied to military endeavors, transforming campuses into beacons of solidarity.

These actions compel academic institutions globally to sever complicit ties and advocate for sanctions.

Beyond streets and halls, Dutch voices flood social media via groups like “Amsterdam for Palestine,” rallying for instant ceasefires, unfettered humanitarian access, and Gaza's justice—tools for real-time orchestration and global amplification that every nation must harness to build unyielding campaigns for accountability.



At policy's core, humanitarian imperatives demand immediate global enforcement: Prime Minister Dick Schoof's insistence on expediting Gaza aid and restoring vital infrastructure, while decrying civilian suffering—especially children's—and violence against journalists, spotlights press freedom's role in unmasking war crimes. Yet this is merely a starting point; the world, led by Europe, must enact binding sanctions and aid mandates to translate words into life-saving deeds.

Political divisions reveal ethical crossroads

The very division in the opinion in the Netherlands—with polling revealing strong support for harsher stances against Israel on the backdrop of diplomatic warnings precipitating ministerial resignations—is the occasion for the ethical crossroads wherein countries must choose justice over geopolitics and act on calls for an arms embargo and trade suspensions so as not to

be viewed as complicit in an atrocity.

Regionally, the Netherlands' early September mobilizations synchronized with tens of thousands in Brussels drawing a “red line” against Israeli aggression, clamoring for continent-wide sanctions—a transnational surge testing Europe's resolve and demanding emulation worldwide to yield tangible policy shifts.

A global mandate for sanctions and solidarity

Ultimately, September 2025 cements the Netherlands as a vanguard for Palestinian rights through intertwined state edicts and societal fire, but this is not a stand-alone victory, it is a call to action for every country - especially in Europe - to take all necessary sanctions, embargoes, and recognitions against Israel, while stabilizing Gaza. In this democratic enactment of the most dominant destructive historical narrative, inaction is also action - act, or leave the historical record to judge us all complicit.

Lebanese government and the licensing of Starlink: A free service for Israel!

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Ignoring all security reports that expressed fears of internet access being diverted from outside the Ministry of Telecommunications, the Lebanese government approved a license for Starlink to allegedly “provide internet distribution services throughout Lebanon via satellite.”

It is worthy noting that Starlink is owned by billionaire Elon Musk, one of the biggest supporters of the Zionist entity.

Under this decision, which violates the Public Procurement Law and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, as stipulated in Telecommunications Law (No. 431/2002), Starlink will be able to divert internet access from abroad without any security oversight, facilitating espionage and communication with the Israeli enemy.

Thus, Telecommunications Minister Charles Hajj has cheaply thrown the entire telecommunications sector into the swamp of privatization without any real return to the national treasury.

In the first year of this contract alone, public sector losses are estimated at approximately \$5.9 million in treasury revenue. As for losses to private internet companies, losses are expected to reach approximately \$1.1 million per month.

The head of the Parliamentary Communications Committee, Sayyed Ibrahim al-Moussawi, has repeatedly warned against the Minister of Communications' insistence on a consensual contract with Starlink, despite the security concerns raised by specialized security agencies.

In MP al-Moussawi's opinion, contracting with this company, or any other company, in this manner is a concession that requires a law unanimously passed by the House of Representatives, ensuring the public interest and the treasury.

However, it appears that the government, preoccupied with approving “arms exclusivity,” is sparing no effort in breaking the exclusivity of internet and communications services!

The government has achieved nothing but stubbornness, neglecting Lebanon's interests, and showing no mercy to the pleas of the people of the South and the Bekaa, who are suffering under the series of aggression, nor to the voices of the families of the prisoners held by the enemy.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel is seeking to become hegemon in the region

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – After committing genocide for 23 months in Gaza with Western support, especially from the United States, and killing a number of top Hamas leaders in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran, and finally attempting to assassinate Hamas chief negotiator Khalil Al-Hayya in Doha, Israel has proven that it is seeking to become a hegemon in the region with U.S. backing.

Hamas's attack on Israel in October 2023 served as a pretext that expedited Israel's move to realize its vision of regional hegemony. While the Hamas team was meeting in Doha to assess the United States' ceasefire plan for Gaza and a prisoner exchange, Israel struck the Hamas office. The attack on Hamas leadership clearly proves that Israel is not seeking peace; rather, it is pursuing dominance in the region.

The attack on Qatar's capital, which has been hosting dialogue between Israeli and Hamas delegations for over two years to end the conflict in Gaza, was astonishing and alarming. Qatar, a close U.S. ally hosting the largest American airbase in the Persian Gulf, was targeted despite its role as a mediator. Instead of being rewarded for hosting peace talks, Qatar's capital came under attack by Israeli fighter jets.

Israel has become emboldened after killing Hamas leader Ismaeil Haniyah in Tehran, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and his deputy Sheikh Saffiedin in Beirut, and destroying Syria's military infrastructure following the fall of the Assad government in December 2024.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has become so confident that he openly talks about changing the map of the Middle East and claims a spiritual mission to establish a “Greater Israel” that would include parts of Arab lands.

