



## G7's claims against Iran a gross distortion of reality: Iran foreign ministry

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry has strongly dismissed allegations raised by the Group of Seven (G7) Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and its associate members, condemning them as “baseless, unfounded, and politically motivated.”

On Friday, the G7 RRM – which includes Canada, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, with Australia and New Zealand as associate members – issued a statement accusing Iran of carrying out “transnational repression and other malign activities.”

According to the G7, Iranian intelligence services had engaged in a “disturbing pattern” of harassment and intimidation against political opponents living abroad, including alleged attempts to kidnap and assassinate dissidents. The statement also accused Tehran of conducting cyber operations aimed at intimidating journalists, dividing societies, and threatening Jewish communities. ▶ Page 2

## Tehran, Almaty eye joint trade hub with China's Khorgos

TEHRAN – The head of Kazakhstan's Association of Free Economic Zones has proposed creating a joint commodity exchange linking Tehran, Almaty and China's Khorgos Free Economic Zone (FEZ), during a meeting with a Tehran Chamber of Commerce delegation led by its president, Mahmoud Najafi Arab.

The plan envisions the three sides offering goods and sourcing supplies through a common market, he told Iranian delegates on their first day of meetings in Almaty, Kazakhstan's commercial capital.

Najafi Arab said Tehran Chamber, which represents about 47,000 members accounting for nearly 45 percent of Iran's GDP, was ready to expand cooperation with Kazakhstan's private sector through trade missions, specialized webinars, and joint participation in business events.

He said Iran's private sector could invest in industrial zones and free trade areas around Almaty despite challenges posed by sanctions.

Yerbol Bukharbayev, who also heads the regional office of the World Free Zones Organization in Central Asia, called for strengthening trilateral ties with Iran, Kazakhstan and China. He said Kazakhstan plans to hold an exhibition on its free and special economic zones in Tehran in 2026 and invited Iranian firms to participate. ▶ Page 4

## A Washington Post editorial advocating more bombings in Iran

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – A recent Washington Post editorial published a few days before Iran agreed to resume cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reflects a recurring narrative in Western media, but one far from providing a balanced and contextually nuanced analysis.

The Washington Post editorial titled “Iran is poking the bear again” fits within a long-standing discourse portraying Iran as an actor outside the international order, a “rogue state” whose sole behaviors are disobedience, sabotage, and threat. The piece suggests Iran is “inviting” more U.S. bombings, after its nuclear sites came under attack by American and Israeli forces back in June while it was in the middle of a diplomatic process with Washington, because it has suspended cooperation with the IAEA.

While politically convenient for certain strategic interests, this construction oversimplifies and distorts reality, leaving out a more nuanced understanding. ▶ Page 2

# Cooperation With IAEA Still Not A Sure Thing

Iran's top security body says renewed attacks, return of UN sanctions will force country to ditch Cairo deal

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Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi (left) after signing a nuclear safeguarding agreement with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (right) in Cairo on September 9, 2025.

## Arab leaders: Global silence fuels Israel's crimes

TEHRAN – Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit on Sunday slammed the “silence and inaction” of the international community, saying it has emboldened Israel to continue its “crimes.”

Aboul Gheit made the remarks at a preparatory session for the emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha following Tuesday's Israeli airstrike on the Qatari capital. He emphasized that Arab and Islamic countries “should focus on stopping Israel from continuing its heinous, disgraceful war in Gaza.”

He added that the Doha summit should send a clear message of Arab-Islamic solidarity with Qatar in the wake of Israel's “act of belligerence” and violation of Qatar's sovereignty.

Speaking at the session, Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed Al-Thani called Israel's attack “state terrorism,” asserting that Tel Aviv has “no red lines” at all.

Leaders from across the region have gathered in Doha for the two-day summit, which will continue until Monday to discuss a formal response to Israel's strike.

## Between occupation and brutality: Israeli advances and Syria's brutal new order

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Israel's recent ground operation into southern Syria — reported under the codename “Green-White” and said to have advanced roughly 38 kilometers into Syrian territory, reaching within about 10 km of Damascus — represents the deepest Israeli penetration since the wars of the 1970s and a significant escalation in a campaign that has become systematic since the fall of Bashar al-Assad.

According to Israeli and regional media outlets, Israeli forces have struck military sites across Homs, Latakia, and near Palmyra while also establishing fortified positions, building roads, and erecting bases inside the UN demilitarized buffer zone on the Golan.

Satellite imagery analyzed by Al Jazeera and BBC has documented rapid base construction in the buffer zone since December, feeding fears in Damascus and the region that these are steps toward permanent control of strategic heights and lines of communication.

## From satellites to propaganda: Google implements Mossad's digital siege

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Google stands accused of facilitating Israel's war effort, providing both the tools and platforms that aid military operations and shape global narratives.

In a striking escalation of digital control, Israel reportedly asked the U.S. tech giant to obscure satellite imagery of sensitive sites, as Yemen intensifies drone and missile strikes on strategic Israeli targets in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Reports suggest that Israel's Mossad intelligence service submitted the request to conceal particularly sensitive military sites. This latest development comes alongside Israel's \$45 million propaganda contract with Google, highlighting the tech giant's role in advancing Israel's agenda while obscuring the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

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## Enrichment under the NPT, JCPOA, and UNSR2231

By Sasan Karimi

TEHRAN – The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), established in 1968, continues to serve as the bedrock of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons while promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Central to ongoing debates is whether Article IV of the NPT confers any right to uranium enrichment—a process essential for producing nuclear fuel but also a potential pathway to weapons-grade material.

In their August 15, 2025, article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, titled “Actually, the NPT Doesn't Guarantee a Right to Make Nuclear Fuel,” Henry Sokolski and Sharon Squassoni contend that no such right exists. ▶ Page 3



## Araghchi sits down with Qatari counterpart ahead of summit resolution

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accompanied President Masoud Pezeshkian to Doha on Sunday to attend an emergency Arab-Islamic Summit that follows Israeli airstrikes on the Qatari capital.

Sunday saw participants work on a draft they will be adopting at the end of the two-day summit. On his first day in Doha, Araghchi talked to a number of his foreign counterparts, including the top diplomats of Turkey, Pakistan, and Qatar.

When talking to Mohammad Al Thani, Araghchi told the Qatari foreign minister that Iran stands by the Persian Gulf country, a position stated multiple times by Iranian dignitaries since Israel's unprecedented aggression took place.



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## The right diplomatic approach is an important step forward

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed technical diplomacy and the careful use of legal frameworks. It wrote: The recent incident and the agreement between Tehran and the (International Atomic Energy) Agency to continue cooperation and resolve the remaining issues have shown once again that Iran, by using technical diplomacy and careful use of existing legal frameworks, can largely neutralize Israel's strategy to securitize the (Iran nuclear) case. While the Israeli regime was trying to create conditions for consensus-building against Iran by inciting the media environment, influencing the Agency's reports, and pressuring the members of the (IAEA) Board of Governors, Tehran, with a preemptive approach based on the logic of diplomacy, practically prevented the case from changing from technical to security. If Tehran can continue this path steadily and the Agency does not deviate from its technical role, the possibility of opening new paths to resolve disputes without the need for costly confrontation will increase. Ultimately, the Iran nuclear case is no longer just a technical issue, but a reflection of the power structure in the region and the world.

### Shargh: Quitting NPT will be Iran's response to return of snapback sanctions

Shargh devoted its editorial to Iran's powerful tool against the activation of the snapback mechanism that would return the UN Security Council sanctions against Iran lifted under the JCPOA. It wrote: One assumption is that the Western parties know that using the snapback will prompt Iran to withdraw from the NPT. In such a case, their threats will be reduced, so they themselves are willing to delay it. Using snapback will not give them anything more than what they have achieved so far. Iran has shown that, despite avoiding conflict, it can cause serious damage to the Israeli economy. Europe and the United States have the tool to use the snapback. Instead, Iran has the tool to quit the NPT and not stay in the treaty for a moment. Therefore, Iran must be able to use this tool when its benefits outweigh its costs. Iran has declared that it does not want to produce an atomic bomb. This withdrawal is important if it wants to produce an atomic bomb. Therefore, in the face of the snapback stick the only tool that Iran has is the "threat of withdrawing from the NPT."

### Vatan-e-Emrooz: An agreement with open eyes

Vatan-e-Emrooz, in an analysis, pointed to the important points in the recent agreement

between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency, writing in light of the irresponsible behavior of the Agency in the joint U.S.-Zionist regime's attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, the Agency's access should be more limited than the time before the imposed 12-day war.

Iran must have a practical response to the political and irresponsible behavior of the Agency, because it is in line with protecting national interests. After the June 12-day war, any type of cooperation with the Agency should be linked to a possible comprehensive agreement.

Negotiations and agreement must definitely meet Iran's demands, i.e., the lifting of sanctions. Any type of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency should be conditional on deactivating the snapback mechanism. Accordingly, considering the nature of Europe's behavior and policy against Iran, the framework of cooperation between Iran and the Agency should not go into effect under any circumstances before putting the snapback mechanism out of agenda.

### Hamshahri: Iran's warning to leaders of Islamic countries

The Hamshahri newspaper wrote Iran's warning about the evil intentions of Israel must not be taken for granted by the Islamic and Muslim nations. It said: The Zionist regime's terrorist attack on Qatar has been met with a wave of widespread condemnation from Arab and Islamic governments.

However, this global bloc has so far failed to adopt effective strategies in the face of Tel Aviv's continuous aggression. This failure comes at a time when, in recent years, and especially after the war on Gaza, Iranian officials have repeatedly warned at various levels about the Zionists' sinister approaches and plans in the region, and have called for greater convergence among Arab and Islamic countries to confront this regime's aggression in a coordinated and coherent manner.

These warnings came before the recent terrorist attack by the Zionist regime on Qatar. The attack was another serious warning against the "dangerous passivity" of Arab and Islamic governments. Now, on the eve of an emergency summit of Islamic leaders, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League, which is scheduled to be held in Doha on Monday, a re-examination of warnings by Iranian officials is necessary. The Muslim world must focus on Tel Aviv's provocative and dangerous behaviors before it is too late.

## European Snapback efforts could inflict 'irreparable damage': Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has issued a stark warning to the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, cautioning that their ongoing efforts to revive UN Security Council sanctions against Tehran could lead to "irreparable damage."

In a message posted Saturday on X, formerly Twitter, Araghchi addressed the European trio—known as the E3—who, along with Iran, signed the 2015 nuclear agreement.

The three governments are reportedly pressing to trigger the deal's "snapback" mechanism, which would restore sanctions lifted under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Araghchi argued that the Europeans have "no legal, political, or moral entitlement" to activate the mechanism, given their failure to uphold their own obligations under the nuclear accord. Both Iran and its partners, Russia and China, have long maintained that the E3's violation of the agreement, including the re-imposition of sanctions, invalidates any claim they might have to invoke snapback.

The foreign minister also mocked the logic behind the E3's approach. "It is not just that the E3 has no entitlement to invoke snapback, and that even if they did, 'use or lose it' doesn't work," he wrote.

"It's that the correct expression for the E3's dilemma is 'use it and lose it.' Or better yet, 'use it and lose it all.'"

Tehran has repeatedly warned that any successful attempt by the Europeans to reinstate sanctions would trigger far-reaching retaliatory steps. These could include scrapping a recently negotiated agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) aimed at reviving cooperation, or even withdrawing altogether from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On Saturday, Araghchi presented details of the IAEA agreement during an extraordinary session with the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee. After the meeting, the committee's chairman, Ebrahim Azizi, told reporters that withdrawal from the NPT remained on the table if European governments pressed ahead with their snapback bid.