All these genocidal attacks in Gaza, settlement expansion in the West Bank, attacks on Lebanon, and the recent airstrike on Doha are carried out with Washington's approval. To turn Israel into a regional hegemon, the U.S. even allows attacks on Doha, violating the sovereignty of a close ally in the Persian Gulf. It is false that President Donald Trump was informed that Israel was attacking the Hamas headquarters in Doha while Israeli jets were en route.

Even Israel's and the United States' 12-day war on Iran in June fits within the plan to establish Israel as a regional hegemon. Netanyahu sees Trump at the White House as a golden opportunity to assert dominance. Trump's first-term policies, including moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and recognizing the occupied Golan Heights as Israeli territory, laid the groundwork for this vision.

Even now, with Bashar Assad's government toppled in Syria and Mohammad al-Shaara taking over and expressing willingness to establish ties with Israel, the country remains vulnerable to Israeli attacks as forces advance near Damascus.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

UNGA vote highlights growing isolation of Israel and U.S.

From page 1 ▶ Germany and Italy remain the two large European countries holding out against recognition of a Palestinian state, although Italy's coalition government is increasingly divided on the issue. Meanwhile, five European countries have already banned all imports from illegal Israeli settlements.

The Friday vote came less than 24 hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted that Israel would never accept a Palestinian state.

Earlier this month, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar criticized Western countries' plans to recognize a Palestinian state at the General Assembly, warning that such moves would push Tel Aviv to take unspecified reciprocal measures.

Currently, around three-quarters of the 193 UN member states recognize the Palestinian state proclaimed in 1988 by the exiled Palestinian leadership.

The resolution comes amid Israel's ongoing regional escalation and its devastating war on Gaza. Israel's killing of more than 64,000 Palestinians since the war broke out in October 2023 has already underscored its growing international isolation. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, as well as by human rights groups, including some inside Israel. The Netanyahu government's recent attack on Qatar has further deepened this isolation. All 15 members of the UN Security Council condemned the strike, while Doha is preparing to host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit on Sunday and Monday that is expected to become a platform for regional unity against Israel.

Against the backdrop of these developments, the General Assembly's Friday vote bears considerable significance. It highlights a widening rift between Israel and much of the international community. While the U.S. continues to shield Israel diplomatically and militarily, its position is increasingly out of step with the global consensus, raising questions about the sustainability of its influence on Middle East diplomacy. For Israel, this trend signals the erosion of its traditional diplomatic safety net, while for the U.S., it risks deepening perceptions of hypocrisy on international law and human rights, potentially weakening its standing in other geopolitical arenas.

Iran pavilion named best booth at China's Guangzhou tourism fair

TEHRAN – Iran's pavilion was awarded the title of best booth at the Guangzhou International Travel Fair (CITIE 2025) on Saturday, its first participation in the event, organizers said.

The pavilion was recognized for its use of historical elements, traditional features and design, as well as high visitor turnout, CHTN reported.

At an official ceremony on Sept. 13, CITIE deputy director presented an honorable mention to Mohammad Hossein Soufi, head of Iran's pavilion and managing director of the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran. Soufi said the achievement reflected the collective effort of his team.

"Our pavilion succeeded by emphasizing aesthetics, cultural and civilizational themes, and direct interaction with visitors," Soufi said. "We are pleased that our presence increased attendance at the fair and created a valuable opportunity to introduce Iran."

Iran's pavilion featured eight travel agencies, a handicraft artisan, traditional clothing displays and Iranology workshops, making it one of the most visited sections of the fair,



according to organizers.

The three-day event in Guangdong province, running from Sept. 12 to 14, is regarded as one of East Asia's major tourism exhibitions.

Iran's participation comes as the country seeks to boost arrivals from China. In 2019, Tehran waived visa requirements for Chinese nationals in a bid to attract more tourists.

Iran to take part in five intl. tourism fairs

TEHRAN—Iran is to take part in five international tourism fairs in Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Spain, said Moslem Shojaei, the Tourism Ministry's director-general for marketing and foreign tourism development.

Iran participated at CITIE 2025 in Guangzhou, China, on September 12-14.

It is worth noting that the five international tourism exhibitions in which Iran will participate with the realization of the aforementioned support plan to introduce the country's tourism capacities are Iraq Tourism Exhibition in Sulaymaniyah in November 2025, FITUR Spain in Madrid on February 2026, EMITT Turkey in Istanbul in February 2026, PTM Pakistan in Karachi in April 2026, and AITF Azerbaijan in Baku in April 2026, Mehr news agency reported.

He explained that the international tourism exhibitions are considered one of the most important marketing tools in this industry, and in addition to directly introducing capacities to the foreign activists and tourists, they also create a platform for negotiation, networking, and establishing sustainable partnerships between the public and private sectors.

Architectural wonders of Anahita Temple in Fars province



TEHRAN--Anahita Temple of Bishapour in Fars province has minimal decorations, but the type of architecture used for the place of worship and water transfer is amazing.

According to Mehr news agency, the Anahita Temple was built by order of Sassanid King Shapur I. The building, which was registered as a national monument in 1931, was also included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2018.

This temple was built for easier transfer of water to the central courtyard of the temple, the water circulation system, and the place of prayer.

Anahita Temple is a symbol of a water temple. That is, the only element of the four elements that is attributed to the goddess Venus. The animal symbol of this goddess is

in the form of a cow, which is located around the temple, symmetrically. This temple is unique not only in terms of architecture, but also in terms of observing the water regulation, distribution and control systems.

Anahita is the goddess of water. Iranians highly respected the four elements of water, wind, earth and fire, and water was one of those elements. In order to build this temple, they came six meters below the ground level, close to the mother well and the river level, so that the water could be transported through the river.

This temple was underground until the third level of the building, which was brought out by the team of the late archaeologist Ali-Akbar Sarafraz. Many architectural wonders can be seen in this historical monument, including the type of arrangement of stones on top of each other, the water transfer system, and the creation of a temple six meters below the ground level. Also, all the principles of four-aisle and two-aisle mosques can be inspired from here, which have worked in a cross and symmetrical manner.

In fact, Anahita Temple is the most important monument of Bishapour complex. It is also the most intact Sassanid temple that has remained intact in all of Iran. But some people think that we had a temple that was also in Kangavar, while this is not the case and the temple of Bishapour is one of the most important temples.

Archaeological work begins at Persepolis

TEHRAN – A new phase of archaeological excavations has begun in the core protected zone of Persepolis in southern Iran to determine the exact boundaries of historic remains, the site director said on Saturday.

Mohammad-Javad Jafari, head of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Persepolis, said the excavations started in early September to identify the extent of monuments and to support preservation and management plans.

"The first-degree protected zone of Persepolis covers more than 6,000 hectares, where nearly 110 archaeological sites have been identified, of which 70 are registered on the national heritage list," Jafari explained.

He said the sites include prehistoric mounds, caves, rock shelters, cemeteries and mines dating from prehistory to later historical periods.

Three excavation projects are underway: Tal-e Robahi led by Fazlollah Habibi, Chah-e Jangal led by Ahmadali Asadi, and Tal-e Gavdari led by Abuzar Tavakol. They are funded by the Persepolis World Heritage Base with permits from Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, Jafari said.

"These excavations are essential for defining the exact boundaries of the monuments so that both preservation and tourism development plans can be implemented with minimal damage



to cultural heritage," he added.

Jafari noted that other important archaeological areas, including Bakun A and B, Tal-e Shogha, and Tal-e Jari located in the secondary and tertiary protection zones of Persepolis, would also be prioritized for future boundary studies.

He called for sustained funding, saying annual and long-term budgets are needed to safeguard the archaeological resources of Persepolis and its surrounding zones.

Earlier this month, Jafari announced that a comprehensive management and conservation plan for Persepolis was developing amid growing concerns from experts about erosion of its ancient stone reliefs. "We recog-

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

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

Jafari said international cooperation in conservation had begun years earlier with Italian teams, but Iranian experts had

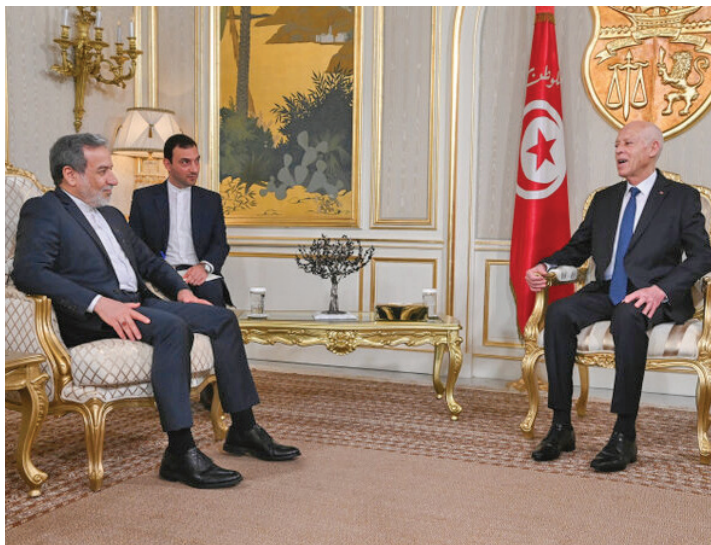
since taken over, using localized materials and new technologies to continue restoration and preservation efforts.

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

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

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

Iran, Tunisia to revive tourism cooperation



TEHRAN – Iran and Tunisia have agreed to revive economic and tourism cooperation and are preparing to reconvene a joint economic commission after years of suspension, sources reported following a visit by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to Tunis.