Azizi, however, stressed that Tehran still prefers a diplomatic outcome. "If the Europeans and the agency fulfill their commitments, it has been agreed that under this same agreement the snapback issue will be set aside—unless the Europeans renege on their pledges or the agency fails to meet its obligations," he said.

Iran's warning comes amid escalating tensions over the fate of the nuclear deal, with Tehran insisting that any further provocation by the E3 could dismantle what remains of the JCPOA framework and plunge the diplomatic process into crisis.

# G7's claims against Iran a gross distortion of reality: Iran foreign ministry

From page 1 ► Global Affairs Canada went further, claiming that a hacker group linked to Iran – identified as the so-called Handala Hack Team – had conducted a "hack and leak" operation beginning on July 8.

The operation allegedly targeted five Iranian international journalists, including one based in Canada, and involved publishing personal information such as government IDs and private content on social media and Iranian news platforms. The G7 claimed such activities amounted to an unacceptable violation of sovereignty and an effort to silence dissent abroad.

In its response on Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry categorically rejected these accusations as a fabrication aimed at tarnishing the Islamic Republic's image. It said the allegations represented a deliberate attempt to distort the truth by portraying Iranian officials charged with safeguarding the country's national security as perpetrators of repression.

"The Islamic Republic firmly rejects these politically motivated allegations," the ministry declared. "These claims are not only false but serve as a cover for the unlawful and destabilizing policies of the very states making them."

Tehran stressed that it was, in



fact, the G7 countries that should be held accountable for fueling instability across the globe. The statement pointed to Western interventions in West Asia – from military invasions to sanctions regimes – as the root causes of lawlessness and insecurity.

The ministry also highlighted the G7's unwavering political, military, and financial support for the Israeli regime, which continues to commit grave violations of international law, international humanitarian law, and

human rights in Palestine.

"Those who arm and defend the apartheid regime in Tel Aviv, while enabling its massacres against the people of Gaza and the West Bank, have no moral authority to lecture others on human rights," it said.

Iran further described the cyber allegations as a coordinated disinformation campaign designed to justify increased Western pressure on Tehran. "These accusations are neither new nor credible," the min-

istry added, "but rather part of a broader strategy to shift blame away from the G7's destructive record."

Concluding its statement, the ministry emphasized Iran's sovereign right to defend its people and its security.

"The Islamic Republic will not be intimidated by politically motivated accusations from powers whose own actions have consistently undermined regional and global stability," it said.

## A Washington Post editorial advocating more bombings in Iran



Opinion  
Editorial Board +

### Iran is poking the bear again

The Iranian regime invites more U.S. bombing by stonewalling nuclear inspectors.

September 2, 2025

4 min



From page 1 ►

### The construction of the Iranian "other": Beyond the stereotype

In dominant Western perception, Iran is the "other," inevitably dangerous, an actor lacking legitimacy or validation for its security and development aspirations. This narrative ignores fundamental structural causes, such as the historical impact of Western interventions, the regional context of fierce rivalries, and, crucially, the unilateral actions of the United States and some allies that have shaped regional tensions.

This simplistic portrayal not only prevents a deep understanding of Iran's motivations but also serves as an implicit justification for aggressive policies, from harsh economic sanctions to the use of military force. In many ways, the "other" is not merely a label: it is a discursive tool to obscure external responsibilities and build internal consensus around the "Iranian threat."

### The absence of serious analysis on the crisis after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA

It is essential to remember that the current context stems directly from the U.S.'s unilateral decision to exit the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018. This agreement represented a historic multilateral effort to contain nuclear proliferation and normalize relations between Iran and the West.

The editorial responds with a "blame Iran entirely" approach, ignoring the devastating impact of the U.S. withdrawal. The reimposition of severe sanctions on Iran's oil sector and broader economy dealt a strategic blow, pushing Tehran to reconsider its cooperation and adopt assertive stances to protect its sovereignty.

From this perspective, Iran's so-called "stubbornness" should be understood as the reaction of a state witnessing a principal interlocutor violate international agreements while applying unilateral economic and military pressure. The decline of mutual trust—unmentioned in the editorial—is the very breeding ground for the current escalation and suspicion surrounding the nuclear program.

Another particularly critical point omitted by the editorial is the paradox of U.S. airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities during ongoing negotiations. This action flagrantly contradicts the U.S. rhetoric of "willingness to engage" and reveals a diplomacy operating with simultaneous strategies of military pressure and formal dialogue.

Such double-dealing undermines trust and perpetuates a vicious cycle of mutual suspicion. Historically, U.S. diplomacy has often relied on superficial negotiations or broken promises, discouraging counterparts. A notable example was the mediation over the release of Eden Alexander, the Israeli-American soldier held by Hamas during the Gaza genocide; although concessions were agreed upon for his release, Washington failed to uphold its subsequent promises, undermining credibility and generating deep skepticism about the sincerity of its diplomatic commitments.

These practices of "pressure diplomacy and broken promises" have led Iran and other regional actors to adopt extreme caution, taking defensive or evasive positions in negotiations as a legitimate response to past experiences. Blaming Iran alone without recognizing this dynamic perpetuates a biased and ineffective view for conflict resolution.

### Controlling Iranian Uranium

The editorial uncritically endorses Western demands for full IAEA access and precise knowledge of Iran's uranium locations. From Iran's perspective, these demands raise justified concerns. There is fear that such information could be diverted for military purposes, particularly by Israel, a regional actor with a documented history of attacks on Iranian nuclear sites, sometimes based on intelligence provided by international agencies.

The IAEA has, at times, been viewed with suspicion in Iran for collaborating with Israel by sharing sensitive reports or locations that led to military operations. This history undermines the presumption of complete objectivity on the part of the IAEA and reinforces Iran's cautious approach and desire to protect strategic data.

National sovereignty and security are legitimate rights of any state, particularly in a context of covert aggression. Consequently, insistence on exhaustive oversight without explicit and reciprocal guarantees is unilateral and obstructs the possibility of rebuilding trust.

The editorial also ignores that claims of U.S. airstrikes having completely or long-term destroyed Iran's nuclear program were highly mediated and politicized. Expert and intelligence assessments later indicated that actual damage was limited and Iran could quickly resume essential capabilities—an assessment that led to the dismissal of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency chief for contradicting the official narrative.

The Iranian nuclear program must be understood primarily as an expression of strategic autonomy and national sovereignty. Beyond its civilian applications, Iran sees it as a tool to assert its right to decide on its own technological and energy development amid external pressures. Maintaining the nuclear energy cycle, including certain uranium reserves, reflects a desire to preserve independence and regional balance.

Furthermore, Iran's limitation of inspector access following attacks on critical facilities should not be viewed merely as "subterfuge," but as a defensive response to aggression that violated its sovereignty and threatened the security of its critical infrastructure.

### Impact and contradictions of economic sanctions

The editorial acknowledges that sanctions have limited impact due to Iran's economic cooperation with

China and Russia but does not explore how these sanctions affect the civilian population or contribute to radicalizing positions rather than moderating them.

Economic sanctions, while designed as strategic pressure tools, tend to punish the most vulnerable indiscriminately and erode internal political dialogue. Ignoring this factor overlooks why Iranian resistance is not solely political but also social, rooted in the impulse to resist what is perceived as an economic and political encirclement aimed at subjugating a nation.

Given the complexity of the situation, it is clear that only through genuine diplomatic engagement—overcoming unilateralism and respecting the legitimate concerns of all parties—can a stable and lasting solution be achieved.

Iran's nuclear program, while subject to legitimate scrutiny, must also be understood within the framework of national sovereignty and the right to self-determination. Demanding unconditional submission without tangible guarantees of non-aggression and mutual respect limits the prospects for rapprochement.

A realistic analysis must recognize that U.S. diplomacy has often been ambiguous and duplicitous, eroding trust, and that traditional pressure and multilateral sanction schemes without openness to justified concessions have proven ineffective at containing the conflict.

In attempting to present an "objective" overview, the Washington Post editorial reproduces a biased and simplistic narrative about Iran. It ignores that the current crisis results from a complex chain of decisions, errors, and unilateral actions, particularly the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and selective sanctions and military strikes.

Constructing Iran as the irrevocable enemy, while ignoring power dynamics, history, regional context, and Western actions that precipitated the crisis, lacks analytical rigor and frustrates any realistic prospects for resolution. Mutual distrust, fueled by contradictory diplomatic practices and disregard for Iranian sovereignty, cannot be overcome without a deep reevaluation of prevailing policies and narratives.

Ultimately, pursuing a policy that recognizes the legitimate interests and rights of all parties, restores channels of trust, and avoids military and economic escalation is the only way to stabilize a region that has suffered greatly and remains crucial for global security.



# Cooperation with IAEA still not a sure thing

*Iran's top security body says renewed attacks, return of UN sanctions will force country to ditch Cairo deal*

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The agreement signed in Cairo last week between Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi to resume cooperation sparked consternation among conservatives in Iran and placed domestic pressure on the Pezeshkian administration. Now, the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) has stepped forward to announce what should have been clear from the beginning: the agreement was approved by the SNSC, Iran's top security body, and there's no guarantee the deal will come to fruition if Iran's rights and safety are not respected.

The council comprises the president and several of his ministers, Iran's top military commanders, the parliament speaker, the judiciary chief, and one or more representatives of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. It also operates through multiple specialized committees led by the country's top experts and analysts.

Following U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear sites in June, the Iranian parliament passed a bill establishing SNSC as the determining body regarding Iran's relationship with the IAEA. The resolution suspended ties with the UN nuclear watchdog, citing its failure to take a definitive stance on the attacks and ac-



Photo shows Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi (L) shaking hands with his German counterpart ahead of a meeting with the top diplomats of E3 and EU's foreign policy chief on June 20, 2025.

cluding it of having facilitated the aggression through a report alleging Iranian non-transparency. The bill also said the suspension should remain in effect unless the SNSC decides otherwise.

In a statement released on Sunday, the council said it approved of the Cairo agreement after a thorough scrutiny by its nuclear committee. "The text of these arrangements was reviewed by the Nuclear Committee of the Supreme National Security Council, and what has been signed is essentially the same as what was approved by that committee," the statement read.

The new deal does not have practical steps. Rather, it promises to explore ways to allow IAEA inspectors back into the

country. Inspections at the three nuclear sites targeted during the war (Esfahan, Natanz and Fordow) will take longer to resume, according to the SNSC.

"After the necessary security and safety conditions are established, Iran will submit its report to the IAEA only after obtaining the opinion of the SNSC. Also, the practical methods for Iran-IAEA cooperation on the report submitted to the agency should be agreed upon by the two sides.

Any action must be approved by the SNSC," the body's statement added. It, however, warned that implementation would stop of the U.S. and Israel decide to repeat the June saga, or the E3 (Britain, Germany, and France) restores UN sanctions against Iran.

In late August, European signatories to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—a 2015 agreement from which the U.S. withdrew three years later, prompting Europeans to subsequently abandon their commitments—activated a process to reinstate UN sanctions against Tehran. The JCPOA allows signatories to reimpose these sanctions if they deem Iran non-compliant.

Iranians argue that Europe lacks the moral and legal right to pressure Iran, as the country only scaled back its commitments after the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA and Europeans, despite remaining official signatories, effectively followed suit.

For the time being, Europe can prevent a further escalation with Iran by securing a new UN Security Council resolution that extends relief from the pre-JCPOA UN sanctions. Furthermore, South Korea, the rotating president of the UNSC, has finalized a draft resolution that would permanently lift the anti-Iran UN embargos. That, however, is unlikely to be adopted.