Araghchi met Tunisian President Kais Saied on Wednesday, covering bilateral issues and regional developments, including the conflict in Gaza, according to Iranian ambassador to Tunisia Mirmasoud Hosseini.

"Both countries have the political will to develop and deep-

en bilateral relations. My visit to Tunisia is taking place within this framework," Araghchi told reporters at the Iranian Embassy.

Hosseini said the two sides had agreed to expand cooperation in tourism, with discussions under way on launching direct flights between Tehran and Tunis. Charter flights have been operating twice a week since July.

Araghchi also held talks with Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Nafti, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, Hosseini said.

Kordestan, a hidden treasure in west of Iran

TEHRAN—Kordestan is an area with ancient history and culture, breathtaking nature and hospitable people. It is a province which boasts soaring mountains, terraced villages, authentic Kurdish music, and lasting handicrafts. It has an unparalleled capacity to attract domestic and foreign tourists.

This province with diverse national and historical attractions is considered one of the important tourism destinations in west of Iran, ISNA wrote.

Experience has shown that whenever conditions are favorable, the province's accommodations are filled with visitors eager to explore its cultural and natural sites. Conversely, any crisis or deficiency in transportation and welfare services has led to a significant decline in tourism.

On one hand, statistics provided by officials of Kordestan Cultural Heritage and Tourism Department indicate a significant increase in travel this year. On the other hand, limited accommodation capacity and issues such as flight restrictions remain obstacles to tourism development in the region.

These figures clearly show that Kordestan requires investment in tourism and cooperation among all relevant agencies to achieve its rightful place on both national and international stages.

Deputy Head of Kordestan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Teymour Khaledi noted a 20-percent increase in tourist arrivals before 12-day war of Israel against Iran. Currently, the province hosts 31 hotels, 21 guesthouses, 51 eco-lodges, five traditional accommodations, one boutique hotel, and four hotel-apartment, offering a

total capacity of over 7,000 overnight stays.

He stated that from the beginning of the year until the outbreak of the 12-day conflict, Kordestan saw over 20-percent growth in tourism, with full occupancy in accommodations. Unfortunately, the onset of the conflict drastically reduced tourist numbers, at times to zero, as safety remains the most critical factor in choosing a travel destination.

Khaledi added that in recent weeks, recovery has begun, with some accommodations fully booked. Efforts have included producing over 40 promotional clips and teasers, publishing content on social media, and distributing more than 150,000 promotional items such as maps, brochures, and CDs to reactivate tourism, he pointed out.

He emphasized the role of local residents in promoting attractions, noting that many villagers, eco-lodge owners, and hoteliers independently advertise on social media, significantly contributing to the province's visibility.

Khaledi reiterated the current accommodation capacity and urged tourists to use only licensed agencies and official centers to ensure safety and quality services.

He stressed that tourism development is a cross-sectoral endeavor, not solely the responsibility of the Cultural Heritage Department. All agencies must participate, as poor roads, inadequate emergency services, or any incident can have a broad negative impact on tourism, he said. He expressed hope for sustainable growth through collective efforts.

Also, Golan Farzami, a local cultural heritage official, stated that the province has 1,260 registered historical, cultural, and tour-



ism sites. In the last 15 days of Iranian month of Shahrivar alone, over 3,400 domestic and international tourists visited Kordestan's attractions, he added.

Farzami emphasized that Kordestan, with its rich collection of registered sites, is a key tourism hub in western Iran. Since the beginning of the year, 27,699 cultural tourists have visited the province, along with 195,342 visitors to general attractions and 18,049 to historical buildings and museums.

In the last 15 days of Shahrivar, 3,441 visits were recorded, including 2,829 domestic and 612 international tourists.

He highlighted the global recognition of some of Kordestan's historical sites, noting that Uramanat has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The province also holds a special place in music and handicrafts, with Sanandaj recognized as Iran's Creative City of Music.

Farzami stated that 122 accommodation centers, including hotels and eco-lodges, are currently active in the province, but this capacity is insufficient for the high volume of travelers. Expanding accommodation infrastructure is essential, he added.

Iran, Iraq sign MOU to beef up ties in combating narcotics

TEHRAN – Iranian and Iraqi officials have signed a memorandum of understanding to foster collaborative efforts in the fight against illicit drugs.

The MOU was signed on Thursday during the 2nd joint meeting of committee on combating drugs and psychotropic substances held in Baghdad.

Brigadier General Hossein Zolfaqari, the secretary general of the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), participated in the second meeting at the invitation of Iraqi Health Minister Saleh al-Hasnawi, who is also the head of the Supreme Committee for Combating Drugs in Iraq.

The MOU focuses on measures to boost training, empowerment, security, and technical skills.