The potential restoration of UN sanctions currently appears to be the greatest threat to the implementation of the Cairo deal. During a Saturday meeting with Iranian lawmakers, a significant portion of Araghchi's remarks focused on this threat.

## Enrichment under the NPT, JCPOA, and UNSR2231

*A legal and political reassessment in light of recent developments*

From Page 1 ► emphasizing historical opposition by nuclear-weapon states (NWS) and the proliferation risks inherent in fuel-cycle activities. They argue that the NPT's text lacks explicit endorsement of enrichment and that safeguards cannot reliably prevent diversions to military purposes.

This perspective, however, overlooks the treaty's foundational principles of sovereign equality and the absence of prohibitions on enrichment, interpreting political preferences as legal constraints.

This article examines claims made by Sokolski and Squassoni, considering the legal text and history of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), alongside recent events. The analysis will include the June 2025 Israel-Iran conflict, which saw strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. These developments highlight concerns that nuclear governance is becoming increasingly politicized, with enforcement appearing selective based on alliances rather than impartial application of international law. Using Iran's nuclear program – uniquely recognized under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and UN Security Council Resolution 2231 – as a key example, this article argues that biases in discussions about nuclear issues are undermining the NPT's credibility and increasing global instability.

**The legal framework of the NPT**

Article IV, paragraph 1, of the NPT declares: "Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty."

This provision establishes a broad presumption of access to nuclear technologies for non-nu-

clear-weapon states (NNWS), contingent on non-proliferation safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Critically, the treaty does not enumerate specific technologies like uranium enrichment or reprocessing, nor does it impose blanket restrictions on them.

Under principles of international law, as articulated in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), states retain sovereign rights unless explicitly limited by agreement. The absence of prohibitive language in the NPT thus implies that enrichment for peaceful purposes is permissible, provided it complies with IAEA verification.

Sokolski and Squassoni counter that "nowhere in the treaty is any such 'right' mentioned" and that NPT negotiations lacked consensus on granting NNWS access to the full fuel cycle.

They cite historical documents, such as the 1946 Acheson-Lilienthal Report, which warned that enrichment and plutonium reprocessing are "too central to bomb-making" for safeguards to be effective, rendering inspections potentially misleading.

During NPT talks in the 1960s, proposals from countries like Great Britain and Sweden to prohibit fuel-making were debated but not adopted, and efforts to formalize a "right" to the entire fuel cycle failed.

However, this historical opposition reflects political concerns rather than legal consensus. The NPT's drafters deliberately avoided prescriptive details on technologies to balance non-proliferation with development rights, particularly for the Global South. As legal scholar Daniel Joyner argues in Interpreting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (2011), the treaty operates on a "permissive" model: prohibitions must be explicit, not inferred. Recent IAEA



assessments reinforce this interpretation. In its May 2025 report, the IAEA noted Iran's enrichment to 60% purity—beyond JCPOA limits but not prohibited under the NPT itself—while emphasizing that no diversion to military purposes had been detected prior to the June conflict.

The NPT's safeguards system, while imperfect, provides a framework for verifying peaceful intent, countering claims that enrichment is inherently unverifiable.

**The political dimension: Asymmetries and double standards in nuclear governance**

The enrichment debate is inextricably linked to power imbalances in the global nuclear order. Sokolski and Squassoni's analysis exemplifies a Western-centric narrative that presumes NNWS programs, especially in non-aligned states, are inherently suspect. They highlight Iran's insistence on enrichment rights as a proliferation risk, noting U.S. historical vacillations—from near-granting reprocessing rights in the 1970s to opposition and eventual reluctant acceptance—while downplaying similar leniencies toward allies.

This selective scrutiny assumes, without any single evidence that programs like Iran's are "military-oriented", echoing a broader discourse that burdens NNWS with verification while

NWS and non-NPT states evade comparable obligations. The June 2025 Israel-Iran conflict vividly illustrates these double standards. On June 13, Israel launched pre-emptive strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities, scientists, and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps military commanders, citing Iran's alleged proximity to a nuclear weapon.

The United States followed with aerial strikes on June 21–22 targeting Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan, aiming to degrade Iran's capabilities. Iran retaliated with missile strikes, but a ceasefire was announced on June 23. Israel, a non-NPT state with an estimated at least 90 nuclear warheads, faces no IAEA oversight, yet it initiated military action against an NPT signatory.

This disparity of tolerating Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal converts nuclear governance into a tool of geopolitics, prioritizing alliances over legal equity. Such actions perpetuate a system where NWS and their allies act as self-appointed "verifiers," imposing costs on others for their own strategic anxieties.

The Non-Aligned Movement has long criticized this as neo-colonial, arguing it undermines the NPT's "grand bargain" of disarmament in exchange for technology access.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## SPORTS

### Egypt stun Iran at 2025 FIVB World Championship

TEHRAN – Egypt beat Iran 3-1 (25-17, 16-25, 25-23, 25-20) in the third day of matches of the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship on Sunday.

Ahmed Shafik led Egypt with 18 points, while Ali Hajipour collected 17 points for Iran.

Team Melli will play Tunisia and the Philippines on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively.

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.

The tournament continues in SM Mall of Asia Arena and Smart Araneta Coliseum in Manila through 28 September, when the final will determine whether Italy defend their crown or new champions will emerge.

### Iran too strong for Samoa at FIBA U16 Women's Asia Cup 2025-Division B

TEHRAN – Iran vented all of their frustrations by dealing Samoa a 78-45 beatdown to barge into the win column of the FIBA U16 Women's Asia Cup 2025-Division B, Sunday at the Karisma Arena.

That 67-70 collapse to India still fresh in their minds, the young Team Melli roared to a 20-9 start before breaking away in the second chapter, never to let up as they indeed learned from Saturday's lessons.

It could be recalled that the West Asian side coughed up a 61-50 fourth-quarter lead to their counterparts from South Asia, with Mahek Sharma making the game-winning three-point play entering the final minute.

And that's precisely why the charges of Coach Serveh Zarghamyan showed a concerted effort to double down on defense, especially in the final period even though they were already leading by 20-plus points.

The Iranians have improved to 1-1 in Group A following the win and will look to end the Group Phase with back-to-back victories when they take on Uzbekistan on Monday, September 15, at 14:00 local time.

Four players finished in double figures in the win, led by Elina Kazemvini with 13 points. Asma Shadrouh and Elena Ahmadian produced 12 points apiece, with the latter adding 4 rebounds and 6 assists plus a steal.

Sara Mokhtari notched a double-double of 11 points and 10 rebounds as 11 of the 12 players scored at least 2 points in the triumph thanks to the 24 assists they finished with – 14 more than what their foes had.

Jalyn Newton-Taito had 10 points to lead Samoa, [fiba.basketball](http://fiba.basketball) reported.

### Mohammad Pouladgar appointed as ATU Honorary Vice President

TEHRAN – Former president of Iran's Taekwondo Federation Mohammad Pouladgar was appointed as Honorary Vice President of Asian Taekwondo Union (ATU).

Signed by Sang Jin Kim, President of the Asian Taekwondo Union, it is announced that, in recognition of Mohammad Pouladgar's many years of involvement in taekwondo and in appreciation of his "valuable support and enduring participation" in the sport's events across the continent, he is appointed as an Honorary Vice President of the Union.

Pouladgar has served as a formal Vice President of the Union for 15 years, from 2009 to September 2025.

Pouladgar currently works as vice president of Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC).

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

### Ex-Man City defender Denayer linked with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Former Manchester City defender Jason Gregory Denayer has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis.

Denayer, 30, spent four seasons with the Citizens, during which time he also gained experience on loan at big European clubs such as Galatasaray, Celtic and Sunderland.

Denayer then moved to the French league and had a decent spell at Lyon. Iranian media reports suggest that Iran's Persepolis have set their sight on signing the Belgian player.

### Two Americans join Esteghlal women's basketball team

TEHRAN – Cheah Rael-Whitsitt and Sabria Dean have joined Esteghlal women's basketball team.

Power forward center Cheah Rael-Whitsitt has most recently played at KR Reykjavik in Icelandic Subway League. She has also played in Germany, Iceland, Puerto Rico, Ireland and Kosovo.

Sabria Dean, who has played in New Orleans, plays in guard position.

Esteghlal play in Iran Women's Basketball (Premier) League, which is the highest level of national women's basketball competition in Iran.

### Tractor's Torabi to miss Shabab Al Ahli match

TEHRAN – Tractor football club's iconic midfielder Mehdi Torabi missed the match against Shabab Al Ahli of the UAE in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Elite.

He suffered a hamstring injury in the Iran Pro League match against Aluminium Arak on Friday.

Dr. Akbar Moradi, Tractor's physician, said that Torabi will need 10 to 14 days of rest and will undergo a treatment process.

Tractor will commence the ACL Elite campaign on Tuesday with a match against Shabab Al Ahli at the Al Rashid Stadium.

### Mehdi Taremi nets brace for Olympiacos

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Mehdi Taremi scored two late goals against bottom-placed Panserraikos on Saturday.

Olympiacos defeated Panserraikos 5-0 at the Karaiskakis Stadium.

Ayoub El Kaabi opened the scoring for the host in the 48th minute. Francisco Ortega made it 2-0 in the 66th minute and Daniel Podence scored the third goal four minutes later.

With two minutes remaining, Taremi scored the fourth goal and found the back of the net in injury time. Olympiacos lead the table with nine points from three matches.

### Persepolis held by Foolad: PGPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team were held to a 1-1 draw by Foolad in Matchweek 3 of the 2025/26 Iran Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) on Saturday.

Right-footed Ali Alipour netted just before halftime for Persepolis in Tehran's Shahr-e Qods Stadium. Mohammadreza Soleymani equalized two minutes into the second half for Foolad.

In Qazvin, Shams Azar and Paykan settled for a 1-1 draw. Zob Ahan defeated Mes 2-0 in Isfahan, and Chadormalou and Malavan played to a goal-less draw.

Kheybar remain top of the table with seven points from three matches, followed by Chador-malou and Persepolis, each with five points.



## ‘Great potential for Iran-Pakistan economic ties expansion, if existing obstacles removed’

TEHRAN- The development of economic relations between Iran and Pakistan, from agriculture and food security to energy and industry, has great potential, but this cooperation faces challenges such as sanctions, weak infrastructure, and smuggling, a member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) stated.

Seyyed Reza Noorani reviewed the current situation and development opportunities in the field of imports and exports between the two countries and emphasized that, given the vast economic capacities, if the existing obstacles are removed, trade between Iran and Pakistan can reach a much higher level than the current situation and bring great benefits to both countries.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$603 million to Pakistan during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22).

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

On August 3, an Iran-Pakistan Business Conference was held in Islamabad with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in attendance, alongside a high-ranking delegation. The event was hosted by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Upon his arrival at the conference venue, Pezeshkian was welcomed by Senator Dar. The gathering brought together numerous business leaders, officials from chambers of commerce, and representatives of major Pakistani investment firms.

In his opening remarks, Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan welcomed the finalization of a draft Free Trade Agreement between the two countries and said both sides are committed to resolving tariff-related issues and enhancing border infrastructure.

He announced that the next session of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission will be held in Tehran next month and highlighted the activation of the Pishin-Mand border market as a joint commitment aimed at boosting bilateral trade. He also revealed plans to open a new border crossing at Chadgi-Kouhak.

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad Atabak, also addressed the conference, expressing appreciation for Pakistan's support of Iran during Israel's recent 12-day offensive, which he said had deeply resonated with the Iranian public.

Atabak noted that while trade volumes between the two countries had increased last year, implementation of current agreements will require expansion of land terminals, improvement of rail connectivity, and enhanced port cooperation.