Strengthening border security, empowering law enforcement forces through holding mutual training workshops, developing the scientific capacities of experts in demand reduction, prevention, treatment, and empowerment, exchanging joint activities, increasing monitoring of psychotropic substances and chemical precursors under international supervision to prevent their use in the illicit manufacture of drugs, are among the main goals of the agreement.

On Wednesday, Zolfaqari and Iraqi Interior Minister Abdul Amir al-Shammari met, highlighting 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 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 readiness 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 subcommittee 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 delved 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.

Joint insurance with ECO, BRICS to facilitate health tourism in Iran

TEHRAN – The health ministry is following up on establishing a joint insurance system with neighboring countries, as well as organizations such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and BRICS, to facilitate the treatment of foreign patients in the country.

There are international and health tourism insurances, but an acceptable insurance to be used by tourists in Iran is one of the main challenges in the health tourism sector, IRNA quoted Sajad Razavi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

Since the country is not working directly with these organizations due to sanctions, insurance issued in the country is not accepted overseas, and international insurances are not accepted by medical centers in Iran, he added.

“We want the patients to be able to pay for their health costs using an international card or using an insurance that is reliable in the region. Therefore, the issue of creating a joint insurance system with neighboring countries or member states of organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, and ECO has been raised in the ECO meeting held in Hamedan to define a framework for that,” Razavi noted.

Now Iran is pursuing the issue to help health tourists cover their health expenditures, it will not be an easy task to do, though, he said.

Iran plans to attract two million medical tourists over five years

In June, the Iranian tourism minister announced plans to significantly boost the country's medical tourism sector, setting a target of attracting two million medical tourists annually within the next five years.

Speaking at a press conference, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri highlighted the “advanced healthcare infrastructure” of the country, skilled medical professionals, and competitive treatment costs as key assets that make the country a strategic destination for medical travelers.

“Iran, with its network of well-equipped hospitals and specialized medical staff, offers affordable yet high-quality healthcare services. These strengths place us in a strong position to become one of the region's leading destinations for health tourism,” the minister stated.

According to Salehi-Amiri, the Islamic Republic welcomed 1.2 million health tourists last year, generating more than \$2 billion in revenue.

Available data suggest that the majority of these travelers came from neighboring countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Oman, Bahrain, Armenia, and Tajikistan —

drawn by the combination of affordability and medical expertise.

Additionally, the minister highlighted that the plan aligns with the broader goals outlined in Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, and that the health tourism industry is regarded as a pillar of the country's economic and cultural diplomacy.

The minister also acknowledged challenges such as policy fragmentation and lack of institutional coordination, but noted that ongoing dialogue and structured inter-agency collaboration are helping to address these issues.

Salehi-Amiri additionally highlighted the upcoming Third International Health Tourism Conference and Exhibition of ECO Member Countries, scheduled to take place in Hamedan from June 11 to 13. He said the event underscores Iran's growing role in promoting regional cooperation in the health tourism sector.

“Hamedan, with its rich historical and natural attractions, has the potential to become a major hub for health tourism,” he added.

Experts say Iran's medical tourism sector presents a win-win scenario: patients benefit from accessible, quality care, while the country earns valuable foreign currency and enhances its international reputation.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average’

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, secretary of environmental policy at the center for strategic studies affiliated to the presidential office has said.

“The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in northeast of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C,” ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province's condition has raised concern.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

محمد درویش، دبیر سیاست محیط‌زیست مرکز بررسی‌های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روبرو شده است.

محمد درویش، در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به گزارش‌های منتشر شده توسط سازمان هواشناسی، وزارت نیرو و سازمان آب، اظهار کرد: ایستگاه هومند آسرد در دامنه‌های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲.۷ درجه سلسیوس را نشان می‌دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰.۷۶ درجه سلسیوس افزایش دما داشته‌ایم.

وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی‌تر کشورمان نزدیک می‌شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می‌شود به طوری که از این میان یزد وضعیت نگران‌کننده‌ای دارد.

SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Tehran to host 25th Intl. Congress on Cardiovascular Updates

TEHRAN – The 25th International Congress on Cardiovascular Updates (ICCU) is scheduled to be held in Tehran from September 23 to 26.

The Iranian Society of Atherosclerosis will host the event. It will bring together numerous local and foreign professors from different countries, such as Australia, the U.S., England, Oman, Turkey, France, Germany, and who will participate in the event in person or online, IRIB reported.

The event will encompass 343 topics, 80 panels, and 290 scientific presentations.

The main goal of the congress is to update the scientific knowledge of Cardiologists and other specialists in the cardiovascular-related fields, and showcase the latest achievements as well as technologies in drugs and medical equipment.

Referring to the latest statistics released by the World Health Organization (WHO), Masoud Qasemi, the head of the Congress, said over the past 35 years, the cases of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in Iran has increased by 180 percent; however, the current prevalence and incidence rate of the diseases has decreased by 30 percent and death rates from cardiovascular diseases have fallen by 40 percent. Moreover, disability-adjusted life years have dropped by 45 percent.

The average age for the first heart attack is 32 in Iran, which is 10 years less than the global average, Qasemi added.

The official went on to enumerate the therapeutic advances in cardiovascular disease in the country, such as augmented vector left (aVL) technology, or diamond-plated drill for treating vascular occlusion.

Part of the Congress will also focus on emerging therapies for the treatment of CVDs, he added.

Cardiovascular diseases

CVDs are the leading cause of death globally, with 17.9 million deaths a year. An estimated 19.8 million people died from CVDs in 2022, representing approximately 32 percent of all global deaths. Of these deaths, 85 percent were due to heart attack and stroke.

They are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease, and other conditions.

‘Iran committed to developing sustainable, clean energy’

TEHRAN – Attending the 29th meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Iran's representative underlined the country's commitment to the expansion of renewable energy sources via taking various measures.

These include growing solar and wind power production capacities and implementing strategies to improve energy efficiency across residential and industrial sectors, IRNA reported.

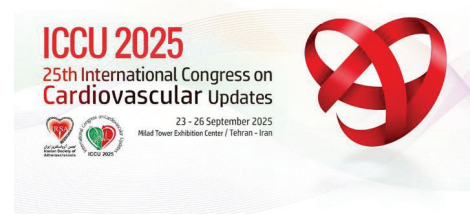
The 29th IRENA was held on September 11 and 12 in Abu Dhabi, Dubai. Iran participated in the meeting for the first time.

The meeting gathered more than 400 officials from IRENA's Members, comprising 169 countries and the European Union, to provide strategic guidance on the Agency's work programme and to address pressing issues shaping today's global energy transition.

A key highlight for the 29th Council was a programmatic discussion on energy security, exploring pathways to diversify supply chains, support next-generation technologies, and strengthen regional manufacturing capabilities.

The session featured IRENA's latest analysis on the evolving geopolitical and economic landscape of renewable energy supply chains, with a specific focus on the solar PV sector.

IRENA Members also discussed advancing investments in sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), which are recognised as central to decarbonising long-haul aviation by IRENA. The Agency presented its latest work on supporting SAF projects and mobilising invest-



Over three-quarters of CVD deaths take place in low- and middle-income countries.

Most cardiovascular diseases can be prevented by addressing behavioural and environmental risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet (including excess salt, sugar, and fats), obesity, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol, and air pollution.

It is important to detect cardiovascular disease as early as possible so that management with counselling and medicines can begin.

CVDs, mainly heart attacks, account for 40 percent of annual deaths in the country. Car accidents, diabetes, and cancers are the next important risk factors among non-communicable diseases,” ISNA quoted Kourosh Etemad, a health ministry official, as saying.

In addition to high blood pressure, low physical activity, unhealthy diet, smoking, and drinking alcohol are four risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

Those aged 30 and older are advised to go to health centers to be checked for probable high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease.

A three-month, six-month, and one-year care plan will be arranged for those who visit health centers based on their age, family history, and weight. This program helps to detect the disease earlier or control the risk factors in people.

Unfortunately, in Iran, as in many other countries of the world, half of the people are unaware of their high blood pressure disease. Only 50 percent of those who are aware of their high blood pressure take medicine.

This means that in addition to informing people about their disease, they should be given the necessary recommendations regarding its control and treatment.

ments through its financing platforms, helping countries and developers move projects from concept to bankable ventures.

Iran to boost renewable power capacity

Iran plans to expand its renewable energy capacity to 7,000 megawatts by the next Iranian calendar year, which begins on March 21, 2026, up from current levels, an energy official said.

Jafar Mohammadzadeh, deputy head of investment at the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), told IRIB that the government has accelerated solar and other renewable projects, targeting a sharp increase in output. He noted that the ministry's plan to add 100 MW each week reflects earlier preparations in the sector.

“Our goal is to raise renewable energy's share in the country's electricity mix from the current 1.5 percent to 15 percent by the end of the 14th government's term,” he said, adding that Iran's vast solar potential gives the target strong backing.

Mohammadzadeh said peak electricity demand occurs during summer, when solar output is also at its highest, making renewables particularly valuable. He added that small- and large-scale solar projects are being supported through attractive contracts, including long-term guaranteed purchase agreements that allow investors to recover costs in about three years.

He also noted that in the short term, some equipment imports will be required to speed up construction of large-scale plants, with the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade providing support.



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Kindness is a mark of faith and whoever is not kind has no faith.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:00 Evening: 18:31 Dawn: 4:22 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:47 (tomorrow)

Iran, Russia culture ministers meet in St. Petersburg

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and Russia's Minister of Culture met in St. Petersburg and discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Seyed Abbas Salehi, who traveled to St. Petersburg at the official invitation of his Russian counterpart Olga Lyubimova, referred to the recent meeting between the presidents of Iran and Russia on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in China and noted that the discussions between Masoud Pezeshkian and Vladimir Putin were among the longest bilateral meetings during the summit, an evidence of the two leaders' commitment to expanding relations, Mehr reported.