Senator Dar emphasized the close ties between Iran and Pakistan under the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and invited Iranian investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan, citing broad economic reforms and the creation of a special investment facilitation council.

Referring to his recent talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Dar said both countries are determined to strengthen cooperation in customs and border infrastructure development.

Iran and Pakistan have been striving to expand economic cooperation despite longstanding infrastructure bottlenecks and geopolitical challenges. Both nations are part of the ECO bloc and share strategic interests in regional trade connectivity, especially through initiatives like the Pishin-Mand border market and the INSTC corridor.

Also, Reza Masrour, Secretary of Iranian Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones High Council, who was one of the delegates accompanying President Pezeshkian during his visit to Pakistan, said that Iran and Pakistan were exploring joint agricultural ventures and transport corridor integration as part of efforts to boost bilateral trade, including plans for cross-border rice cultivation and connecting Pakistan's China-backed economic corridor to Iran.

He proposed several initiatives in a meeting with Pakistani Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, held on August 3, on the sidelines of President Masoud Pezeshkian's official trip to Pakistan.

Among the key proposals were joint paddy farming in Pakistan and processing the rice in Iran's Chabahar Free Zone, as a way to address Iran's severe water shortages while expanding

agricultural cooperation.

Masrour also called for multi-entry business visas, the establishment of a joint free zone, and linking the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Iran to Russia and Europe via the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

“These ideas reflect our neighborhood-focused policy, and the potential to unlock joint production and significantly expand trade,” Masrour said, emphasizing the shared cultural and historical ties between the two countries.

Pakistan's commerce minister welcomed the proposals and said their implementation could substantially boost the current trade volume, which he estimated at around \$3.0 billion.

Iran and Pakistan signed a joint statement, in Islamabad on August 3, pledging to expand cooperation in agriculture, trade and food security, with officials setting a goal to boost bilateral agricultural trade to \$3.0 billion within two years.

Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh said current exchanges stand at around \$1.4 billion, but the two countries have complementary strengths that can be used to secure each other's needs across different seasons.

He noted that Iran will expand exports of dairy products, nuts, fruits and vegetables to Pakistan, while Islamabad will supply a portion of Iran's corn and rice demand and provide at least 60 percent of its meat imports under the new plan.

Nouri said the two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in research on climate change and food security, and to set up a joint agricultural committee that will meet every six months to monitor progress and resolve bottlenecks.

“The construction sector may drive the economy, but agriculture drives food security,” he said, stressing that regional collaboration is key in adapting to global changes.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Industries and Production and National Food Security and Research, described the Tehran meeting as “fruitful,” highlighting agreements on boosting agricultural trade, scientific collaboration and joint efforts to address climate change.

He said increasing imports and exports between the two neighbors would be more economical than relying on distant suppliers such as Brazil, particularly in rice and livestock.

Officials emphasized that trade would involve both the public and private sectors, with mechanisms such as barter and tailored trade facilities under discussion.

They said the initiative not only aimed at ensuring mutual food security but could also contribute to regional stability.

Iran and Pakistan also signed two agreements on agricultural cooperation, on August 20, focusing on the creation of a joint agriculture committee and collaboration in plant protection and quarantine.

The signing ceremony took place in Tehran with Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh and Pakistan's Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain in attendance.

Nouri said the agreements were the outcome of a three-day visit by a Pakistani delegation and joint meetings between the two sides.

One memorandum of understanding establishes the first Iran-Pakistan Joint Agriculture Committee, while the other outlines cooperation on plant health and quarantine measures.

Nouri said the two countries, given their agricultural capacities and food security needs, have a strong basis for expanding cooperation.

The minister added that the initiative follows up on Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent trip to Pakistan, where both sides agreed to pursue food security and agricultural trade more actively.

He said the deals are aimed at removing barriers in exports and imports of key commodities.

Nouri predicted that bilateral trade in food and essential goods, currently about \$1.3 billion a year, could grow to \$3.0 billion within two years.

He said Pakistan has committed to sourcing part of its food and agricultural needs from Iran, while Tehran will import essential goods from Pakistan. He added that barter trade could help accelerate the exchange.

Pakistan's food security minister Hussain said the agreements were part of instructions from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to advance commitments made during Pezeshkian's visit to Islamabad.

# Tehran, Almaty eye joint trade hub with China's Khorgos

TEHRAN – The head of Kazakhstan's Association of Free Economic Zones has proposed creating a joint commodity exchange linking Tehran, Almaty and China's Khorgos Free Economic Zone (FEZ), during a meeting with a Tehran Chamber of Commerce delegation led by its president, Mahmoud Najafi Arab.

The plan envisions the three sides offering goods and sourcing supplies through a common market, he told Iranian delegates on their first day of meetings in Almaty, Kazakhstan's commercial capital.

Najafi Arab said Tehran Chamber, which represents about 47,000 members accounting for nearly 45 percent of Iran's GDP, was ready to expand cooperation with Kazakhstan's private sector through trade missions, specialized webinars, and joint participation in business events.

He said Iran's private sector could invest in industrial zones and free trade areas around Almaty despite challenges posed by sanctions.

Yerbol Bukharbayev, who also heads the regional office of the World Free Zones Organization in Central Asia, called for strengthening trilateral ties with Iran, Kazakhstan and China. He said Kazakhstan plans to hold an exhibition on its free and special economic zones in Tehran in 2026 and invited Iranian firms to participate.

Iranian business representatives also sought partnerships in grain production. Mohammad Ali Rezaei, head of Iran's Medicinal Plants, Food Products and Saffron Union, noted Tehran's heavy reliance on grain imports and proposed joint cultivation projects in Kazakhstan.

He added that much of Iran's saffron exports reach China via third countries, with only 30 tons out of 120 tons annually shipped directly. A Tehran-Almaty-Khorgos trade hub, he said, could help re-channel such exports and



benefit from zero-tariff arrangements between Iran, Kazakhstan and China.

Ali Akbar Shamani, deputy head of Iran's Customs Administration, suggested a “green corridor” customs mechanism with Kazakhstan, modeled on Iran's existing agreement with Russia, to facilitate trade.

Najafi Arab said Tehran Chamber would establish a special task force to study cross-border farming and commodity exchanges with Kazakhstan, and encouraged a future mission of Iranian start-ups to Almaty.

The meeting was also attended by Tehran Chamber Secretary-General Fereydoun Verdinejad, Iran's consul general in Almaty, Sona Ahmadi, and senior customs officials.

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 Ghezleh, Iran's Minister of Agriculture and head of the Iranian delegation.

Nouri thanked the Kazakh government, particularly Trade and Integration Minister Arman Shakkaliyev, for hosting the meeting, and expressed hope that the session would help advance the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Referring to the committee's previous 19 sessions, Nouri said the continued meetings reflect both sides' firm commitment to expanding bilateral ties.

Nouri announced that Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is expected to visit Astana soon at the official invitation of his Kazakh counterpart.

Documents finalized during the committee's latest session will be prepared for signing during the visit.

During the meeting, the two countries agreed on several initiatives to boost economic cooperation and facilitate trade. These include the formation of a joint Iran-Kazakhstan investment working group to examine shared investment opportunities; enhanced trade and business engagement through the establishment of trade centers and co-hosted exhibitions; and the finalization of a mutual recognition agreement for Authorized Economic Operators to streamline customs procedures.

## NIGC raises gas supply to power plants by 2 bcm

TEHRAN – Iran has increased natural gas deliveries to its power plants by around two billion cubic meters (bcm) since the start of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025), bringing total supplies to 47.4 bcm by September 11, according to the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC).

The figure compares with 45.4 bcm in the

same period last year, NIGC data showed, Shana reported.

Officials said the higher deliveries came as electricity demand surged during the summer peak, with securing stable power supplies remaining a top priority for the country.

Power plants are the largest gas consumers in the warmer months, while households

and businesses dominate demand in winter. The increase this year indicates the gas sector was able to meet rising seasonal needs on time, the report said.

NIGC Head Saeed Tavakoli said last month that plants were receiving gas at full capacity and that no gas-fired facilities had faced shortages during the spring and summer.

## NIDC builds 2nd mobile oil treatment unit

TEHRAN – The National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) has built its second mobile oil treatment (MOT) unit using in-house expertise and equipment, its managing director said.

Mehran Makvandi noted the company's engineers had focused on innovation, integrated technical services and software solutions to improve drilling operations.

He said the new unit offers faster deployment and higher reliability than the first domestically produced system.

While earlier models required two or three trailers, the latest unit is mounted on a single trailer, allowing for quicker transport, installation and operation, he added.



The MOT unit is designed to process crude oil directly at the wellhead by removing water, salt, sediments and associated gases before sending the treated oil to pipelines or

refineries. It was recently tested at wells 37 and 38 in the Lali oilfield operated by the National Iranian South Oil Company, with results approved by the client. The system is now in use for well repair operations near Ahvaz.

Makvandi said the technology boosts production, prevents wastage and helps meet the Oil Ministry's policy of banning crude burning in open pits. By reducing on-site flaring, the MOT also mitigates air and water pollution.

The new unit can process up to 5,000 barrels per day at 800 psi pumping pressure, making it a valuable tool for environmental protection and cost efficiency, he said.

## TSE leads FEAS working group on social media oversight

TEHRAN – The Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) hosted the second online meeting of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) market surveillance working group, focusing on monitoring social media in the context of TSE's market surveillance.

The session was led by Mohammad Reza Shah Nazari, TSE deputy head of market surveillance, and Reza Ghafouri, director of market supervision.

Also at the meeting, Habib Ghazanfari, head of the TSE's Market Integrity Watch Department, presented a new framework for digital oversight and reviewed global challenges facing financial regulators in the digital era.

His presentation included historical case studies of market manipulation via platforms such as Telegram, Twitter and Instagram, along with the TSE's responses, including forming a specialized task force to moni-

tor social media. He stressed the growing influence of online platforms on investor behavior and the need for innovative supervisory approaches.

Zahra Ramezani, an analyst at the Market Integrity Watch Department, outlined tools and methods for monitoring virtual spaces at the TSE. In the final segment, Fatemeh Nazemi presented two real cases of market manipulation through social media and detailed their legal consequences.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on strengthening new supervisory strategies and improving capital markets' preparedness against risks from digital platforms. The TSE said the group's work reflects its commitment to advanced technology, international cooperation and innovation in market oversight to maintain transparency and security in Iran's financial system.



# From satellites to propaganda: Google implements Mossad’s digital siege

From page 1 ►  
**Manufacturing denial**

The September 2025 contract, exposed by Drop Site News, tasked Google with running a six-month global propaganda operation through its ad platforms, YouTube and Display & Video 360. Labeled hasbara—state propaganda—the campaign’s central message was blunt: “There is food in Gaza. Any other claim is a lie.” Millions of views were generated worldwide, even as the United Nations declared a famine in Gaza City and surrounding areas.

**Weaponizing propaganda amid starvation**

Gaza’s Health Ministry reports that more than 420 Palestinians, including nearly 150 children, have died from hunger and malnutrition as a result of Israel’s blockade on food, fuel, and medicine in the wake of its nearly two-year war on the enclave.

Instead of reversing course, Israel spent tens of millions on paid ads to deny famine and attack the credibility of international organizations like the UN and UNRWA. Contracts indicate an additional \$3 million was spent with Elon Musk’s X and around \$2 million with Outbrain/Teads to amplify similar narratives.

**From Knesset debate to corporate contract**

The propaganda strategy was first debated openly in Israel’s parliament, the Knesset, on March 2, the day the total blockade on



Google employees stage a sit-in at the company’s Sunnyvale, California office in October 2024

Gaza was announced. Lawmakers focused not on civilian suffering, but Israel’s “image problem.” IDF spokesperson Avichai Edrei suggested a digital campaign to “explain that there is no hunger,” a plan now realized through Google’s \$45 million contract.