For her part, Lyubimova expressed her satisfaction with her Iranian counterpart's participation in the International Cultural Forum and thanked Tehran for the successful organization of Russia Cultural Week in Iran.

She further highlighted the candidacy of Kazan as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World in 2026, requesting Iran's support for the event.

The two ministers also reviewed the outcomes of their June meeting in Tehran aimed at advancing the Comprehensive Strategic Agreement between the two countries, and discussed new proposals to strengthen co-operation.

Both sides agreed to hold Iran Cultural



Week in Russia in 2026. "Following the successful hosting of Russia Cultural Week in Iran, the Russian side is ready to organize the Days of Iranian Culture in Russia in 2026," Lyubimova said.

Salehi arrived in St. Petersburg on Wednesday afternoon to attend the 11th International Forum of United Cultures and to hold consultations on the expansion of Iran-Russia cultural relations.

The forum was held on Thursday and Friday with the participation of culture ministers and senior representatives from over 40 countries and international organizations.

Cartoon of Day



YEMEN

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Iranian music scene mourns triple loss

TEHRAN – Iran's music community has been struck by the loss of three prominent figures from different generations and genres in the past few days: Bahman Rajabi, a pioneering tonbak (goblet drum) virtuoso, Jamshid Azizkhani, a celebrated Kurdish singer and composer, and Omid Jahan, a well-known pop singer.

Bahman Rajabi passed away at the age of 86 on Wednesday, September 10, following a heart condition at his home.

Born in Rasht, Gilan Province, Rajabi began his professional career in 1971, focusing on solo and duo performances on the tonbak and its integration with melodic instruments.

He is widely remembered for his signature composition "Dialogue of Left and Right", published in the second volume of his tonbak method.

His playing can be heard in landmark albums such as "Savarane Dasht-e Omid" (composed by Hossein Alizadeh) and "Golchin 1 and 2" (composed by Reza Shafieian).

Beyond performance, Rajabi authored key instructional works including "Tonbak and a Perspective on Rhythm from Different Angles" and the two-volume "Tonbak Method", which remain essential references for students of the instrument.

On Thursday, September 11, Jamshid Azizkhani passed away in a Tehran hospital at the age of 68



From left: Jamshid Azizkhani, Bahman Rajabi, and Omid Jahan

after a period of illness.

Born in Kermanshah, the center of Kermanshah Province, Azizkhani began his career in 1974 and quickly rose to prominence, winning first place in singing at the Ramsar music camp.

His early works, "Safarnameh-ye Kurdistan" and "Rivar", released in the years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, received wide acclaim. During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Azizkhani became a familiar voice on regional radio, performing dozens of Kurdish and Persian songs dedicated to the fighters and displaced communities of western Iran.

Over the course of his career, he

produced nearly 800 pieces, many reflecting the joys and sorrows of the Zagros people. His contributions were instrumental in preserving and promoting Kurdish musical heritage while also shaping Iran's broader folk and national music landscape.

The most recent shock came with the sudden death of Omid Jahan who passed away on Saturday, September 13, in Bam, Kerman Province, at the age of 44 following a heart attack.

He had just performed at the opening night of the city's Date Festival on Friday night when he collapsed as he was leaving the venue. Despite repeated resuscitation efforts, he passed away in

hospital the following morning.

Born in Abadan, Khuzestan Province, Jahan was the son of the late Mahmoud Jahan, a legendary figure in southern Iranian music. Growing up under his father's influence, he began his career in the early 2000s. His breakthrough came in 2004 with the release of "Pesare Jonoo-bi" ("Southern Boy"), followed by the 2006 album "Papati", which cemented his status as a household name in Iranian pop music.

Jahan's energetic style and deep connection to the music of the south won him a wide fan base, especially among younger listeners. His body will be transferred to Tehran for burial in the Artists' Section of Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

Persian audio book of “Rewarding Superstitions” released

TEHRAN- The audio version of the book "Rewarding Superstitions", a collection of short stories by prominent Argentine writer Fernando Sorrentino and four other authors, has recently been made available for Persian listeners.

Narrated by Bahman Vakhshour, the audiobook has been produced at Avaye Chirok, a leading Iranian institute specializing in audiobook production.

Translated by Forouzan Saeidi, the audiobook features the voices of Yousef Aref, Nayyereh Hendi, Atousa Hosseini and Simindokht Asadollahi.

The Persian print edition of "Rewarding Superstitions" has been published by Qesseh Baran Publications in Tehran.

This collection includes fifteen stories, eleven by Sorrentino, a multiple award-winning author, and four by other distinguished Argentine writers—Diego Vecchio, Sylvia Iparraguirre, Tomas Sanchez Bellocchio, and Samanta Schweblin.