**Whitewashing ministers advocating starvation**

The campaign runs alongside public calls by Israeli ministers to starve Palestinians:

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich: “No water, no electricity, they can die of hunger or surrender.”

Heritage Minister Amichay Eliyahu: “Palestinians need to starve... if there are civilians who fear for their lives, they should go through the emigration plan.”

Google’s platforms amplify

messages erasing these openly genocidal statements from global view, projecting a false narrative of abundance.

**Project Nimbus and hidden maps**

These propaganda efforts build on January 2025 revelations of Project Nimbus, where Google and Amazon provided Israel with AI, cloud computing, and battlefield tools. By mid-2024, Israel’s National Cyber Directorate acknowledged Nimbus’s direct contribution to combat operations: “Thanks to the Nimbus public cloud, phenomenal things are happening during the fighting... these things play a significant part in the victory,” said director Gaby Portnoy.

The latest reports regarding Mossad’s request to Google to obscure satellite imagery of sensi-

tive sites in Israel, combined with its role in propaganda operations, demonstrate the company’s dual function: powering battlefield operations while erasing the visibility of strategic targets.

**Two-pronged complicity**

Silicon Valley’s role in Gaza goes beyond just technology—it extends into shaping narratives as well. On one hand, tech companies provide the hardware of war: AI, cloud computing, and battlefield tools that assist in targeting and military operations. On the other hand, they provide the software of deception: platforms like YouTube, X, Outbrain, and Google Ads that spread propaganda, deny famine, discredit the UN, and even suppress satellite imagery.

**Western media silence**

The UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese has warned that Google profits from the ongoing violence in Gaza. In response, Google co-founder Sergey Brin has dismissed the UN’s concerns as “transparently antisemitic.” Meanwhile, much of the Western media has echoed Israeli talking points, leaving independent outlets, such as Drop Site News, to reveal the tech giant’s involvement.

Since October 2023, Israel’s siege and attacks have claimed the lives of nearly 65,000 Palestinians. Beyond the battlefield, this devastation depends on Washington’s political backing and active collaboration from Silicon Valley.

## Between occupation and brutality: Israeli advances and Syria’s brutal new order

From page 1 ► The escalation has been punctuated by a series of acts of aggression. In late August, Israeli drone strikes in the Damascus countryside killed six Syrian soldiers, a strike that followed a ground incursion reported by Syrian sources.

The next day, Israeli forces carried out a landing operation at a former army site in Kiswa, southwest of Damascus, deploying dozens of troops and search equipment and remaining on site for hours before withdrawing.

On September 8, multiple airstrikes hit sites in Homs, Latakia, and Palmyra. Fresh reports of explosions in Damascus and Latakia have continued alongside claims that newly delivered Turkish equipment was destroyed in these attacks.

These operations are not happening in a vacuum of diplomacy. Damascus and Tel Aviv remain in direct, fraught “security talks” — officials say intended to revive elements of the 1974 disengagement arrangement — even as Israeli officials signal a broader agenda that would codify a sustained security presence in southern Syria.

Syrian leader Ahmed al-Sharaa (Abu Muhammad al-Jolani), installed after the collapse of the Assad government in December 2024, frames negotiations as an effort to restore pre-2024 borders and curb Israeli strikes.

Israeli statements, by contrast, increasingly describe a perimeter and infrastructure that

reads like a long-term occupation.

Supporters of Israel describe the strikes and outposts as a defensive buffer. Many observers — diplomats, regional analysts, and independent verifiers — see something else: a persistent campaign of interdiction that has bled into territorial consolidation.

When interdiction requires roads, hardened positions, and continuous patrols across another state’s internationally recognized territory, the line between “temporary security measures” and de facto annexation begins to blur.

At the same time, Syria has been convulsed by horrific internal violence since al-Assad fell in December 2024.

Monitoring groups and rights investigators have documented widespread extrajudicial killings and massacres — the mass bloodletting in Suwayda is the most visible example — and large-scale, systematic attacks on Alawite communities along the coast and in Homs and Hama, where survivors describe entire families executed, homes torched, and villages targeted in sectarian campaigns.

Amnesty International, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, and other monitoring organizations have documented executions in hospitals, public squares, and homes; independent investigations have reconstructed extensive evidence of mass killings.

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

## Arab leaders: Global silence fuels Israel’s crimes

From page 1 ► Israel launched the airstrike in a residential area as Hamas leaders convened in their Doha office to discuss a deal proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump aimed at ending Israel’s two-year war on Gaza.

The proposed deal would release all remaining captives held by Hamas in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, alongside a ceasefire.

The attack killed five Hamas members and a Qatari security official, but missed the

Hamas leadership it had been aiming for.

The United Nations Security Council unanimously condemned the strike on Thursday.

While the Trump administration attempted to distance itself from the attack, evidence

points to coordination between Israeli forces and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), including cooperation with U.S.-controlled air defense systems.

The attack on Qatar also underscores Israel’s regional ambitions, commonly re-

ferred to as the “Greater Israel” vision. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has publicly supported this expansionist agenda, which could extend Israeli borders to encompass parts of Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

## Interview with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Islamic Republic of Iran: Thai Ambassador’s Insight on Strengthening Thailand-Iran Ties through Travel and Tourism



H.E. Mr. Pichit Boonsud, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Islamic Republic of Iran

**A Glance at Thailand’s Tourism**

For many years, Thailand has become one of the most popular tourist destinations for Iranians. The country’s diverse natural, cultural, and tourist attractions, combined with the longstanding and cordial relations between Iran and Thailand which dates back for four centuries, are likely key reasons for this warm reception. Given that tourism is a significant part of Thailand’s culture and economy, we sat down for an interview with His Excellency Mr. Pichit Boonsud, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Iran, who has made considerable efforts in strengthening the existing friendly ties between Iran and Thailand. We began by asking about the statistics on the number of Iranian tourists visiting Thailand and vice versa. He responded:

“According to the data from Thailand’s Ministry of Tourism and Sports, in 2024 there were 64,962 Iranian tourists traveling to Thailand. This number represents an increase of more than 25% as compared to 2023, when it was 51,576. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, over 100,000 Iranian tourists visited Thailand yearly. The Royal Thai Embassy is working to bring this number back to pre-pandemic levels

and, thankfully, our Iranian friends are still choosing Thailand as their most favourite tourist destination in Southeast Asia after all these years of the pandemic. When it comes to the number of Thai tourists visiting Iran, it is unfortunate that accurate statistics are not readily available to me. It is likely that this data is compiled and managed by the Iranian tourism authorities. But I am sure lots of Thais wish and even plan to visit and explore the vast array of world-famous tourism sights in Iran when their schedules permit.”

His Excellency continued by explaining about some of the effective measures that the Thai government undertakes to increase the figure of international travellers to Thailand, that is the use of more facilitative visa and immigration procedures:

“To ease international travel and encourage more visit to Thailand, the Thai government has decided to implement an electronic visa (e-Visa) application system in all its embassies and consulates around the world, starting from 1 January 2025. This system aligns with global standards and enhances both security and integrity as well as provides ease in the visa application process, thus facilitating travel for potential tourists to Thailand. Now people will be able to apply for a visa from anywhere and at any time with this e-Visa system. Recently, a new immigration tool has also been used in the form of the Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC), starting from 1 May 2025. TDAC replaces the paper arrival card that one has to complete and present to the immigration officer upon arrival in Thailand. This means less hassle as travellers can fill the required form beforehand, thus saving time while on a trip.”

“The Royal Thai Embassy encourages everyone to make acquainted with this new e-Visa and TDAC. We hope this system will lead to more Iranians visiting Thailand, thus fostering people-to-people connectivity that can serve as a solid foundation for our lasting friendly relations.”

His Excellency also considers this year a special year for Thailand’s tourism and mentioned:

“This year has been designated by the Royal Thai government as the ‘Thailand Tourism and Sports Year 2025’. It is a one-year initiative to strengthen Thailand’s rising position as a global tourism and sports destination. International travellers can enjoy the world-renowned Thai hospitality and participate in various activities that suit their interests, or even try something new to broaden their experiences, such as riding an elephant, joining the Amazing Thailand Marathon Bangkok 2025 this coming November, or shopping beautiful and artistic Thai handicrafts from local communities nationwide.”

His Excellency then offered additional reasons why Iranians should travel to Thailand.

“The trip to Thailand can never be easier as the country is the aviation hub of Southeast Asia. Major international airports are situated across Thailand, from Bangkok in the Central Plains to Chiang Mai in the North and Phuket in the South, where a number of long-haul and short-haul carriers commute daily. Once landed at these airports, visitors can also choose to explore various provinces and islands of their choice with fast and convenient transportation network. What is more, those who may wish to explore other countries in the ASEAN region after Thailand can also make a seamless flight connection from Bangkok to all major cities around the region.”

“While the majority of Iranians are inclined to choose Bangkok and Phuket as

their favourite travel destinations in Thailand over the years, there are many other provinces that might also become ‘the next best thing’ for them. For example, *Chiang Mai*, the second largest city in Thailand, that has breathtaking landscape and beautiful architecture as well as delighted cuisine and vibrant shopping streets. The highest point of Thailand is also in Chiang Mai at the top of Doi Inthanon where tourists can do a social media check-in and take stunning pictures. *Ayutthaya*, which is close to Bangkok and can be visited on a day-trip, has a special place in the history of Thailand and Iran. It was the former capital of Thailand during the corresponding period of the Persian Empire and, most importantly, Ayutthaya was the starting point of our longstanding friendly relations given that Sheikh Ahmad, the famous Persian merchant, was the first Iranian to set foot here in the 16th century. Nowadays, visitors can find the tomb of Sheikh Ahmad located at Phranakhon Si Ayutthaya Rajabhat University in Ayutthaya as a visible reminder of our centuries-old amicable exchanges.”

**Iran Tourism in the Envoy’s Views**

Since Iran is also known for its unique geographical, cultural, and touristic attractions, we asked the Ambassador which aspects of Iran he finds most interesting during his stay, and what recommendations he has for tourists regarding Iranian landmarks, handicrafts, or food. Without hesitation, His Excellency described Iran as a country with a rich civilization and history, and shared his admiration



Mae Kampong Village, Chiang Mai: where tourists can explore authentic cultural experiences of the Northern Thai village.



The Grand Palace, one of the most stunning landmarks in Bangkok.

for its cultural heritage:

“Everybody knows that Iran is home to some of the oldest civilisations in the world, with places like Persepolis in Shiraz showing the grandeur of ancient empires. The cities of Isfahan and Yazd are known for their intricate architecture and beautiful tile work found in mosques and historical buildings. Tehran, the capital, also has magnificent palaces and monuments such as the Golestan Palace, Niavaran Palace, and Azadi Tower.”

“As for Iranian cuisine, the variety is immense and differs depending on the region. However, one might want to try ‘Abgoosh’, a traditional Iranian dish with a long history that is a reminder of family gatherings and evokes a warm and cosy feeling. Speaking of souvenirs from Iran, of course the famous Persian carpets would be the first to think about while ‘Khatam Kari’ is also known as a valuable gift.”

**Going Forward in Iran-Thailand Relations**

At the end of the interview, we asked His Excellency to share some thoughts on the current status of Iran-Thailand relations and how he envisages it. He responds:

“As I stated earlier, Thailand and Iran have a longstanding friendship that goes back over 400 years. The people of both countries have a deep cultural heritage, which is reflected in food, music, and language, and there have been some traces of cultural exchanges here and there. In light of diplomatic connections, the two nations

established formal ties in 1955, and this year marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations, one of the longest between Iran and countries in Southeast Asia.”

“Evidently, people-to-people interactions form an essential foundation for our centuries-old relations so it must be continually promoted as more acquaintance between Thais and Iranians will lead to mutual understanding and mutual respect. In fact, I am glad to note that there are numerous Thai students who received scholarships from the Iranian government to study in Iran while many thousands of Iranians travel to Thailand for leisure and business every year.”

“When the Iranian President, H.E. Masoud Pezeshkian, in the first few months after his inauguration last year, announced his vision to reach out and deepen ties with countries both near and far, with emphasis on those with friendly relations, I know instantly that both Thailand and Iran have been in a strong position in this noble endeavour because we always regard each other as friends and stay true to this view. Given the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic relations this year, I wish to invite both Iranians and Thais to take advantage of this milestone to reflect on our enduring bonds of friendship and get to know each other even more through multiple exchanges. Let us use our diverse range of people-to-people connection that we have forged throughout the years as a platform to create a resilient and rewarding future together.”



## Archaeologists evacuate Gaza artefacts from storehouse threatened by Israeli strike

TEHRAN – Archaeologists evacuated nearly three decades of finds from a Gaza City building on Wednesday after Israeli authorities warned it would be targeted in an air strike, officials said.

“This was a high-risk operation, carried out in an extremely dangerous context for everyone involved – a real last-minute rescue,” said Olivier Poquillon, director of the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem (EBAF), which stored the relics, the Guardian reported.

The Israeli army did not confirm issuing the warning when asked by AFP, but several sources said France, UNESCO and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem had secured a brief reprieve that allowed most artefacts to be removed from the storehouse, located on the ground floor of a residential tower.

“With almost no international actors left on the ground, no infrastructure, nothing functioning, we had to improvise transport, labor and logistics,” Poquillon said.

The evacuation was conducted in secrecy, he added, with priority given to avoiding risks to human life as Israeli operations continued in Gaza’s largest urban center.

The collection contained about 180 cubic meters of finds from Gaza’s five main archaeological sites, including the fourth-century Saint Hilarion monastery, a UNESCO world heritage site. EBAF said the monastery’s mosaics remained exposed and vulnerable to damage.

“Gaza has an extremely ancient heritage, very precious for the region, showing the succession and coexistence of peoples, cultures and religions,” Poquillon said.

One of Gaza’s two museums has been destroyed and the other heavily damaged since the conflict began nearly two years ago. Researchers told AFP that the EBAF storehouse was the only significant repository of arte-



facts left in the territory.

Gaza’s archaeological work restarted after the 1993 Oslo accords, with digs at the ancient Greek port of Anthedon and a Roman necropolis. Excavations halted after Hamas took power in 2007 and Israel imposed a blockade, resuming later with support from the British Council and French NGO Première Urgence Internationale (PUI).

With ceasefire talks stalled and Israel considering a full takeover of Gaza, archaeologists said prospects for future excavations were limited. UNESCO has already identified damage to 94 heritage sites using satellite imagery, including the 13th-century Pasha’s Palace, but has not carried out a full inventory.

“We saved a large part, but in a rescue you always lose things, and you always face painful choices,” said René Elter, an archaeologist affiliated with EBAF and scientific coordinator for PUI.

Elter said the depot was especially valuable because its collections had been systematically classified. “Many items have been broken or lost, but they had been photographed or drawn, so the scientific information is preserved. Perhaps that will be the only trace that remains of Gaza’s archaeology – in books, publications, libraries,” he said.

## Iranian handicrafts put on view at Thessaloniki exhibit

TEHRAN-- The Iranian Cultural Consultant in Greece announced the display of Iranian handicrafts at the 89th International Fair of Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece, during September 6-14.

It showcased the rich culture of Iran in a pavilion: a precious complex of the most prominent Iranian handicrafts including ceramics, wood carvings, miniatures, and other works, ISNA reported.

The Iranian body called this event as a unique opportunity for the Greek public as well as international visitors to the exhibition to experience authentic and enduring Iranian art firsthand, and announced: “The warm welcome of visitors, especially art enthusi-

asts and handicraft activists, demonstrated the attractiveness and importance of Iran’s cultural heritage at the international level.”

The active presence of the Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the 89th Thessaloniki International Fair was an opportunity to strengthen scientific, cultural and academic cooperation between Iran and Greece.

During the exhibition, the Iranian Cultural Counselor visited various booths and had constructive meetings and discussions with scientific and cultural institutions, university professors, students, prominent researchers and inventors.

## Global audiences gain access to Iranian heritage through 24-hour TV

TEHRAN — Meysam Shokripour, manager of Persepolis Internet TV, has said the first 24-hour channel dedicated to UNESCO World Heritage Sites, launched less than a year ago, allows audiences worldwide to access Iranian cultural and historical content, including Persepolis, via mobile phones, computers and smart TVs.

Pointing to the future of TVs which show cultural heritage contents in global level, he said that countries such as the U.S., Egypt, Greece, and Italy will launch specialized cultural heritage TVs, CHTN reported.

In spite of high costs, this is a big measure for introducing Iranian civilization to the world, he added.

He explained that this TV content has been prepared in Persian, English, and French languages.

With dubbing and subtitles, it is possible to exploit it for international audiences, he said. This medium is a platform for showing conferences, research, and cultural events, although due to security considerations, some programs are broadcast non-live, he

pointed out.

Regarding the recent concert of the Armenian Orchestra, Shokripour said: “This program is not only an artistic event, but also a cultural bond between Iran and Armenia. The widespread reception of the program by the public showed that such events can be an incentive for society to return to its cultural heritage. Even outside the complex, there was a large crowd interested in participating in the program.”

Emphasizing the observance of safety requirements in the program, he added: “In recent concert, all technical considerations, including the orientation of the audio bands and the intensity of the sound, were examined. Fortunately, no damage was done to the structure of Persepolis, and good cooperation took place between the organizers and cultural heritage experts.”

He also suggested that holding such programs in other historical sites in Fars province, such as the Saadi Tomb, Karim Khan Citadel, and especially Naqsh-e Rostam site, could also be effective.

# Rural literary tourism route launched in Kandelous, northern Iran

TEHRAN – Iran has inaugurated a rural literary tourism route in the village of Kandelous in northern Mazandaran province, linking local folklore with cultural and ecological tourism, officials said.

The one-kilometer route introduces visitors to the legend of “Mina and the Leopard” through a series of themed stations, including Mina’s reconstructed house, murals, narrative paintings, symbolic sculptures and a café inspired by the story.

Hossein Izadi, Director General of Mazandaran’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, said the initiative aims to deepen tourism by offering “narrative-based” experiences that combine his-



tory, literature and landscape. “The idea is that visitors not only see the sights but also connect with the cultural history of Kandelous through the legend,” he told state media.

Kandelous, often called “The Lost Paradise,” is known for its preserved rural architecture, wooden-framed windows, stone alleyways and gabled rooftops. The village also hous-

## Iranian scholars link Bishapur palace motif to global symbols

TEHRAN – Archaeologists in Iran say a decorative motif known as Gardoun-e Mehr (literary “Mithra Wheel”) or cross-like pattern, carved in plasterwork at an ancient royal palace of Bishapur in Fars province, influenced artistic and architectural designs across the world.

The motif, which some scholars equate with the Greek solar wheel, is visible in the plaster reliefs of the reception hall at Bishapur, a Sassanid-era site in southern Iran. It is positioned above the alcove on the northeast side of the hall, according to reports by Mehr news agency.

Researchers say the circular design may symbolize the cycle of life based on the sun and appears in various forms in historic architecture worldwide. The emblem has been compared to the border motif of the Versace fashion brand and to ancient patterns found in Iraq.

“Today, Gardoun-e Mehr can be clearly identified in the plasterwork of Bishapur,” Mohammad Khalil Mahmoudi, director of the Bishapur heritage base, told Mehr. “This motif has also been documented in Iraq.”

The design, also known as a cross motif, has been identified in multiple cultures and

periods. Some historians say it resembles the insignia later used on the Nazi SS flag, though its origins predate modern associations.

Bishapur (literally, “The city of Shapur”) was once the grand capital of Sassanid king Shapur I whose armies defeated the Romans three times. Narratives say much of Bishapur was built by Roman soldiers taken captive after their Emperor Valerian was defeated in c. 260 CE. The city remained an important city until the Arab invasion of Persia and the rise of Islam in the second quarter of the seventh century. It became a center of Islamic learning (a madrassah has been excavated) and there were still people living over here in the tenth century, but the decline started in the seventh century.

Bishapur has undergone several rounds of excavation so far. The Palace of Shapur, and a temple dedicated to the goddess of Anahita, were highlights of the digs.

The main monuments have been excavated between 1935 and 1941. Nevertheless, most of the city is still buried, and incidentally, teams of archaeologists returned to the site afterward.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran

## Garmsar eyes turning salt mines into tourist attractions

TEHRAN — Garmsar Governor Ali Hemmati has announced plans to develop several salt mines into tourist attractions as part of the city’s priority programs.

He told ISNA that Garmsar’s salt mines boast high potentials in tourism sector in terms of natural attractions and proximity to the capital.

Hemmati mentioned the tourism industry as a lucrative industry, adding: “Introducing historical and natural attractions apart from their cultural function, plays a significant economic role for the local people.”

Pointing to the numerous tourism axes in this city, he added: “Promoting tourism in the salt mines and Qasr-e Bahram area is one of the priority programs of Garmsar governorship, which is being seriously pursued this year.”

He said that boosting tourism through turning salt mines into the tourism destinations can be considered a sustainable and attractive alternative in line of economic development. It can also generate jobs and preserve natural relics, he added.

Also, Head of Garmsar Cultural Heritage Department Milad Rezaei said that Garmsar Cultural Heritage Department has two short-term and mid-term projects for boosting the city’s tourism industry.

He gave news of activating travel agencies, adding that these agencies render services to the tourism activists.

Rezaei continued that in the next step, filming and documenting historical tourist sites has begun with

the aim of introducing Garmsar’s tourism potentials and attracting tourists in the period before Nowruz and late summer.

Garmsar is a city in Semnan Province, bordered by Damavand to the north, Varamin to the west, Aradan to the east, and the central desert of Iran to the south. The region boasts a diverse array of natural attractions and sightseeing spots that are captivating.

From the unique Martian hills to the salt tunnel, Garmsar attracts many tourists each year. With the largest mines and salt tunnels in the Middle East, Garmsar currently houses 40 salt tunnels, playing a crucial role in salt extraction in Iran.

Various countries worldwide, such as Italy, Germany, and Poland, harness the positive effects of salt by establishing specialized facilities for energy or salt therapy to promote medical tourism. Iran, blessed with plentiful salt mines, can leverage this natural wonder to boost tourism, especially during the winter season. Geological studies have examined the quality of water resources in the Hablehrud region of Garmsar. Padeh, a village in the


Aradan district of Garmsar in Semnan Province, stands out from other tourist attractions in the region due to its large salt tunnels.

The Kouhdasht Mine is situated in the southeast of Garmsar and

to the east of Tehran. It is where salt domes covered with gypsum and salt emerge. Within these salt domes, oil traps are found.

(See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com))

First Announcement



Iran Alumina

INTERNATIONAL CALL

Invitation to bid for the export of aluminum sows ingot P1020

Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intend to export Aluminum Sows ingot P1020 in amount of 1000 up to 3000 Metric Ton (MT) per month through bidding of premium.

The eligible Bidders would quote their firm offers for premium of aluminum sows ingot as per following terms and conditions.