"Rewarding Superstitions" offers a fascinating blend of mysterious, eclectic characters and surreal, extraordinary narratives, providing a gripping and thought-provoking experience for fans of surrealist literature.

The production management of the audiobook was overseen by Bahman Vakhshour, with editing by Hasti Sadeqi.

Fernando Sorrentino, born in 1942, in Buenos Aires, is a renowned Argentine writer celebrated for his imaginative short stories. His works have been translated into numerous languages, earning international recognition.

Sorrentino's literary career includes a prolific output of short story collections as well as children's literature, including "Cuentos del Mentiroso", which received the Faja de Honor from the Sociedad Argentina de Escritores.

Beyond fiction, Sorrentino has contributed essays and interviews, notably with Jorge Luis Borges and Adolfo Bioy Casares. His anthologies, like "Treinta y cinco cuentos breves Argentinos" and "Ficcionario Argentino", showcase his deep engagement with Argentine storytelling. Known for his humor, surrealism, and inventive narratives, Sorrentino remains a prominent figure in contemporary Latin American literature.

Diego Vecchio, born in 1969 in Buenos Aires, is an Argentine writer and translator based in Paris since 1992. He teaches Lat-



in American literature at Paris 8 University. Vecchio has authored several fiction and non-fiction books, including "Historia calamitatum" and "Microbios". His novel "La extinción de las especies" was a finalist for the Premio Herralde.

Sylvia Iparraguirre, born in 1947 in Buenos Aires, is an Argentine novelist and human rights activist. She received the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize for her novel "Tierra del Fuego", a fictionalized biography of Gemmy Button. Her works explore cultural and social themes.

Tomas Sanchez Bellocchio, born in 1981 in Buenos Aires, is

a publicist and screenwriter living between Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and Barcelona. He holds a master's in Literary Creation from Pompeu Fabra University. His works include stories, essays, and chronicles, with his debut collection "Familias de Cereal" published in 2015.

Samanta Schweblin, born in 1978 in Argentina, is an acclaimed author now based in Berlin. Her works include short stories, a novella, and novels, translated into over forty languages. Award-winning and adapted for film, she is renowned for her literary innovation and international recognition.

Istanbul's art exhibition raises funds for Gaza

A new exhibition at Dolmabahce Art Gallery is combining Ottoman heritage with humanitarian aid.

The "Goodness for Gaza" exhibition, organized by the Turkish Red Crescent and the National Palaces Directorate, will run until Sept. 14, Türkiye Today reported.

All proceeds from the sales of the 405 artworks will be directed to people in need in Gaza through the Turkish Red Crescent.

Turkish Red Crescent Deputy Chairman Mustafa Sarilar said the exhibition was not only about art but also about solidarity.

"This exhibition is a beautiful project where compassion and aesthetics come together. Every single work here means bread, water, and hope for Gaza," he said at the opening.

Sarilar added that the organization is delivering hot meals daily to 21,000 people in Gaza through coordination with the Palestinian Red Crescent. He underlined that aid efforts are difficult due to restrictions on entry. "Each delivery requires special effort. Visiting this exhibition means not only valuing an artwork but also touching a human life," he said.

The exhibition features calligraphy, imperial edicts, textiles, ceramics, glass, and metal pieces. Curator Meycem Ezengin said the collection was donated by a philanthropist.

"There are about 410 works. Among them are writings by famous calligraphers, imperial documents, textiles, antiques, and figurines. One of the most valuable pieces is a gold-inscribed work by Hasan Celebi. We also have three decrees from Sultan Selim III and one from Sultan Abdulhamid II," she said.

Ezengin noted that the works are priced below their market value to make the event accessible.

The fundraising effort comes as conditions in Gaza continue to deteriorate. Israel has ordered the full evacuation of Gaza City, describing it as Hamas' last stronghold. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said 100,000 people have left the city, but up to 1 million remain, many without the means to relocate.

Residents said they had been given minutes to flee before strikes and accused Israel of trying to push them south. "Whether you like it or not, Netanyahu, we're not leaving. Even if we're buried here, we're not leaving. This is my land,"

said Ammar Sukkar, who lost his home in an airstrike.

Israel says humanitarian zones in the south can provide shelter, food, and water. But aid groups warn that the areas are already overcrowded and lack resources.

The International Committee of the Red Cross called the mass evacuation plan "unfeasible" and "incomprehensible." The U.N. said more than 1,100 people have been killed while trying to reach aid sites since May.

Israel is setting up new distribution points near Rafah with private U.S. security forces managing access. Military spokesman Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani said the sites were designed to guarantee "0% looting" and safer aid delivery. However, many Palestinians say designated safe areas have also come under fire.

The art sale in Istanbul comes during the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Organizers of the Dolmabahce exhibition stressed that supporting the event means contributing directly to aid for families struggling to survive in Gaza.