1- Commodity: Aluminum sows ingot P1020 min 97.7%.  
2-BBG (Bid Bond Guarantee): USD 130000 or in equivalent local currency 93,600,000,000 Rials. The BBG should be valid 3 months.  
3-Quantity: Min 1000.MT/months during 6month from November 2025 for export only . IAC is Shipper.  
4- Closing date (to submit the proposal): before 16:00, Local time, on the day 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025.  
5- Opening date: 3 days after closing date.  
6- Bidder should quote Their firm premium as per following:

- FCA Factory - Jajarm/I.R. IRAN: USD..... per MT.
- FOB Bandar ABBAS/I.R. IRAN: USD.....per MT.
- Offer validity should be mentioned.

7-Quotational premium: Average LME Cash settlement of the 5 working days from Loading Day of first truck, Ex-factory, Jajarm or from date of Bill of lading.

8- Contact information: For more details, the bidders can contact or submit their offer to the following address.

No. 100, Somayeh street, Postal code: 1581875711, IAC office, Tehran-Iran IAC complex, Km 7 Sankhast Road, Jajarm,Northern khorasan province, Iran, P.O. Box :1135-94415 legal and contractual affairs.

Tel:0098058-32605312-32605353  
website: [www.iranalumina.ir](http://www.iranalumina.ir)  
E-mail [info@iralumina.ir](mailto:info@iralumina.ir)



# Biotech holds 60% share of pharmaceutical exports

TEHRAN – Biotechnology products account for a major portion of Iran's pharmaceutical exports, with a share of 60 percent.

Some 99 percent of pharmaceutical biotechnology products are manufactured domestically, Mehr news agency quoted Haleh Ahmadi, the head of the association of pharmaceutical biotechnology producers and exporters, as saying.

Biotechnology products are exported to 40 countries worldwide, compared to 35 countries in the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024 – March 2025). The exported medicines are worth 120 – 130 million dollars, Ahmadi said.

Thanks to the pharmaceutical biotechnology producers, the country is saving 5 billion dollars, which would have otherwise been spent on importing these products, she noted.

Currently, 45 pharmaceutical biotechnology products, including medicines, kits, and medical tools, are produced in Iran, Ahmadi added.

## Iran ranks first in biotech among Islamic nations

With 1,111 documents in biotechnology, Iran ranked first among Islamic countries in 2024, up from second in 2023, according to the recent report published by SCImago.



The country ranked 11th globally in this category. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey, and Egypt ranked second to fifth with 1,008, 979, 839, and 802 articles, respectively.

The report has also included a ranking based on articles published from 1996 to 2024. Over the 28 years, Iran, with 15,188 articles in biotechnology, ranks first in the region, followed by Turkey (with 10,973 articles) and Egypt (with 7,947 articles). The country ranks 15 globally.

In all subject areas and categories, the country ranks second in the region and 17th worldwide with 75,501 articles published in 2024.

Having published 966,118 articles in all subject areas and categories from 1996 to 2024, Iran ranks second in the region and 19th globally.

## Self-sufficiency in medicine

The issue of medicine and medical equipment production and self-sufficiency in these areas is one of the government's priorities, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi said in March.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people's health, he said, adding: "We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment," IRNA reported.

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines and other equipment, are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

## Afghanistan thanks IRCS for aid to quake-hit people

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan has issued a statement appreciating the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) for the relief supplies delivered following the devastating earthquake that hit the country.

According to the statement, Iran was the first country to dispatch humanitarian consignments to quake-hit Afghans in Kunar, the IRCS reported.

On August 31, at 23.47 local time, a 6+ magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province near the Pakistan border. The epicenter was located in the Kama district, some 30 km northeast of the city of Jalalabad. Several aftershocks have occurred since, with the initial quake felt in neighboring provinces including Kunar, Laghman, and Nuristan, as well as Kabul. The quake's hypocenter was estimated at only 8 to 10 km beneath the surface, exacerbating the quake's impact.

A second earthquake of 5.5 magnitude struck the region on Tuesday, further destabilizing the villages.

The Taliban administration has confirmed the death toll at 2,205, with at least 3,640 injured, though the United Nations has warned that the numbers may rise as many people remain trapped under rubble.

More than 6,700 homes have been destroyed, leaving tens of thousands of people homeless and in urgent need of assistance.

"It is with profound sorrow that we learned about the devastating earthquake that hit Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, and Laghman in eastern Afghanistan, causing many losses of life and injuries. The Iranian Red Crescent

Society offers sincere condolences to you and the family of the victims. We stand by the people of Afghanistan, and we are ready to dispatch humanitarian aid as well as relief teams in case needed," Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the IRCS, wrote in a message to the president of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), Shahabuddin Delawa, on September 1st.

Following the earthquake, President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy in the "friendly and brotherly" nation of Afghanistan. He also wished a swift recovery for the injured.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi separately conveyed sympathy to the Afghan people and the families of the victims, emphasizing that Iran was fully prepared to dispatch relief and medical teams to the quake-hit areas.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei echoed the pledge, stressing that Iran stands ready to support the treatment of the injured and to work with Afghanistan through regional and joint cooperation to ease the suffering caused by the disaster.

The first shipment involved 100 tons of essential goods, including some 50 tons of relief goods, which were sent via a flight, and 60 tons were transported overland through the Dogharon border.

The consignment included clothing, rice, beans, blankets, and canned food.

"Iran's Red Crescent Society always stands by the nations caught in humanitarian crises, and in this bitter incident, as always, it will stand with all its might by the noble and affected people of Afghanistan," Razieh Al-



ishavandi, an official from Iran's Red Crescent Society, said.

The second shipment, sent on September 6, was delivered to Kabul. It involved 37 tons of foodstuffs, eight tons of sanitary packages, and 10,000 blankets, ISNA reported.

The third consignment was transported on six trucks on September 7. It included essential items like tents, dishes, rice, canned food, and hygiene kits.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies estimates that around 84,000 people have been affected directly or indirectly by the earthquakes, with thousands displaced.

An assessment by the British charity Islamic Relief Worldwide found that in some villages, up to two-thirds of residents were either killed or injured, and almost all buildings were severely damaged or destroyed.

Humanitarian groups have called on the international community to increase support, not only to save lives but to help Afghanistan recover from one crisis after another, the IRCS reported.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## ‘Organ donation rate grows 60-fold in 18 years’

Organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, though the growth is not considerable compared to the global scale, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health has announced.

Some countries including China have grown 122-fold in terms of organ donation over the past 10 years, ISNA quoted Mehdi Shadnough as saying on Monday.

Although, Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard, he highlighted, adding, we will achieve better results certainly by the next year (March 2019-March 2020), as many barriers have been removed last year.

## رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته ، ۶۰ برابر شده است

رئیس مرکز مدیریت پیوند و درمان بیماری‌ها وزارت بهداشت گفت: روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته در ایران ۶۰ برابر شده است البته در مقیاس جهانی شاخص قابل قبولی نیست.

به گزارش ایسنا دکتر مهدی شادنوش اظهار کرد: کشوری مانند چین طی ۱۰ سال در زمینه اهدای عضو رشد ۱۲۲ برابری داشته است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: رتبه اهدای عضو ایران در رنکینگ جهانی ۲۶ است اما می تواند وضعیت بهتر داشته باشد و البته با توجه به فعالیت‌هایی که آغاز شده نتایج بهتری در انتظار خواهد بود و در سال ۹۸ نیز جهش خوبی را شاهد خواهیم بود چراکه چالش‌های موجود در سال ۹۷ رفع شده است.

## DOE launches working group to combat wildlife trafficking in cyberspace

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has established a working group to monitor wildlife cybercrimes and combat illegal wildlife trade, an official with the DOE has said.

Wildlife trafficking is the third most profitable crime, following drug and weapon trafficking.

Studies indicate that 25 percent of species advertised for sale are listed as prohibited in international trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

From lion cubs to pythons, salamanders, Persian squirrels, rhesus monkeys, birds such as falcons, bustards, saker falcons, different types of hawks, invertebrates, reptiles such as native and non-native turtles, snakes, and iguanas are among the most common wild species that are illegally bought, sold, and kept.

The DOE, in cooperation with experts of the Wildlife Organization, is also developing another plan to combat wildlife trafficking, which will be implemented nationwide once it is approved, ISNA quoted Hamid Zoharbi as saying.

The main goal is to attract more attention to wildlife trafficking and deal with wildlife traffickers more decisively.

## Penalties increased to curb wildlife crimes

In 2024, the DOE increased penalties for wildlife crimes to deter offenses and strengthen

conservation measures.

Offenses involve the illegal killing of wildlife, fishing, or hunting without permits. The penalties for these offenses vary based on the biological value of each species, the population crisis, and the endangered status, whether or not the species is in danger of extinction.

Penalties for hunting and capturing wild animals and destroying vegetation have increased from 20.4 million rials (about 20 dollars) to 102 million rials (about 104 dollars).

The penalties for hunting and fishing during prohibited seasons and hours, hunting and fishing using unauthorized equipment and methods, and destroying sources of water like fountains for animals in protected areas, have increased from 153 million rials (156 dollars) to 306 million Rials (almost 313 dollars).

The fines for hunting and fishing protected wild animals, particularly in protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries without a permit; polluting the water of rivers; lakes, and protected wetlands; hunting rare and endangered wild animals; hunting in national parks; and hunting or killing wild animals using poisons and explosives; taking actions that pollute the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman with non-oil substances, has raised from 204 million rials (208 dollars) to 340 million rials (about 346 dollars) and 408 million rials (416 dollars) to 578 million rials (around 590 dollars), respectively.

## Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari ‘a haven’ for wintering migratory birds

TEHRAN – Located on the international migratory bird corridor, the valuable wetlands and diverse habitats in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari host thousands of birds that choose this province as a winter refuge to escape the Siberian cold.

With the approach of autumn, flocks of aqua and waterside birds like grey geese, grey cranes, lesser white-fronted geese, herons, white-headed ducks, different types of plovers, and curlews start flying to Choghakhor, Gandoman, and Solagan wetlands.

Unlike seasonal wetlands, these wetlands are covered with water all year round. Sufficient water, diverse vegetation, a variety of species like insects, mollusks, crustaceans, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, along with environmental security and tranquillity, round-the-clock protection by environmentalists, and online monitoring have provided a safe and stable habitat for the birds.

Some birds stay for the whole winter, while others simply rest for a while and pass through the wetlands.

Gandoman Wetland was registered as Iran's 27th wetland of international importance in February. Stretching to 1,070 hectares, it is one of Iran's top five birdwatching sites and the country's most important permanent habitats for migratory birds.

Choghakhor wetland is flowing on 1687 hectares, being designated as a hunting restricted

area. It is home to 47 bird species, including migratory birds such as the northern pintail. The wetland is home to more than one percent of the population of the common pintail and endangered species such as the white-headed duck and the eastern golden eagle. Choghakhor Wetland is also one of the most important habitats for the native Zagros fish in Iran

Last year, 85 migratory bird species, including more than 300,000 birds, arrived at the wetlands, and 25 species bred here.

## National plan to improve wetland conservation

In June, the Department of Environment (DOE) and the Ministry of Agriculture signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to launch a national plan for empowering local communities to protect and promote the sustainable use of wetlands.

The main objective of the MOU is to turn wetland protection from a government initiative into a comprehensive social responsibility by focusing on training, empowering, and involving local communities.

Wetlands represent a vital ecosystem and are known as the kidneys of the Earth. These ecosystems, among other things, provide clean water, protect against floods, restore underground aquifers, and maintain surface water flow during dry periods.



## Hustle and bustle for new school year

Students accompanied by their parents are busy buying stationery and other items as the new school year will officially start on September 23.

Some 16 million students are forecast to attend schools this year.





SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*The sin which makes you sad and repentant is more liked by Allah than the good deed which turns you arrogant.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:59 Evening: 18:30 Dawn: 4:23 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:48 (tomorrow)

## Israeli army raids Oscar-winning Palestinian director West Bank home

Israeli soldiers conducted a raid on Saturday at the West Bank home of Basel Adra, one of the directors of Oscar-winning film “No Other Land,” the Palestinian filmmaker confirmed himself.

Adra said soldiers had asked his wife, Suha, for his whereabouts and proceeded to search through her phone, adding that their nine-month-old daughter was home at the time of the raid, Euronews reported.

Earlier on Saturday, Israeli settlers attacked his village, injuring two of Adra’s brothers and one cousin, the director told Associated Press (AP). Adra had accompanied his family members to the hospital, where he found out Israeli soldiers had stormed his home.

“No Other Land,” a joint Palestinian-Israeli production directed by Basel Adra, Hamdan Balal, Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, chronicles the struggle by residents to stop the Israeli military from destroying the occupied West Bank’s Masafer Yatta, and the gradual expulsion of its community.

Adra has dedicated his career as a journalist and filmmaker chronicling settler violence in Masafer Yatta. He described Saturday’s event as “horrific.”

“Even if you are just filming the settlers, the army comes and chases you, searches your house,” he said. “The whole system is built to attack us, to terrify us, to make us very scared.”

“What happened today in his village, we’ve seen this dynamic again and again, where the Israeli settlers brutally attack a Palestinian village and later on the army comes, and attacks the Palestinians,” co-director Yuval Abraham said.

The West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza have been under Israeli military occupation since 1967, following the Mideast war. Since then, Israel has

built well over 100 settlements, home to more than 500,000 Israeli settlers.

Palestinians seek all three to be part of an independent Palestinian state and view the continued expansion of Israeli settlements as a major obstacle to a two-state solution. Currently, around three million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank live under what seems to be open-ended Israeli military rule, with only limited parts of the territory governed by the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed an agreement to push ahead with an illegal expansion plan in the occupied West Bank that will cut across land that the Palestinians hope would form the basis of a future state.

“There will not be a Palestinian state,” Netanyahu said during a visit to the Maale Adumim settlement in the West Bank on Thursday.

The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal under international law. Last year, the International Court of Justice declared in a landmark ruling that Israel should end settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and end its occupation of those areas, as well as Gaza, as soon as possible.

In the 1980s, the Israeli military designated Adra’s hometown, Masafer Yatta, as a live-fire training zone and ordered the expulsion of its residents, most of whom were Arab Bedouin. Despite this, roughly 1,000 residents stayed, but Israeli soldiers regularly enter the area to demolish homes, tents, water tanks and olive orchards.

Since the start of Israel’s war in Gaza, which began after Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on October 7, 2023, Israel has killed over 64,000 Palestinians during wide-scale military operations.

# Iran’s culture minister calls for stronger Iran–Russia academic, cultural ties

TEHRAN – The relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, and other nations with a shared approach can lay the foundation for a truly multipolar world and society, the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi said during a visit to St. Petersburg State University on Friday.

Salehi traveled to St. Petersburg at the invitation of his Russian counterpart to attend the 11th International Forum of United Cultures, meet with Russian cultural figures, and visit leading artistic and academic institutions, ILNA reported.

On September 12, he toured the historic St. Petersburg State University, founded 301 years ago, and held talks with the university’s executive board on ways to strengthen bilateral academic and cultural cooperation. The minister also delivered a lecture to professors and students entitled “Culture and Human Interaction in a Multipolar Society.”

Salehi praised St. Petersburg as a global city of knowledge and culture and stressed the pivotal role of culture in human development. “Today, development is not just about economics and politics,” he said, “but about meaning—about the kind of valuable life and stable society humanity seeks to build.”

The minister argued that genuine and lasting progress must be measured not only in economic terms but also in freedom, dignity, and human flourishing. He warned that development without justice leads to oppression, citing Gaza and Palestine as examples, and emphasized that no individual or nation should be



The Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi (L) speaks at the St. Petersburg State University on September 12, 2025.

sacrificed for the interests of another.

On bilateral ties, Salehi highlighted efforts to familiarize younger generations in both Iran and Russia with each other’s literary and artistic heritage. He stressed that a multipolar world must also be cultural, not just political and military: “The foundation of a multipolar world is cultural plurality. Iran and Russia, with their millennia of civilization, must understand each other’s values and achievements.”

Salehi also reflected on the deep-rooted historical connections between the two nations, from manuscript exchanges and early printing to shared inspirations in literature and art. He noted that Iranian audiences remain deeply engaged with Russian classics—from Tolstoy and Dostoevsky to Tchaikovsky—and recalled how Persian poetry inspired figures such as Pushkin. “This exchange has always been two-way,” he said, “shaping not

only literature but also theater, cinema, music, and the visual arts in both countries.”

Calling for expanded university exchanges, Salehi proposed establishing new chairs in Persian literature in Russia and Russian language in Iran, as well as joint programs in anthropology and the arts. He underscored the importance of direct literary translation between Persian and Russian, alongside greater efforts to translate contemporary works, not just classics.

The minister also advocated cultural festivals, art exhibitions, film screenings, and music performances as platforms for closer people-to-people contact, along with cultural tourism and digital cooperation to preserve and share heritage. “Today, Iranian and Russian bloggers and online creators can present more authentic images of our countries than international media outlets,” he remarked.

During his visit, Salehi received from the university a catalog of its Persian manuscripts, underscoring Russia’s long tradition of Iranology. He noted that while some schools of Orientalism were linked to colonial agendas, Iranology in Russia has often pursued genuine understanding and dialogue. Over the past three centuries, Russian scholars have produced more than 10,000 works on Iran, providing what Salehi described as “a lasting foundation for long-term academic cooperation.”

Concluding his address, Salehi emphasized that cultural ties are deeper and more resilient than purely political or economic relations: “When relations are rooted in culture and in the hearts of people, economic and political ties become stronger and more sustainable. Iran and Russia share such a bond—one that must be nurtured so that future generations can enjoy the shade of a strong tree of friendship and solidarity.”

## Iran, Azerbaijan to organize bilateral cultural weeks

TEHRAN– A meeting to discuss the expansion of cultural ties between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, including the organization of joint cultural weeks and days, was held at the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan in Baku.

The event was attended by officials from Iran’s Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) and senior Azerbaijani cultural representatives, ILNA reported on Saturday.

During the session, Abdolreza Rashed, Deputy for Regional and International Relations Development at the ICRO, highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral cultural relations between the two nations.

“Just as the Presidents of both nations have committed to enhancing bilateral relations, cultural officials must also dedicate their efforts to achieving these shared objectives,” he said.

He further explained that the ICRO bears the responsibility of strengthening and coordinating cultural relations globally. The development of cultural exchanges is of paramount importance as a foundation for expanding cooperation across other sectors.

Rashed identified the primary aim of the meeting as exploring the organization of a cultural week between Iran and Azerbaijan. He proposed that these cultural weeks initially be held in the capitals of both countries, allowing for experience accumulation before

expanding the program to other cities.

Rashed also announced that Tabriz city officials expressed readiness to host the Azerbaijani cultural week. He also suggested that, beyond Tabriz, Ardabil, and Urmia, other Iranian cities such as Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, and others be considered as potential hosts for Azerbaijani cultural weeks.

He further outlined the diverse components planned for the cultural week, including handicrafts, traditional arts, music, cinema and theater, performing arts and animation, cultural technologies and creative industries, calligraphy, miniature art, fashion, cuisine, literature, and other cultural topics.

He proposed that cultural facilities in Baku, Ganja, and Nakhchivan be visited to assess potential venues and resources. Rashed also highlighted the upcoming Shahriar Congress in Tabriz, inviting Azerbaijani researchers, writers, and enthusiasts of the Iranian poet to participate. Additionally, he invited Azerbaijani cultural delegations to visit selected Iranian cities and cultural sites, suggesting that the final implementation document for the cultural week be signed in Tehran.

Farid Jafarov, Deputy for International Relations at the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan, expressed Azerbaijan’s readiness to host joint cultural weeks and days, referencing the recent visit of the Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Azerbaijan and the signing of

a memorandum of understanding on cultural exchanges.

He underscored the importance of holding these events at the highest level to deepen bilateral cultural relations.

Jafarov also emphasized Azerbaijan’s interest in hosting Azerbaijani cultural days in Tehran, Tabriz, Ardabil, and Urmia, highlighting plans to feature concerts, theater performances, and traditional Azerbaijani dances in Iran.

Huseyn Muradov, Deputy Minister of Culture for Artistic Affairs in Azerbaijan, stressed the significance of cooperation in cinema and traditional music, noting that the Heydar Aliyev Foundation organizes international mugham music competitions in Azerbaijan where Iranian participants have frequently showcased exceptional talent and brilliance.

During the meeting, both sides agreed on coordinating the exact dates for the cultural weeks, establishing rules and regulations, and considering potential limitations. The timing for the cultural weeks was set for after Nowruz 1405 (March 2026), with Iran and Azerbaijan each scheduling their respective events accordingly.

The session concluded with a detailed review of the logistical arrangements and planning specifics for the Iran-Azerbaijan cultural weeks, aimed at fostering closer ties through shared cultural celebrations.

## Iran participating in 26th Baghdad International Book Fair with 1,000 titles

TEHRAN – Iran is participating in the 26th Baghdad International Book Fair in Iraq, which opened on September 10.

Representing Iran’s publishing industry, the Iran Book and Literature House is showcasing 1,000 Arabic-language titles, IRNA reported.

To mark the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), a special section has been dedicated to 100 titles on the life and teachings of the Prophet.

Another special display highlights Iran’s achievements in Quran printing and publishing. The pavilion also features 300 titles

on Islamic jurisprudence and seminary sciences, 70 works on ethics, and 20 publications on the Resistance movement and the late General Qassem Soleimani.

In addition, Majid Rastgar, a Shiraz-based calligrapher, is accompanying the Iranian delegation and demonstrates contemporary Iranian calligraphy for Iraqi visitors. An exhibition of 20 calligraphic paintings featuring Quranic attributes of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is also on display.

Mehdi Mohseni, Deputy for Economy and Culture at the Iran Book and Literature House and head of the Iranian pavilion at the fair, delivered a speech in Arabic

on September 11, on “Interaction and Cooperation between the Nations of Iran and Iraq in the Development of Calligraphy and Quranic Manuscripts.” He also discussed the legacy of renowned Iranian calligraphers Ibn Muqla and Ibn Bawwab, who lived and worked in Baghdad during the 4th and 5th centuries AH.

On the same day, Mohseni held talks at the Iranian pavilion with Iraq’s Deputy Minister of Culture, and the head of the Iraqi Publishers’ Union, who also directs the book fair. During the meeting, the Iraqi official stressed the importance of strengthening Arabic-language resources on Iranology, noting: “Iraqis are

deeply interested in the history of Iran, but there are few Arabic sources on this subject available in Iraq.”

On the third day of the fair, Mohseni also met with the head of public relations of the Great Mosque of Kufa. The mosque is known for its extensive cultural activities and unique manuscript library. The official at the mosque expressed interest in cooperating with the Iran Book and Literature House to introduce Iranian literary, religious, and cultural works to Iraqi audiences.

The 26th edition of the Baghdad International Book Fair will run until September 21 at the Baghdad International Fairgrounds.

## Cartoon of Day



Peace vs. the Gorilla of War

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan