

Iran Continues Push for Economic Entanglement With the East

FM Araghchi turns up at SCO summit to promote new 'economic order' in West Asia



FM Araghchi shakes hands with participants of Iran-ECO Conference on September 16, 2025.

Leader congratulates national freestyle wrestling team on world championship victory

TEHRAN – In a message published Tuesday evening, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei congratulated Iran's national freestyle wrestling team for becoming 2025 world champions.

The victory marks a return to the top of the wrestling world after a 12-year gap, bringing the total number of world championships secured by the nation to six.

In his message, Ayatollah Khamenei praised the wrestlers for their "astonishing efforts and admirable behavior", emphasizing the importance of combining physical strength with spiritual values. "The combination of strength and spirituality creates noble values. Well done!" he stated.

Iran pushes IAEA resolution to ban attacks on nuclear facilities

TEHRAN – Iran, joined by China, Russia, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Belarus, has submitted a draft resolution to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) calling for a blanket prohibition on all forms of attack or threats of attack against nuclear sites and facilities under IAEA safeguards.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei announced the move Tuesday on social media platform X, describing the initiative as a necessary step to uphold international law and defend the integrity of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The resolution, titled "Prohibition of all forms of attack and threats of attack against nuclear sites and facilities under IAEA safeguards," underlines that all states enjoy the inalienable right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It further stresses that countries are entitled to effective guarantees against any attack or threat of attack on their safeguarded facilities. ▶ Page 2

The OIC's sovereign deficit and Iran's model of political agency

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) stands as a pivotal institution representing the collective voice of the Muslim world, encompassing 57 member states and over 1.9 billion people. Yet, despite its ambitious mandate to promote Islamic solidarity, safeguard interests of Muslim communities, and intervene in crises affecting the Muslim ummah, the OIC has long been caught in a cycle of rhetorical formalism and procedural inertia. ▶ Page 3

Regional alliance crucial to counter Israel

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Last Monday, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar announced that his country had accepted the U.S. ceasefire proposal to end the war in Gaza. The very next day, Israel attempted to assassinate Hamas leaders while they were in Qatar's capital to discuss that same proposal.

The attack shocked Qatar and the larger Arab and Islamic world. Qatar is becoming the sixth Middle Eastern country struck by Israel in the past few months. "For decades, Qatar, like the rest of the (Persian) Gulf, believed that a closer relationship with the U.S. would guarantee its security. No longer," the Guardian wrote.

As the capital of global diplomacy, Qatar was central to the negotiations with the Taliban as the U.S. withdrew its troops from Afghanistan; the return of some Ukrainian children from Russia; the release of Israeli hostages held by Hamas and Palestinian prisoners in Israel; as well as a brief ceasefire in Gaza.

'Gaza is burning' amid Israel's largest ground offensive

Israel launched the main phase of a ground incursion into Gaza City on Tuesday, widening weeks of air, sea, and artillery strikes that killed at least 78 Palestinians in the latest barrage.

Residents described relentless explosions, low-flying jets, and tank incursions that have reduced apartment blocks to smoking rubble while long columns of displaced families streamed south and west.

Witnesses said Sabra and Tel al-Hawa were among the hardest hit neighborhoods, with powerful blasts hurling debris hundreds of meters and entire residential blocks collapsing.

Many Palestinians who had returned to Gaza City after earlier fighting were forced to flee again into overcrowded coastal strips — a pattern rights groups and aid agencies characterize as mass forced displacement.

Israel has framed its assault as an effort to dismantle Hamas's infrastructure and recover captives taken in October 2023. Families of captives, however, warn that the assault endangers the very people it claims to rescue.

War Minister Israel Katz's boast that "Gaza is burning" laid bare the campaign's destructive intent as the military tore through densely populated neighborhoods.

UN Commission finds Israel waging genocide in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli regime is committing genocide in the blockaded Gaza Strip, according to an independent commission established by the United Nations.

It is the first time a UN body has announced that the occupying regime's actions in Gaza have passed the threshold under international law to meet the criteria of genocide.

It referenced instances of mass killings, blocked humanitarian aid, forced displacement, and the demolition of a fertility clinic to support its genocide determination, aligning with human rights organizations and others who have drawn the same conclusion.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (al-Quds) held the Israeli leadership accountable and called for an end to the blockade and the policy of starvation.

In a report released on Tuesday, the Commission said it investigated events dating from October 7, 2023, as well as developments over the past two years.

▶ Page 5

Novel on Gaza brings fictional heroes into real struggle

By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN-The superhero of this story, Z, does not soar over imaginary skylines nor strike with an iron fist; his mission is different: to tear down the barricades of fake news and pull the truth from beneath the rubble of lies that Zionists pump daily into the media about Gaza. In "The Last Superhero: The Fight for Palestine", Z searches for the roots of Zionism and the project of Israel in the twentieth century—a project that, through its propaganda machine, labels every Palestinian as "Hamas" in order to justify the killing of women and children.

In this inverted world, the media is no longer a tool of information, but a weapon to conceal Israel's crimes and to blur the reality of Palestinian genocide. ▶ Page 8



Pezeshkian inaugurates new hospital in Tehran

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian returned to familiar surroundings on Monday as the heart surgeon-turned-politician inaugurated a new 550-bed hospital in eastern Tehran.

The hospital serves as the expanded and modernized headquarters of an existing facility, upgraded using government funds. Pezeshkian was photographed speaking with dozens of patients who had been transferred to the new building. He was also seen spending time with hospital staff, inquiring about the facility's operations.

Exclusive Interview

Israel uses Gaza-style raids on Yemeni journalists, Yemeni expert says

▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Difficult days until snapback is activated

Shargh wrote in an analysis: In a situation where only 12 more days are left until the activation of the 30-day snapback period, based on the available data and the political actions of Iranian officials and the three European countries, it is difficult to imagine that there is a way to stop the snapback process and prevent the return of Security Council resolutions against Iran. This is while in the current period, the snapback is the most important issue on the agenda of Iran's foreign policy and Iran's relations with the outside world. The Europeans' proposed solution to extend the snapback deadline contained three preconditions: Iran's cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, auditing the amount of enriched uranium, and Iran and the U.S. negotiate a new agreement. A positive and promising agreement between Iran and the Agency in Cairo could have paved the way for the realization of the first and second preconditions, but it later became clear that the timing of Iran, the Agency, and the three European countries did not match. Therefore, both because of Europe's three conditions and because of the shortage of opportunity, Europe apparently sees no other way than to activate the snapback.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Arab countries are not trustworthy

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Arab countries in Qatar and wrote: This summit was held with the focus of examining regional developments, especially the recent aggression of the Zionist regime against Qatar, and the attendees, including Pezeshkian, expressed their views and strategies for achieving stability and lasting security in the region. Although in the summit, the regional Arab countries emphasized the need to support Palestine and confront the Zionist regime, and in a way showed their solidarity with the views of resistance countries such as Iran and Algeria, the final statement showed that these countries do not actually have a strategy to take practical action against the Zionist regime and its supporters. This performance reflects a bitter truth, namely that Iran practically cannot count on regional diplomacy and the Arab countries. Interactions with them should be at the same level as conventional diplomacy, and the only option remains the approach of maintaining the resistance front.

Hamshahri: Trump's defeat in the oil war with Iran

In a note, Hamshahri discussed Trump's defeat

in the oil war with Iran. It wrote: Since he became president of the United States for the second time in the winter of last year, Donald Trump has once again put maximum pressure on the Iranian economy. In the first step, he issued an order to reduce Iranian oil exports, and in the past 9 months, the U.S. Treasury Department has sanctioned hundreds of different companies under the pretext of cooperating to facilitate Iranian oil exports. The Trump administration's strategy was based on one principle: completely cutting off Iran's oil revenues to paralyze its economy and force Tehran to negotiate. However, a review of reports from Western institutions shows that during this period, that has been no change in Iran's oil exports, and the oil war against Iran has almost failed. Iran's oil exports have remained in the same level as last year, and we are no longer witnessing a sharp decline in oil revenues like in 2018.

Iran: European troika's view of Iran-IAEA agreement

The Iran newspaper wrote: From the European troika's point of view, the main issue centers around Iran's commitments under the NPT and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. The European troika does not have the impression that it will not activate the snapback mechanism simply because of the agreement between Iran and the IAEA. Another point that is relevant in relation to the European troika's position is its serious reflection on the media. Rafael Grossi had emphasized that this agreement could prevent a war. Theoretically, this assessment is correct. If the agreement is finalized and implemented quickly, and Iran also enters into talks with the United States at the same time, there is a possibility of preventing the escalation of the crisis. However, one point that should not be ignored is the different view of the Europeans. They have announced from the very beginning that they have not considered any specific timetable for the implementation of the agreement. It is very important for Europeans to know about the status of Iran's 60 percent enriched uranium. This is a matter of particular importance for Tehran, as Iran does not want to lose this card easily and is therefore seeking to prevent the snapback mechanism from returning. In contrast, the Europeans are trying to improve the current situation through diplomatic channels with Iran and the United States before the possible deadline for activating the snapback sanctions next week, and pave the way for a lasting agreement.

Two police officers killed in terror attack in SE Iran

TEHRAN – Armed assailants have attacked a police vehicle in southeastern Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province, leaving two officers dead and another injured.

The incident occurred Tuesday on the highway connecting the city of Khash to the provincial capital, Zahedan, according to the province's Police Information Center. Officials condemned the assault as a "heinous act of bloodshed" and said security forces had launched an immediate operation to identify and pursue those responsible. Further details, they added, would be made public once available.

The martyred officers were from Sib and Suran County, located some 400 kilometers (248 miles) southeast of Zahedan.

Sistan and Baluchestan, which shares a long border with Pakistan, has been the scene of repeated terrorist attacks in recent years, target-

ing both civilians and security personnel. Iranian authorities have frequently linked such acts of violence to terrorist groups backed by foreign intelligence agencies, underscoring the need for a strong and vigilant security presence in the province.

Just last month, provincial forces killed at least eight militants involved in an earlier attack against police. In that assault, terrorists ambushed two patrol units in Iranshahr County's Daman District, killing five law enforcement officers while they were on duty.

The Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish al-Adl later claimed responsibility for the Iranshahr attack.

Terrorist groups carrying out attacks against Iranian interests in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the country are believed to be linked to foreign spy agencies.

Iran pushes IAEA resolution to ban attacks on nuclear facilities

From page 1 ▶ The draft also reaffirms that states must refrain from attacking or threatening peaceful nuclear installations in other countries, highlighting the responsibility of the IAEA to ensure that nuclear activities remain free from disruption.

"These principles must be upheld," the spokesman said, urging the international community to act firmly to prevent what he described as the "normalization of lawlessness" in global security and nuclear governance.

The proposed resolution recalls previous UN Security Council and IAEA decisions prohibiting armed attacks on nuclear facilities and warns that such actions not only violate the UN Charter and international law but



Satellite image of the Fordow nuclear site in central Iran, near the city of Qom, following the US airstrikes that targeted the plant

also pose serious risks to human health, the environment, and international peace and security.

The initiative comes in the wake of June 2025 attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, which Tehran has condemned as unlawful and destabilizing.

On June 13, Israel carried out a blatant act of aggression, targeting safeguarded nuclear installations and killing a number of nuclear scientists, senior military commanders, and hundreds of civilians. Only days later, on June 22, the United States joined the attacks, bombing Iran's Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan nuclear sites in what Tehran said was a clear violation of international law, the NPT, and IAEA safeguards agreements.

Chinese embassy in Tehran emphasizes people-to-people ties at friendship reception



Participants watched a video on the recent military parade in Beijing marking the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The Chinese embassy in Tehran hosted members of the Iran-China Friendship Association for dinner on Monday after the Chinese envoy, Cong Peiwu, met with the association's secretary, Mehdi Naadi, and discussed bilateral ties for about 45 minutes.

The embassy told journalists covering the event that it was merely a reception and that several more meetings and gatherings are planned for the coming months. After Cong's private discussions with senior members of the association concluded, the crowd of several dozen Iranian citizens listened to the envoy and the secretary speak separately but harmoniously about the potential for stronger cooperation between Iran and China.

Friendship associations can be either governmental or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), depending on their structure, purpose, and funding. In China, many such as-

sociations, including the one related to Iran, have been established by the government as part of its diplomatic and cultural outreach efforts. However, the Tehran-based Iran-China Friendship Association was founded in the 1980s by a group of ordinary young Iranians who had returned to Iran after completing their secondary education in China.

Esmaeil Khazayi was one of these young Iranians. Now in his 60s, he went to China at age 18 to study medicine and spent 13 years in Beijing before returning to Iran as a urologist. "Nowadays, thousands of Iranian students study in China. But back then, I believe there were only about ten Iranian students there. I and four others joined the five students who had arrived before us, making us the second group of university students to ever study in China," he explained.

Khazayi said that over the past decades, ties between Iranians and Chinese have only grown stronger. "Back then, there were few foreign-

ers in China, and the country had not yet opened up to the world as it has now. The sight of West Asian foreigners was unusual to the Chinese people. But nowadays, whenever I visit China, I experience openness and friendliness from the people. It is amazing how much China has developed in such a relatively short time."

The event was held in honor of the 54th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Iran and China. The two ancient countries, however, have maintained cordial relations and engaged in trade for at least 2,000 years.

When speaking with various members of the Iran-China Friendship Association, many expressed a wish to receive the same level of support from the Iranian government that their Chinese counterparts enjoy. The association's secretary, Naadi, who after his meeting with the envoy shared his admiration for the ambassador's "knowledge and depth", said there are many ways the Iranian government could utilize the association.

"Members of the association are all professionals who have built their careers over many years. Their affinity for China stems both from their positive personal experiences there and from the benefits they believe close cooperation with China can bring to Iran."

Naadi claimed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the association helped facilitate negotiations that enabled Iran to quickly import millions of doses of vaccines from China. "There are many other ways we can assist officials. We will not hesitate to do anything that serves Iran's national interests."

Besides China's envoy, the coun-

try's military and political attachés also attended Monday's event. They did not give interviews to journalists but spent most of the time engaging with the guests. Near the end of the event, the ambassador himself shared his thoughts about the evening and the association with the Tehran Times.

"I was very impressed by the insightful ideas of our friends at the Iran-China Friendship Association," Cong asserted. "Our discussions tonight made us look forward to advancing cooperation between the two countries."



China's ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu

I asked the ambassador why the embassy feels the need to emphasize ties with an NGO when the governments of Iran and China already have a close relationship. He replied, "People-to-people interactions are always very important. They help the people of both countries gain a better understanding of the situation and build mutual trust. We always value such efforts and believe that, alongside diplomatic exchanges, they should be strengthened to make the ties even friendlier."

FM Araghchi sees off newly-appointed envoys to Africa



TEHRAN – Iran's newly appointed ambassadors to Côte d'Ivoire and Madagascar held separate meetings with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday before departing to take up their posts.

Gholamreza Mir-Mohammad Migoony, who will serve as ambassador to Abidjan, presented his proposed work plan to the minister and discussed priorities for his mission. Araghchi underscored

the importance of Iran's relations with African nations, stressing the need to expand cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in the fields of trade and economic development. Migoony has previously served as Iran's ambassador to Niger and as Director General of Building and Support Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a separate meeting, Alireza Sabzali, Iran's new



envoy to Madagascar, briefed the foreign minister on his agenda for his upcoming assignment in Antananarivo. Araghchi wished him success and emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral ties with Madagascar, with a special focus on economic and commercial relations. Sabzali previously headed the Department of Policies and Economic Programs at the Ministry's Economic Diplomacy division.

The Foreign Minister reiterated that boosting relations with African nations remains a central priority for Iran's foreign policy, highlighting the continent's economic potential and the importance of strengthening partnerships through diplomacy.



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani (L) meets with Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman during a visit to Riyadh on September 16, 2025.

Iran continues push for economic entanglement with East

FM Araghchi turns up at SCO summit to promote new ‘economic order’ in West Asia

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – After completing a state visit to China that was hailed as having created great “economic opportunities” for Iran, the Pezeshkian administration is now eying more projects with neighboring countries, particularly the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The second edition of the Iran-ECO Conference was held in Tehran on Tuesday. Iran’s Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, attended the event alongside several other Iranian diplomats and officials who joined Pakistani, Turkish, Afghan, Azeri, as well as Tajik, Kazakh and Kyrgyz dignitaries at the Tehran venue.

At the opening ceremony, Araghchi urged member countries to prioritize the scope and execution of their cooperation agreements.

“The current level of cooperation does not match the enormous capacities of the ECO region whatsoever,” the top Iranian diplomat said. “The ECO can become a successful model of multilateral economic collaboration among neighboring countries.”

“Iran believes ECO can and should play a leading and effective role in shaping the new economic architecture of the region,” he added.

Araghchi also highlighted the strategic importance of cooperation with Central, South, and West Asian states, emphasizing that such partnerships would



FM Araghchi shakes hands with participants of Iran-ECO Conference on September 16, 2025

bring undeniable added value to all ECO member countries.

Iranians have endured economic hardships due to Western sanctions for years. Since 2022, the country has increasingly lost confidence in the possibility of mending ties with the West and having the embargoes lifted. The final blow came in June of this year, when American and Israeli forces attacked Iranian nuclear, civilian, and military infrastructure amid a diplomatic process aimed at limiting the country’s nuclear program in exchange for the removal of sanctions.

The push for closer and more comprehensive economic ties with China, Russia, neighboring countries, as well as some nations in Asia, Africa, and South America, began during the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi, who tragically

died in a helicopter crash last summer. His successor, Masoud Pezeshkian, shares a similar outlook on international relations but initially appeared more willing to give engagement with the Western states another chance, after they unexpectedly withdrew from negotiations in 2022. Since the June war, however, he seems to have accelerated efforts to pivot further toward the East and the Global South. At the same time, he has stated that he remains open to diplomacy with Western countries—provided they are genuinely willing to engage at the negotiating table.

When the Tehran Times interviewed ECO Secretary-General Asad Majid Khan last year, he stated that the bloc possesses vast untapped potential, despite its 40-year history. But he also said that member countries now

have a greater incentive to utilize ECO’s capabilities. This incentive has grown significantly in recent months, particularly during the Trump administration, according to Economic expert Majid Shakeri.

“The United States used to be what we call the ‘demander of last resort’, but in international trade,” the expert said. The demander of last resort is an economic actor that steps in to sustain demand when the private sector is unable or unwilling to do so, helping to stabilize the economy during downturns. The U.S. played this role for other countries, meaning they could always rely on Washington as a dependable trade and economic partner.

“The economic order established after WWII, and particularly after the fall of the Soviet Union, was largely centered on the United States. However, this order has gradually eroded over the years. Today, the U.S. not only shows little interest in purchasing foreign products, but it also punishes those who don’t import American goods with aggressive tariff policies,” Shakeri explained.

This evolving situation has compelled countries worldwide to seek alternatives. Iran can be one of these alternatives for each member of the ECO. “Even if our ties with the West were frictionless, Iran would still need to diversify its economic partners, just like all other countries in the world today.”

The OIC’s sovereign deficit and Iran’s model of political agency

From Page 1 ► Its repeated recourse to declarations, communiqués, and calls for unity—while symbolically potent—reveals a profound incapacity to transform ethical affirmations into concrete political agency.

The OIC’s chronic failures are symptomatic of a sovereign deficit rooted in its unwillingness or inability to enact the constitutive gestures of collective political subjectivity. Until the OIC moves beyond ritualized speech acts and embraces the constituent logic of politics—namely, the explicit naming of adversaries and the implementation of actionable interventions—its claims to genuine political agency will remain suspended.

The recent summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, convened swiftly in Doha following the Israeli attack on Qatar, provides a poignant frame to question the collective agency of the Muslim world’s foremost intergovernmental organization. This extraordinary session symbolized both a moment of ethical affirmation and of procedural stasis, illuminating a broader crisis in the OIC’s capacity to enact sovereignty. Palestine, as the emblematic case of contested sovereignty and enduring colonial violence, underscores the fundamental paradox faced by the OIC: the divergence between rhetorical declarations and tangible political intervention.

The attack on Qatar, targeting Hamas officials engaged in ceasefire negotiations, was unanimously condemned by the OIC member states as a violation of international law and a threat to regional stability. The final communiqué articulated strong solidarity with Qatar and reaffirmed support for Palestinian rights, calling for sanctions and legal proceedings against Israel. Yet, this summit, like many before it, largely entailed a series of declarative statements and calls for unity—powerful in rhetoric but markedly constrained in operative political capacity.

The limit of ritualized sovereignty

At the core of this argument is a categorical and conceptual error that has long constrained the OIC’s political efficacy: the mistaken belief that sovereignty can be affirmed without being enacted. From a politico-theological perspective, sovereignty is not a mere principle or symbolic status; it exists only insofar as it is exercised. To speak of sovereignty without the capacity to assert, enforce, and defend collective interests is to engage in an empty performative, a ritualized speech act that cannot produce the effects it names.

The OIC’s extensive use of declarations and communiqués mirrors this dynamic. Each session and summit are an opportunity for member states to reiterate ethical commitments to Muslim solidarity and justice, to condemn injustices inflicted upon Muslim populations, notably Palestinians, Rohingya, Kashmiris, and others, and to voice calls for peace and humanitarian relief. Yet these

well-intentioned pronouncements rarely translate into decisive political action that challenges hegemonic powers, mobilizes resources effectively, or asserts collective sovereignty. Instead, they remain trapped in a procedural loop where words proliferate but agency is suspended.

The sovereign deficit of collective political subjectivity

This predicament reflects a deeper sovereign deficit: a reluctance—or structural inability—to form and exercise genuine collective political subjectivity. The OIC is a coalition of deeply heterogeneous states with varying geopolitical interests, economic capacities, and alliances. This plurality produces chronic fragmentation, hindering cohesive decision-making and empowering powerful member states to dilute collective will. Consequently, the OIC finds itself unable to perform the constitutive political acts required for sovereignty: defining a common enemy, enacting sanctions, launching multilateral interventions, or creating binding obligations.

Political subjectivity, in this context, refers to the formation of a collective actor capable of political will and action. The OIC’s performative acts of solidarity are undermined by the absence of a unified and sovereign “we” that can act decisively against threats to its members or shared values. Its official discourse frequently demands “unity,” but this unity is rarely enacted beyond symbolic consensus, remaining in the realm of mere words rather than material power or intervention.

Learning from Iran: Enacting sovereignty through constitutive acts

One of the clearest contrasts to the OIC’s inertial rhetoric is Iran’s response to the Israeli aggression and regional geopolitics. Iran, despite considerable international isolation and sanctions, has demonstrated a form of political agency that transcends declarative language. Its responses—including support for Resistance movements, open condemnation of aggressors, and concrete political and military actions—exemplify the enactment of sovereignty as constitutive political action.

From Iran’s politico-theological perspective, sovereignty is inseparable from action; it is rooted in an existential commitment to resist oppression and to perform justice beyond mere words. This sovereign posture involves both naming adversaries explicitly and mobilizing means to contest them, rejecting the passivity embedded in ritualized political language. For Iran, the legitimacy of political subjectivity depends on this concrete enactment of sovereignty rather than abstract affirmation.

The OIC, therefore, must learn from such constitutive political agency. To claim political relevance in the 21st century, the OIC cannot afford the luxury of symbolic reiterations detached from operational power and coherent political strategy. Its



The Qatari Emir speaking at the Arab-Islamic Summit on Monday

credibility—and indeed the survival of its normative mission—hinges on overcoming its procedural inertia and formulating a politics of sovereignty that is performative, confrontational, and decisive.

The OIC’s rhetorical devices—declarations, joint communiqués, and calls for unity—often serve as empty gestures that paper over deep political divisions. While they perform a ritual of solidarity on behalf of Muslim unity, they fail to impact realpolitik or address the urgent crises with the urgency required. This contributes to a perception of the OIC as a body of symbolic grandeur but practical impotence.

Moreover, this rhetorical reliance leads to a paradox where ethical affirmation is separated from political agency. The OIC declares support for justice and condemns aggression, yet hesitates or refrains from identifying clear adversaries or engaging in coercive political measures. This hesitation signals a systemic flaw: an organization that limits itself to declarative expressions is destined to remain a spectator rather than a player in international conflict and cooperation.

1. Naming adversaries: The OIC must move beyond generalized condemnations to explicitly identify actors whose policies violate the collective ethical order. This includes naming states or entities responsible for egregious human rights abuses, occupation, or aggression without evasion or ambiguity.

2. Implementing actionable interventions: Words must be backed by coordinated political, economic, or diplomatic measures. This could encompass sanctions, mediation initiatives with enforceable mechanisms, humanitarian aid deployment with oversight, or coordinated defense policies respecting international law.

3. Constituting collective political will: The OIC needs to overcome internal divisions through institutional reforms that balance sovereignties but enable binding decisions. Strengthening mechanisms for political coherence, accountability, and solidarity will transform the organization from a declarative forum into a true political actor.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Amouzad wins gold at 2025 World Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Rahman Amouzad won a gold medal by defeating Japan’s Kotaro Kiyooka 10-0 in the final of the 65 kg category at the 2025 World Wrestling Championships.

Amouzad had previously lost to Kiyooka 10-3 in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

American wrestler Real Woods and Umi-djon Jalolov of Uzbekistan won two bronze medals.

On the path to gold, Amouzad defeated Kyrgyzstan’s Ikromzhon Khadzhimurodov 13-0, American Real Woods 12-1, and Indian Sujeet Kalkal 6-5. He then beat Canada’s Peyman Babaei 5-0 in the semifinals.

Amirali Azarpira also won a silver medal at the 97kg after losing to American wrestler Kyle Snyder 4-2 in the final bout of 97kg.

Akhmed Tazhudinov of Bahrain and Arash Yoshida of Japan won two bronze medals in the weight class.

Iran handed tough draw at 2025 FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran are drawn in Group D of the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup.

Team Melli (FIFA Rank 9) are grouped along with Brazil (FIFA Rank 1), Italy (FIFA Rank 7) and Panama (FIFA Rank 79).

The 16 teams are divided into four groups of four. The top two teams from each group will advance to the knockout phase, comprising quarter-finals, semi-finals, a third-place play-off, and the final match.

Full 2025 FIFA Futsal World Cup Draw

Group A: Philippines, Poland, Morocco, Argentina

Group B: Spain, Thailand, Colombia, Canada

Group C: Portugal, Tanzania, Japan, New Zealand

Group D: Brazil, Iran, Italy, Panama

The FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup Philippines 2025 marks the first time that women’s futsal will be showcased on the global stage.

The first-ever World Cup will take place in Pasig City, Manila, the Philippines from Nov. 21 to Dec. 7.

Iran beat Tunisia at 2025 Volleyball World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Tunisia 3-1 (23–25, 25–20, 25–23, 25–16) at the 2025 FIVB Men’s Volleyball World Championship.

Poriya Hossein Khanzadeh led Iran with 21 points.

Iran, who had lost to Egypt 3-1 in their opening match, will face the Philippines on Thursday.

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 wins two more medals at 2025 World Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN – Mohammad Nokhodi and Amirhossein Firoozpour won two more medals for Iran at the 2025 World Wrestling Championships on Monday.

Nokhodi defeated Azerbaijan’s Dzhabrail Gadzhiev 4-2 in the 79kg. Bahrain’s Khidir Saipudinov also won a bronze medal in the weight class.

Greek wrestler Georgios Kougioumtsidis beat American wrestler Levi Haines 3-2 in the gold medal match.

Another freestyler Firoozpour defeated Kazakhstan’s Kamil Kurugliyev 4-0 in the bronze medal match of 92kg. Azerbaijan’s Osman Nurmagomedov also seized a bronze medal.

American Trent Hidlay defeated Amanula Gadzhimagomedov (UWW) 13-10 in the gold medal match.

Iranian freestyle wrestlers Amirhossein Zare (125kg), Ahmad Javan (61kg) and Kamran Ghasempour (86kg) had won a gold, a silver and a bronze medal, respectively.

The 2025 World Wrestling Championships are being held in Zagreb, Croatia from Sept. 13 to 21.

Women’s handball Portuguese coach Seabra arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s handball team head coach Ana Cristiana Teixeira Seabra arrive in Tehran, capital of Iran on Tuesday.

Seabra, 48, penned a two-year deal with the Iran handball federation.

She has represented his national team 215 times and as a player has played in the Spanish side Club Balonmano Atlético Guardés and AA Sao Pedro do Sul in her homeland.

She will lead Team Melli in the 2025 World Women’s Handball Championship in Netherlands.

The Iranian women are drawn in Group B along with Hungary, Switzerland and Senegal.

Iran defeat Syria at 2025 Asian U17 Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran beat Syria 44-22 in the 1st Asian Men’s U17 Handball Championship on Tuesday.

Iran are drawn in Group D along with Syria, Republic of Korea and the Maldives.

The young Persians, who defeated Maldives 65-4 in their opening match, are scheduled to meet Korea on Wednesday.

The competition started in Amman, Jordan, on Sept. 15 and will run until Sept. 25.

This championship marks the inaugural continental competition for the U17 men’s category in Asia.

It also serves as a qualification tournament for the 1st IHF Men’s U17 Handball World Championship, scheduled to take place in the Morocco from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1.

The top two teams from the Asian Championship will qualify for the World Championship.

The championship was previously scheduled to be held in July, but was postponed due to the conflict between Iran and Israel.

Dairy exports jump 32% in Q1

TEHRAN – Iran's dairy exports rose sharply in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21 –June 21), driven by the use of subsidized raw milk, even as domestic consumption of dairy products declined.

Official data showed exports of dairy products climbed 24 percent by volume and 32 percent by value compared with the same period a year earlier, Tasnim news agency reported.

Total shipments reached 171,868 tons worth \$280.7 million, up from 138,939 tons valued at \$213 million in the first quarter of 1403 (March–June 2024).

Industry officials said the growth was largely fueled by dairy products made from raw milk produced with subsidized animal feed, imported at a preferential exchange rate of 285,000 rials per U.S. dollar.

The subsidies were intended to keep consumer prices affordable, but weak oversight of pricing outside four regulated items has led to falling dairy consumption at home.

At the same time, the lower production



costs have made exports highly profitable, bolstering Iran's position among the world's leading dairy exporters.

Iraq remained the top market, importing 93,000 tons worth \$110 million, which accounted for 54 percent of the volume and 39 percent of the value of Iran's dairy exports. Pakistan followed with 25,587 tons worth \$34.8 million, while the United Arab Emirates ranked third by volume at 8,000 tons. Russia was the third-largest market by value at \$32 million.

Iran exports \$800m in water, power engineering services in a year

TEHRAN – Iran exported around \$800 million worth of water and power engineering services in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), the Energy Ministry said, highlighting growing regional demand for the country's technical expertise.

Mohammad-Vali Alaedini, head of the ministry's international affairs office, told an export conference on Tuesday that an Iranian company had recently won a contract for water projects in a regional country.

He said the ministry aims to ease the participation of domestic firms in overseas tenders for water and electricity projects.

Alaedini noted that Iranian equipment and engineering services in the power sector have already been supplied to many countries in the region at a high standard, boosting the country's profile as a provider of technical services.

At the same event, senior business figures pressed for reforms in foreign exchange pol-

icies to support non-oil exports. Payam Bagheri, vice president of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said the Central Bank of Iran's currency policies currently override trade strategies, limiting exporters' competitiveness.

Bagheri described exports as the "engine of economic growth and social welfare," stressing that Iran must shift away from a reliance on crude sales. He said the average value per ton of imports is nearly four times higher than that of exports, underscoring the low value-added nature of most Iranian shipments.

He urged a pivot toward non-oil exports with higher value-added content to achieve sustainable development, identifying the water and power industries as flagbearers of this strategy. Iran's power sector, once entirely dependent on foreign technology four decades ago, has now emerged as a leading industry globally, he added.

MAPNA starts building first H-class gas power plant

TEHRAN – Iran has begun construction of its first H-class gas power plant in the capital's Tarasht district, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Tuesday, as the country presses ahead with expanding power generation capacity.

Speaking at the inauguration of new development projects by MAPNA Group at the Parand combined-cycle plant, Aliabadi said the Tarasht facility will include four units.

He added that several new power units with a combined capacity of 183 megawatts have recently come online in Neka, Chadormalu, Yazd, Kerman, Golgozar, Khorramabad, and Bushehr.

Smaller plants have also been inaugurated in Andimeshk with 30 megawatts of capacity and in Kerman with 42 megawatts, he said.

The minister praised the Parand plant as a showcase for Iran's power industry, noting



its role in testing homegrown technologies. Originally built by the government and later transferred to MAPNA as part of debt repayment, the plant has since been upgraded into a combined-cycle facility and was the first to launch a project investment fund with public participation.

Iran exports advanced gas turbine to Russia for first time

TEHRAN – Iran has exported an advanced gas turbine to Russia for the first time, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Tuesday, marking a milestone for the country's power industry despite Western sanctions.

Speaking at a national event for exporters of engineering services and power equipment, Aliabadi said the shipment included a domestically designed turbine regarded as one of the most advanced products of Iran's electricity sector.

He added that Iran has also exported generators and other electrical equipment to Russia, and carried out aircraft engine repairs.

The minister described exports as most valuable when tied to homegrown technology that generates added value.

"For years, we have relied on mineral sales and crude exports, but exports are only a source of pride when they create value and deliver innovation," he said.

Iran, Pakistan sign 13 co-op MOUs in joint economic committee meeting

TEHRAN – Iran and Pakistan inked 13 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) at the end of the 22nd meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, in Tehran on Tuesday.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the meeting, in which the MOUs were signed, Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeh, who is the Iranian chair of the committee, stated: "These agreements will pave the way for achieving \$10 billion in trade between the two countries."

The minister added that the 22nd meeting of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Committee was held again after a three-year hiatus and concluded successfully.

At the end of the ceremony, the minutes of cooperation between the railways of Iran and Pakistan were signed by Jabar-Ali Zakari, Head of Iranian Railways, and Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, Chairman of Pakistan Railways.

A new chapter in Iran-Pakistan railway co-op, boosting transit on ECO rail route

The head of Iranian Railways in a meeting with the chairman of Pakistan Railways, announced Iran's readiness to increase the cargo transportation capacity between the two countries.

Jabar-Ali Zakari, during the meeting with the chairman of Pakistan Railways, who had come to Tehran to participate in the 22nd meeting of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Committee, emphasized the necessity of strengthening rail diplomacy, increasing rail-based transit, and developing rail transportation between the two countries.

He announced the readiness of Iranian Railways to increase the cargo transport capacity between the two nations.

The Chairman of Pakistan Railways, in this meeting, expressed his satisfaction with the strategy of Iran Railways to increase rail transit in the region, stating: "The current level of rail transportation between the two countries is lower than the actual capacity, and Pakistan is ready to resolve the existing obstacles by improving infrastructure and supplying wagons."

Mazhar Ali Shah, referring to the commencement of operations to rebuild the Taftan-Quetta railway line, said: "This project, aimed at increasing the speed and capacity of trains, will become operational by early 2028."

The 22nd meeting of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Committee commenced in Tehran on Monday, co-chaired by Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadeh, and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan.

In her opening remarks, Minister Sadeh hailed the meeting as a significant step towards enhancing bilateral economic and commercial ties.

She announced that a roadmap for achieving a \$10 billion bilateral trade target would be finalized and signed by the relevant ministers within the next three months.

"This goal reflects the strong political will of both nations to deepen cooperation," Sadeh stated. She emphasized that reaching this target would require strengthening banking relations and establishing secure, mutually agreed financial channels.

Highlighting the longstanding fraternal relations between the two nations, Sadeh expressed hope that the meeting would pave the way for expanded collaboration in economic, trade, banking, transit, energy, agricul-



tural, and cultural fields.

She also thanked Pakistan for its supportive stance towards Iran at bilateral, regional, and international levels.

A major focus of the discussions was on improving transport infrastructure.

Minister Sadeh stressed the necessity of developing border facilities, increasing parking capacity at the Mirjaveh and Taftan border crossings, and constructing the Zahedan-Taftan-Quetta railway line.

Other vital projects include launching shipping routes between the ports of Karachi (including Port Qasim) and Gwadar in Pakistan, and Chabahar and Bandar Abbas in Iran, she said.

The recent launching of direct Tehran-Islamabad flights was noted as a positive step, with both sides agreeing on the need to increase flight destinations and enhance aviation cooperation, the minister added.

In a significant regional development, Sadeh revealed plans to launch a monthly ECO train on the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route, calling it a strategic regional rail project.

Addressing the same meeting, Pakistani Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan expressed his country's readiness to expand cooperation with Iran in the economic, technical, and regional fields.

Echoing the sentiment of cooperation, the minister emphasized the deep historical, cultural, and religious bonds between the two countries.

"The people and government of Pakistan stand with the people of Iran and seek a shared future based on prosperity, security, and development," he declared.

Minister Khan acknowledged that current trade volumes still fall short of the true potential.

He identified specialized committees, joint chambers of commerce, and the joint committee as key to boosting exchanges.

He proposed collaboration in new areas such as border markets, technical and engineering services, livestock, and agriculture, offering to share Pakistan's expertise in irrigation and modern agricultural technology.

Referring to the extensive capacities of the two countries in the energy sector, Pakistan's minister of commerce stated that solar and wind energy could form the basis of strong partnerships for sustainable development in both countries and the region.

He also identified transportation as one of the key areas of cooperation, adding that given the existing capacities in road, rail, and sea transport, developing a transportation network could turn Iran into a gateway to South Asia and West Asia, thereby strengthening the regional roles of both countries.

Jam Kamal Khan further highlighted the importance of developing new technologies, innovation, and the digital economy, stating that the establishment of innovation centers would not

agreements, which could help reduce tariff barriers and create stability in economic relations.

Referring to diplomatic and economic efforts to enhance the level of economic relations between the two countries, he stated that revising the base prices of certain goods, including construction materials, and reducing customs tariffs for products such as powdered milk, detergent powder, steel sheets, etc., demonstrate the effectiveness of the economic diplomacy between the two countries. He added that it is now essential to continue this upward trend with serious determination and will.

Hassanzadeh continued that establishing joint banking channels, developing joint investments in tourism, production, and trade, and facilitating access to information for economic activists are among the measures that can bring the level of economic relations between the two countries closer to their true potential.

He emphasized that Iran has significant capacities in technical and engineering services, refinery construction, food industries, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, academia, the development of science and technology parks, knowledge-based initiatives, and the establishment of industrial towns and free zones. The Iran Chamber, as the representative of the private sector, is ready to facilitate the realization of these goals for both countries, paving the way for a bright future for the economies of Iran and Pakistan.

Also 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, Pakistani'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.

Islamabad ready to expand economic, technical, regional co-op with Tehran: Pakistani commerce minister

He expressed hope that this meeting, through tangible and constructive decisions, would strengthen strategic cooperation and achieve new heights in bilateral relations.

An Iran-Pakistan business forum was held in Tehran on the sidelines of the first day of the two countries' joint economic committee meeting on Monday.

The event was participated by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeh and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan.

Addressing the forum, the head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) stated that Iran's share of the Pakistani market is only three billion dollars per year, which is very insignificant. This gap clearly indicates the potential for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries.

Samad Hassanzadeh added that the relations between Iran and Pakistan, given the significant capacities of both nations, could serve as a model for regional cooperation.

Hassanzadeh noted that Pakistan, with a population of over 240 million and a growing economy, is one of the major strategic markets in the region.

He mentioned that the country's annual import volume is 70 billion dollars, of which Iran's share is only three billion dollars, which is very insignificant. This gap clearly highlights the potential for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries.

The head of the Iran Chamber emphasized that in this regard, the Iran Chamber has planned a series of targeted measures, including organizing trade delegations, holding joint exhibitions, and signing preferential trade

Connecting continents through BRI

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

KUNMING – The 2025 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road opened on Tuesday in Kunming, Yunnan Province, spotlighting a global platform that drives development, fosters co-operation, and promotes shared prosperity across continents.

The forum brought together more than 200 representatives from 87 countries, including international and regional organizations, as well as 165 media outlets, according to Chinese media.

The event provided a unique opportunity for dialogue among journalists, policymakers, and experts, reinforcing the media's critical role in shaping global understanding of development and international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Yu Shaoliang, president of the People's Daily, delivered a speech, stressing the importance of media in advancing the BRI. "The Belt and Road Initiative platform is important for multipolar development, humanitarian exchanges, and creating new opportunities for cooperation," he said. Yu added that journalists should strengthen ties, promote high-quality BRI infrastructure project, and fulfill their responsibility to report accurately on development achievements.

Participants emphasized that media organizations must act as both recorders and promoters of the Silk Road spirit upholding principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness among civilizations. They agreed that joint reporting initiatives across Yunnan and other regions in China would



help showcase the BRI's global impact and promote mutual understanding among peoples worldwide.

Transforming global development

Since its inception in 2013, the BRI has grown into a global public good, connecting Eurasia, Africa, Latin America, and beyond. More than 150 nations and 30 international organizations have joined the initiative, making it a truly global platform for cooperation. The BRI is designed around consultation, joint planning, and shared benefits, allowing partner countries to maximize the value of their resources, industrialize, and modernize infrastructure.

Experts at the forum noted that the BRI represents a modern model of win-win cooperation. Unlike traditional aid, China shares technology, know-how, and capital in ways that enable partner countries to increase the value of their natural and human resources. This approach contrasts with zero-sum frameworks, emphasizing that mutual prosperity strengthens global

stability and peace.

GGI and BRI cooperation

The forum took place against the backdrop of President Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative (GGI), proposed at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Plus meeting in Tianjin on Sept. 1, 2025.

Unveiling the GGI, Xi stressed the need for inclusive, cooperative, and high-quality international development, declaring, "We should continue to dismantle walls, not erect them; we should seek integration, not decoupling. We should advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and push for a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization."

The GGI reflects China's broader diplomatic philosophy of building a fairer global governance system while strengthening development cooperation. Forum speakers highlighted how the BRI, in alignment with GGI principles, provides practical tools for nations to collaborate, overcome development bottlenecks, and

pursue sustainable growth without creating dependency.

China-Iran cooperation under BRI

Before travelling to China to attend the SCO summit in Tianjin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to "serious and constructive cooperation" with China, particularly under the BRI framework. Undoubtedly, Iran's strategic location and active participation make it a vital partner in enhancing regional connectivity and trade, bridging Central Asia, the Middle East, and beyond.

Collaborative projects between China and Iran under the BRI include infrastructure development, energy cooperation, and logistics networks, reinforcing the goal of shared prosperity across Eurasia.

Media's role in shaping global dialogue

Jointly hosted by People's Daily, the CPC Yunnan Provincial Committee, and the People's Government of Yunnan Province, the 2025 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road reinforced the media's pivotal role in advancing the BRI. By fostering dialogue, showcasing achievements, and promoting high-quality cooperation, the forum demonstrated how the initiative continues to serve as a global platform for growth, cultural exchange, and lasting peace. With strengthened partnerships, inclusive policies, and the shared commitment of nations such as Iran, the BRI exemplifies a forward-looking model of win-win cooperation for the 21st century.

‘Gaza is burning’ amid Israel’s largest ground offensive

From page 1 ▶ The escalation followed a high-profile visit by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who signaled firm diplomatic backing for a harder line.

The operation has provoked unease inside Israel as well. Senior military figures and some ministers — notably military Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir — reportedly warned that a full urban conquest could imperil troops and the remaining captives, urging pursuit of a deal that would secure hostage releases rather than an all-out assault.

In an interview with the Israeli media outlet Ynet, opposition leader Yair Lapid blasted the campaign as “amateurish and sloppy,” denouncing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for sending soldiers and captives alike into danger without any defined politi-

cal objective.

Appearing in court on Tuesday after the incursion began, Netanyahu was confronted with the question: “Have you decided to sacrifice the ‘hostages’ to save yourself from prison?” He remained silent.

Humanitarian agencies say the offensive intensifies an already catastrophic squeeze on food, water, and medicine; the UN and health monitors warn that malnutrition deaths are rising amid dire conditions in southern “humanitarian” zones.

Israel's war on Gaza has killed almost 65,000 people and wounded over 165,000 since October 2023, according to Gaza health authorities. Thousands more are believed to be under the rubble.

UN Commission finds Israel waging genocide in Gaza

From page 1 ▶ It concluded that Israeli authorities and security forces committed four out of the five genocidal acts defined in the 1948 Genocide Convention:

- Killing Palestinians or forcing them to live in inhumane conditions that led to death
- Causing serious bodily or mental harm, including through torture, displacement, and sexual crime
- Deliberately imposing inhumane living conditions calculated to bring about physical destruction
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births

Failing just one of the five criteria, as listed in the Genocide Convention, passes the threshold of genocide. This inquiry found that the Israeli occupation regime has failed four.

The report emphasized that statements from Israeli civilian and military leaders, along with patterns of conduct by security forces, demonstrate a clear intent to de-

Air defenses ‘caused great confusion’ during Israeli raids on Hodeidah, Yemen says

Israel launched at least 12 airstrikes on Yemen's Hodeidah port on Tuesday, the latest in a campaign targeting Yemeni civilian sites and infrastructure.

The Israeli military alleged the port is used to transfer weapons “to carry out terrorist plots against the State of Israel and its allies.” War Minister Israel Katz said Yemen would “pay a heavy price for any attempt to attack the State of Israel.”

Yemeni Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said air defenses “caused great confusion for the enemy aircraft and forced some of their combat for-

mations to leave the airspace... and their penetration into the depth was thwarted.”

Ansarullah leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi has said Tel Aviv's attacks yield “no achievement” and just expose Israeli “criminality.”

The raid followed deadly attacks in Sanaa that killed over 30 journalists. After Israel's assassination of Yemen's prime minister and other senior officials last month, the Yemeni Armed Forces launched strikes on Ramon Airport and military sites in the Negev, vowing that their campaign in solidarity with the people of Gaza will not stop.”

Regional alliance crucial to counter Israel

From page 1 ▶ Nasrine Malik, the Guardian columnist, says Qatar was aiming to “cement its status as the Switzerland of the Middle East.” However, Qatar was surprisingly punished for services that it has been doing to silence the guns or settle disputes between antagonized nations. Probably, the soldiers of the United States - the chief patron of Israel - would have still been killed by the Taliban fighters until today if Qatar had not mediated. Or, many more Israeli hostages have been either killed during the regime's relentless attacks in Gaza or kept in Hamas's captivity.

Qatar's capital came under attack while it has been trying to save Israel from the Gaza quagmire that despite two years of cruel fighting has not been able to force Palestinian fighters to lay down their arms or give in to Israel's illegitimate demands.

Qatar also came under attack while it is ranked as the second-largest buyer of American weapons, just behind Saudi Arabia. Also, Qatar is widely considered the largest and most strategically vital U.S. security partner in the Persian Gulf.

Additionally, the tiny country's Al Udeid Air Base is the largest U.S. military base in

the Middle East. It hosts key U.S. commands: CENTCOM Forward, Air Force Central Command Forward, and Special Operations Command Central. Qatar has also invested over \$8 billion in developing this base for U.S. use.

All these things suggest that when it comes to Israel the United States is ready to sacrifice a close partner like Qatar. The attack on Doha serves as a wake-up call to other Persian Gulf Arab states. They have now realized that the United States is not a reliable partner. Most Probably, they have realized that the U.S. is a great cheater and only seeks to “milk” the rich Arab countries.

Israeli media say Washington gave the green light to the Israeli attack on Doha. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his close associates claim that they decided to attack Doha with no American authorization. But nobody believes it. If it was so, why didn't the Trump administration condemn the attack and just superficially announced that it is not happy with the event.

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

Israel uses Gaza-style raids on Yemeni journalists, Yemeni expert says

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Israeli airstrikes on offices of two Yemeni newspapers, 26 September and Yemen, have claimed the lives of 32 journalists and media staff. The attacks, which Israel has acknowledged, are seen as deliberate attempts to silence the media and intimidate the Yemeni people, drawing widespread condemnation from analysts and human rights observers.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Abdulrahman Rajeh, a Yemeni journalist and analyst, described the attacks as a grave violation of international law. He stressed that the strikes targeted purely civilian locations, with journalists performing their professional duties, making this a clear example of war crime.

“The areas hit were entirely non-military,” Rajeh said. “Journalists and media institutions have the right to protection under international law. Targeting them is a blatant attack on freedom of the press and a crime against humanity.”

Political motives behind the strikes

Rajeh explained that the attacks were politically motivated, aimed at undermining the voice of the Ansarallah movement. He said Israel seeks to instill fear

among the Yemeni population to intimidate the military and civilian supporters, effectively attempting to halt Yemen's defensive operations.

“These are not isolated incidents,” he added. “Israel has previously targeted civilian infrastructure in Yemen, including the ports of Hodeidah and Salif, power plants, and fuel stations, resulting in dozens of civilian casualties. The victims have never had any military affiliation.”

Parallels with Gaza

Rajeh drew parallels between the ongoing situation in Yemen and the Israeli attacks in Gaza. “What we are witnessing in Yemen mirrors the events in Gaza: civilians and non-military areas are being extensively targeted, leading to massive casualties,” he said. “The attack on our journalist colleagues is just one example of this inhumane strategy.”

He warned that global silence over these attacks emboldens Israel to continue such illegal actions. “The pattern seen in Gaza has now been transferred to Yemen, demonstrating Israel's disregard for international law and ethical norms,” Rajeh emphasized.

Intimidation and civilian fear

According to Rajeh, the ulti-

mate goal of these strikes is intimidation. “Israel wants to send a message: if we cannot silence your military, we will kill civilians in a horrific manner,” he said. Yet, he stressed that such atrocities will not stop Yemen's military operations. On the contrary, the journalist said, they strengthen public support for the Yemeni army and prompt calls for decisive retaliation.

Solidarity with Gaza

The analyst noted that Yemeni public support for Gaza continues unabated. “Gaza is truly isolated and without external support, which is why the Yemeni people feel deep solidarity with its population. The recent mass protests in Yemen, numbering in the millions, are unprecedented and demonstrate unwavering support for both Gaza and the Yemeni resistance.”

Impact on press freedom

Rajeh warned of serious implications for press freedom across the region. “Targeting journalists and independent media outlets threatens freedom of expression. Media organizations must not remain silent—they have a duty to report on these atrocities,” he pointed out.

He criticized international organizations and governments for their muted response. “Had such

Trump confirms killing three Venezuelans, says ‘We knocked off three boats’

President Donald Trump announced on Monday that U.S. military forces had once again targeted a vessel allegedly linked to Venezuelan drug traffickers, killing three people in international waters, in what Washington describes as a broader campaign against “narcoterrorists.”

“We knocked off actually three boats, but you saw two,” Trump told reporters on Tuesday.

Legal scholars, human-rights groups, and lawmakers have questioned the strikes' legality, noting the earlier September 2 strike that killed 11 and warning that summary use of lethal force without clear evidence or congressional authorization risks extrajudicial killings and regional destabilization.

Caracas has reacted with fury. President Nicolás Maduro de-

nounced the strikes as “a military and diplomatic aggression,” charging that Washington is manufacturing justifications to pressure Caracas and even pointing to alleged regional threats and U.S. troop movements.

“They fabricate excuses with lies to justify the attack,” he said, describing the strikes as part of an effort to push for regime change.

113 historical, cultural relics recovered in Fereydun-Kenar



TEHRAN—Mohammadreza Kordan, a police commander in charge of Mazandaran cultural heritage protection, announced the discovery of 113 pieces of historical and cultural objects in Fereydun-Kenar county, Mazandaran province.

According to Mehr news agency, He said that following a report from honorary heritage guardians that an individual with a known identity was keeping historical objects in his private home in Fereydun-Kenar county, officers from the Conservation Unit, in cooperation with the police and in coordination with the judicial authority, visited the location and succeeded in discovering and

seizing 113 pieces of historical objects.

He added that the discovered objects include gold, silver and copper coins, necklaces, earrings, daggers and old stones belonging to different historical periods and have significant cultural and archaeological value.

Kordan explained that in this operation, three suspects were arrested and introduced to the Fereydun-Kenar Police and the Public and Revolutionary Court for technical investigations and legal proceedings.

In the end, he appreciated the effective cooperation of the Prosecutor's Office and the Fereydun-Kenar Police Command in carrying out this operation.

Persian carpets, among the most beautiful in the world



TEHRAN--Persian carpets and rugs are among the most beautiful in the world and a trip to Iran is incomplete without buying a Persian carpet for your home.

Here are a few tips to help you choose a Persian carpet or rug that is best suited to your home and more importantly your budget, www.iranvisitor.com reported.

Variety: Different regions of Iran have their own traditional and modern carpets on offer. Generally, carpets are named after the city, town or village that they were made in. For instance, Persian rugs are further classified as Kerman, Kashan, Tabriz, Serapi, Heriz, Sultanabad and many more Persian towns and villages.

The carpets have a design that is distinct and draws inspiration from the flora and fauna of that area.

Kilims or tribal rugs made by nomadic tribesmen have rectilinear or abstract geometrical designs and are another less expensive option that you could explore. Once you decide which type of carpet or rug appeals to you, narrowing down on a suitable option becomes easier.

Handmade versus machine made: This is a big factor in determining the price of a carpet. Needless to say, the handmade ones are more expensive. Take a look at the back of the carpet from the corner to determine its make; if the patterns of the knots are regular, then it is machine made while those of a handmade carpet will be a bit irregular.

The knot count: Gereh or the number of knots per square meter is an important factor in assigning a price tag to a Persian carpet. The rule of thumb is that the more knots per square meter, the finer the carpet.

You may turn the carpet over and count the knots yourself. However, most prominent carpet

stores have the count listed and typically this would be 10,000, 40,000, 90,000, 160,000 and 250,000 knots per square meter. If you are buying an antique carpet then do not take the gereh factor into account as antique carpets have other criteria that must also be considered.

Remember that Persian rugs are a piece of art: This will help you appreciate the time and effort that goes into designing each carpet and rug. Also, make sure that you like the look, feel and color of the carpet. Urge the shopkeeper to spread it out so that you can appreciate the design and layout before you take it home. More importantly, visualize how it would fit in to your lifestyle and décor back home.

Explore your options: Shop around before you make a decision. Visit different stores to check out designs, styles, sizes and more importantly prices. Recently, there has been a spurt of online buying options for rugs and carpets, but the touch and feel factor is important in such a purchase, so do not take the shorter route in this case.

Once you've made your purchase and are wondering how to take care of your latest buy, here are some tips on how you can keep that carpet or rug in good condition for years to come.

Use a rug pad beneath your carpet, particularly if it is an antique or expensive. This not only maintains alignment but also prevents wear and tear.

The use of furniture slides if you must keep furniture on your carpet is recommended to prevent depressions and damage from occurring.

Spread your carpet out in the sun. An annual airing of the carpet will get rid of any damage by moths and wet weather.

Regularly rotate your carpet or rug, inspect the underside for moth damage, vacuum it or give it a beating with a wooden paddle to get rid of dust.

National Meteorite Secretariat launched in Zarand

TEHRAN—Permanent office of National Meteorite Secretariat was inaugurated in Zarand, Kerman province, as one of the origins of celestial gemstones.

The inauguration ceremony was held on Monday, participated by officials of the Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Iran (GSI), Zarand governor, deputy head of Kerman Cultural Heritage Department, chancellors of universities and administrative managers of Zarand, IRNA reported.

Zarand Governor Hemmat Izadi said: “We must seek to create new ideas and creative activities in order to attract capital for the region, and attracting tourists is one of the important methods that we must vigorously pursue.”

He added that the fact that Zarand is being introduced today as an important meteorite center in the country indicates efforts that will be fruitful in the short term and can certainly show themselves more in the medium term.

Izadi mentioned the launch of the National Meteorite Secretariat as an important step in organizing related promotional and commercial spaces, adding that creating a platform for holding local and national markets in Zarand, promoting the purchase and sale of jewelry, gemstones, and meteorites, and examining, identifying, and issuing meteorite identification certificates has begun in Zarand city by a strong scientific committee with the support



of professors from reputable universities.

He mentioned holding training courses, field trips, and meteorite searches, as well as setting up a specialized workshop for cutting celestial gemstones in Zarand in cooperation with government agencies, scientific and academic centers, and the Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration of Iran, Department of Environment, and Cultural Heritage Department in collaboration with Islamic Azad University of Zarand, as other measures being taken.

Also, Mohammad Eslami, head of the Zarand Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, said that the secretariat will soon introduce a registration site to register interested parties from all over the country.

Zarand County, as a pioneer in extensive meteorite activities, including holding a national festival and launching a free meteorite market, as well as

tage Department Mohammad Eslami, Hemmati appreciated the efforts made in holding the first meteorite festival in Zarand successfully. “The successful holding of this festival, with the dynamic participation of activists of these sectors from different regions of the country, and the reflections of this event, which led to the visibility of other tourism capabilities, including the geotourism area of Zarand and the existence of traces of the life of dinosaurs as the largest and oldest prehistoric animals, has created a double duty for us to help together so that Zarand city and Kerman province can benefit maximally from the results of such an event.”

“This measure showed that we have such a big capacity in our country. If it is planned well for drawing tourists, it will bring more benefits for the city, province and even the whole country.”

Eslami, for his part, said, “We sought to open a new window for the tourism industry, which brought good results through holding a meteorite market.”

He added that Kerman Cultural Heritage Department has conducted significant measures for turning Zarand into a pilot geopark across the country.

“We will be gradually witnessing to presence of activists from all over the world in Zarand. This will draw many tourists to the city and Kerman province.”

Mount Sabalan, the sacred gravity in Iran

TEHRAN--Contrary to common belief, Iran boasts a mountainous terrain enriched by the Alpide belt, giving rise to the Alborz and Zagros mountain ranges that span from northwest to southeast. These rugged landscapes not only offer awe-inspiring natural wonders but also hold anthropological attractions, igniting a profound sense of adventure within you.

Nestled in Iran's northwestern expanse, Mount Sabalan shines as a genuine treasure. This semi-active volcano serves as a challenging destination for mountaineers and a sanctuary for nature aficionados and folklore enthusiasts alike. Join us on a virtual odyssey to uncover the marvels of Mount Sabalan, from its majestic peak and scenic lake to its integral role in local culture, and every captivating facet in between, tasteiran.net wrote.

Mount Sabalan stands at an elevation of 4,811 meters (15,784 feet), making it Iran's third-highest peak. Situated in the Alborz mountain range, it holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Ardabil, who affectionately refer to it as Sultan Savalan, meaning “Sabalan, the Emperor”.

According to the legends this sacred mountain was the site where the ancient Persian prophet, Zoroaster, received a divine revelation. Some even believe that Zoroaster's final resting place lies near the mesmerizing Crater Lake

atop.

Considering Sabalan as a pilgrimage site is still a common belief among locals as they swear to this mountain. The spiritual aura surrounding Sabalan adds to its allure and captivates the hearts of native and non-native mountaineers alike.

At the lofty foothills and valleys surrounding the magnificent Sabalan a pastoralist tribe of nomads known for their distinctive lifestyle and rich cultural heritage have roamed for generations. The Shahsevan tribal nomads of Iran share an inseparable connection with the imposing pres-

ence of Mount Sabalan. Shahsevan means “Devotees to the King”, Shahsevan was a title bestowed on this tribe as they were truly supporters of Safavid kings (1501-1736).

Mount Sabalan, with its towering summit and mystical crater lake, holds profound significance in their traditions and beliefs. It's not just a geological wonder to these resilient nomadic communities; it's a spiritual anchor. The Shahsevan people have woven their stories, rituals, and livelihoods around this majestic peak, finding solace and inspiration in its presence.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

First Announcement



Iran Tobacco Company

ONE TIER GENERAL INTERNATIONAL TENDER RENEWAL NOTICE
Tender REF No. in national tender website : 53,199,886

Iran Tobacco Co , intends to purchase some of the required non-tobacco raw materials through international tender. Therefore, all eligible applicants will be invited to receive the tender documents from 17th September 2025 until the end of office hours on 29th September 2025 , after payment the amount of 2 million Rials to the account No, 47000701336609 of Parsian bank, Azadi branch and receive the bid documents from ITC tender secretariat located at 1st floor, Education building, Qazvin Ave, Iran Tobacco Company or from the national tender website : iets.mporq.ir after registration process and receive tender documents.

All applicants who do not have the approved sample/consignment in the tender row in the last one year period, must send the sample to Iran Tobacco Company security department , 1st floor , Shahid Golchin building, Qazvin Ave, Qazvin square, Tehran, Iran, in the amount specified in the tender documents, from 17th September 2025 to 18th October 2025. Complete and accurate details of the seller must be indicated on the samples.

The deadline for submitting offers and envelopes to the security secretariat office located in, 1st floor , Shahid Golchin building, Qazvin Ave, Qazvin square, Tehran, Iran, is the end of office hours on 10th November 2025.

The offers will be opened in Iran Tobacco Company located at Qazvin Sq, Qazvin Av, Tehran ,Islamic Republic of Iran, at 10:00 on 12th November 2025.

Applicants for participation in each row of tender items can provide the guarantee of participating in the tender in the same row and submit the price proposal in the same row .

It is worth mentioning that the basis of price comparison is determined by Bandar Abbas CFR.

If the sample does not match the declared technical specifications, it will be possible to modify and resend the sample during the period of initial sending of the samples by the bidder to the management of the central security office.

Description of bidding items

| Item | Description of goods | Unit | Quantity |
|------|--|-------|-------------|
| 1 | Cigarette paper Double 22mm | Bobin | 5600 |
| 2 | 108mm filter rod T4 and Nano | Rod | 250,545,678 |
| 3 | Smal Size filter rod 66mm | Rod | 79,882,061 |
| 4 | 126 mm king Size filter rod (Tehran factory) | Rod | 4,914,000 |
| 5 | Tipping paper 64mm Bahman Light Round corner | Bobin | 1612 |

For more information, you can contact to 0098 21 51261651 and 51261920

Communications and International Affairs Management, Iran Tobacco Company

IRCS hosts workshop to underscore rehabilitation

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has held a workshop on the vital importance of rehabilitation.

“Rehabilitation is not just about providing medical services. It restores lives,” the head of the IFRC delegation in Iran, Faisal Mahboob, said.

“We are here since we have a shared mission that is helping people to regain dignity, independence, and hope through health and rehabilitation,” the IRCS website quoted Mahboob as saying.

The official made the remarks online while addressing a workshop on becoming familiar with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement services in the treatment and rehabilitation sectors, on Monday.

“Leadership in the Red Cross and Red Crescent is not limited to titles or positions. Leadership is the choices we make in tough moments, the role models we set for our teams, and the joy we bring to every decision. As healthcare providers and professional leaders, you are at the heart of this mission. You ensure that our response is not only immediate, but sustainable and comprehensive,” he noted.

The official went on to say that “Strategy 2030 reminds us of three key priorities: strengthening local measures so that societies can rely on their strengths and capabilities, investing in the future so that young people and volunteers get ready for leadership, and promoting collaborative efforts since no one society can face a crisis alone.”

Keep it in mind that leadership is not about being in charge, but being a source of inspiration to others,



Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, attended the workshop.

giving hope, and taking action when it matters most, Mahboob further noted.

Attending the workshop, Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, said, “This initiative highlights our joint commitment and mutual understanding within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; it underscores the critical role we play in delivering humanitarian action.”

“The workshop does not just aim to introduce the movement; it serves as an opportunity to think together about what binds us and what makes it possible to provide essential services to those in need.”

Health care and rehabilitation professionals have a special responsibility. You put our principles into practice every day, whether through ensuring access to quality healthcare, rehabilitation (for people with disabilities), or responding to emergencies, the official added.

The workshop aims to enhance your understanding of the foundations of the Movement. Our fundamental principles are international humanitarian law, the duties and missions of the Red Cross, the Fed-

eration, and national societies. But it is equally important to consider how these principles directly impact your daily work as health professionals.

These concepts are crucial in ensuring equal access to medical care, preserving neutrality in times of conflict, and human dignity in the most difficult circumstances.

The challenges you face are not just medical, but also humanitarian and ethical. In times of crisis, hospitals, clinics, and rehabilitation centers can quickly become places where humanity is put to the test.

Based on our principles, our unity means humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, volunteer service, oneness, and universality. It goes beyond words and becomes a compass that guides us and ensures that the people we serve can trust us.

Significance of rehabilitation in humanitarian missions

Addressing the event, Razieh Alishvandi, the director of the IRCS for international affairs, underscored the importance of rehabilitation in relief and rescue services, considering it an essential part of supporting those affected by crises.

Rehabilitation means restoring life, mobility, personal independence, and psychological peace to those affected by the crisis. Without physical and psychological rehabilitation, the life-saving cycle will remain incomplete, the IRCS quoted Alishvandi as saying.

Highlighting the IRCS's experiences in providing rehabilitation services to war veterans, natural disaster victims, and patients suffering from hard-to-cure illnesses, the official said the IRCS has made a significant contribution to the advancement of rehabilitation through establishing specialized treatment and rehab centers.

“No single country can tackle the consequences of crises. However, with global solidarity and cooperation, we can support those in need through difficult times. Rehabilitation is not just limited to treating physical injuries, but also restoring self-esteem and hope for life,” she further noted.

For his part, Hamid-Reza Dehqan, an official with the IRCS, announced the IRCS's readiness to foster international cooperation in rehabilitation sectors with other societies.

The workshop aims to strengthen understanding of the foundations of the movement and uphold the principle of neutrality in conflict situations. This neutrality is the main foundation of our activities, whether in ensuring equal access to medical services or in preserving human dignity in the most difficult circumstances, the official noted.

The workshop serves as a valuable opportunity for the expansion of joint interactions with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and to implement projects in various fields, particularly mental health. Despite limitations, the positive outcomes in the treatment sector show that society is moving in the right direction.

Knowledge-based companies to attend ITEX in Iraq

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation will participate in the 4th International Telecommunications and Information Technology Exhibition and Conference (ITEX), scheduled to take place from September 25 to 28 in Baghdad, Iraq.

Supported by the Vice-Presidency for Science and Knowledge-Based Economy, the knowledge-based firms will showcase their capabilities in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, IRNA reported.

ITEX Iraq is a platform that brings together workers and specialists in the ICT sector. It aims to showcase the potential of the ICT sector, identify models for integration that overcome challenges, and ultimately enhance digital services for citizens and the country. It focuses on telecommunications, information technology, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and digital solutions.

Iran, Iraq discuss enhancing technological ties

In July, the ICT minister, Sattar Hashemi, and the Iraqi ambassador to Tehran, Naseer Abdul Mohsen Abdullah, discussed ways to expand technological cooperation between the two countries.

During a meeting held in Tehran, Hashemi elab-

orated on the strategic plan of the ICT Ministry, which aims to promote technological diplomacy. The official highlighted the need to leverage the capacities of the two countries as a link in the international transit route, utilizing Iran's infrastructure, Mehr News Agency reported.

Referring to the capabilities of the knowledge-based companies and the growth of the digital economy in the country, Hashemi said the Iranian and Iraqi private sectors can collaborate in the mentioned fields.

Abdullah, for his part, called for fostering collaborations, highlighting that any effort to strengthen the relations will be constructive. The Iraqi official said the two countries can expand cooperation on cybersecurity and the digital economy.

In January, Hashemi and Abdulla explored avenues for boosting cooperation in the ICT sector, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), and e-government.

During a meeting held on January 30 in Tehran, Abdullah referred to the large number of Iranian and Iraqi pilgrims, stressing that these extensive interactions require enhanced cooperation. He

subsequently

Voiced Iraq's interest in the promotion of relations with Iran in fields such as AI, cyber security, and communication infrastructure, IRIB reported.

Highlighting the strengthened collaborations between the two countries, the official said, “Trade between Iraq and Iran should reach 20 billion dollars yearly, part of which should be allocated to information and communication technology.”

For his turn, Hashemi highlighted former cooperation in cyber security and e-government, saying that “transferring expertise to Iraq is one of the main axes of cooperation between the two nations. Iran is also planning to utilize artificial intelligence capacities, and would welcome cooperation in this area, as well.”

The official went on to propose joint investment in international transit, maritime fibers, and the development of a big data center in Iran as other possible axes of collaboration.

Hashemi also said the provision of a high-speed communication network for the Arbaeen pilgrimage should be put on the agenda.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$3b approved for improving safety of schools

The sixth five-year national development plan (2016-2021) has predicted a total budget of \$3 billion to be allocated for rebuilding and retrofitting old schools across the country, director of the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools has said.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards, ISNA quoted Mehrolah Rakhshanimehr as saying on Wednesday.

“However, after 2 years the budget has not been allocated yet,” he lamented.

He went on explain that 30 percent of the schools nationwide are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

درخواست تخصیص ۳ میلیارد دلار برای ایمن سازی مدارس

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور با اشاره به وجود ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس ناایمن در سطح کشور خواستار تخصیص بودجه سه میلیارد دلاری تصویب شده در قالب برنامه ششم توسعه برای ایمن سازی مدارس شد.

مهراله رخشانی مهر در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، با بیان اینکه حدود ۱۰۷ هزار مدرسه با ۵۳۰ هزار کلاس درس در کشور داریم اظهار کرد: از این میزان، ۳۰ درصد مدارس نیازمند مقاوم سازی و تخریب و بازسازی‌اند که به تفکیک می‌توان گفت ۱۸ درصد مدارس باید مقاوم سازی و ۱۲ درصد تخریب و بازسازی شوند.

وی افزود: به عبارت دیگر ۳۲ هزار مدرسه مشتمل بر ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس در سطح کشور ناایمن بوده و باید مقاوم سازی یا بازسازی شوند.

Police seize over 11 tons of narcotics in southeast since March

TEHRAN – The Iranian anti-narcotics police have seized 11.859 tons of narcotics in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21), the commander of border guards, Ahmad Ali Goudarzi, has said.

Different kinds of illicit drugs, such as opium, methamphetamine, heroin, and hashish, were confiscated, 253 drug dealers were arrested, and eleven were killed, the official noted.

‘National heroes’

Martyrs and war veterans who have sacrificed their lives in the fight against narcotics to ensure the security and safety of people are the national heroes, Brigadier General Hossein Zolfagari, the secretary general of the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), said in June.

Thanks to their efforts, the anti-narcotics police are capable of taking more effective national and international measures in the fight against drugs. They are symbols of perseverance and determination who truly deserve to be respected and appreciated, ILNA quoted Zolfagari as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, or World Drug Day, which is marked on June 26 every year.

Enumerating on Iran's role in combating

narcotics, the official said, Iran plays a critical role in the global fight against drugs. Due to its proximity to Afghanistan, the country has constantly faced many challenges.

However, counter-narcotics and security forces have done their best, carrying out numerous extensive operations over the years to thwart smugglers and their networks. The martyrdom of 3,800 individuals and the injuries of 12,000 others highlight the country's determination to combat narcotics and drug-related crimes.

DCHQ, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, has taken different measures such as implementing preventive programs, supporting addicts, and developing treatment centres.

World Drug Day, or the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, aims to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. This year's World Drug Day calls for investment in prevention, including justice, education, health care, and alternative livelihoods — the building blocks of sustainable resilience.

This year's campaign, “Break the cycle. Stop Organized Crime,” highlighted the need for coordinated long-term action to break the cycle of organized crime and drug trafficking by addressing root causes, investing in prevention, and building stronger health, education, and social systems.

FAO, Mashhad University cooperate to improve saffron quality



TEHRAN – The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (MUMS) have signed a letter of agreement (LoA) to strengthen procedures for how saffron is tested, processed, and marketed.

Activities of the LoA will be conducted under the joint Technical Cooperation Program of FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, the FAO website announced in a press release on September 16.

Known as red gold, this spice is not only important for farmers' livelihoods but also a symbol of Iran's agricultural heritage, as Iran produces more than 90 percent of the world's saffron, making the integrity of the value chain critical for farmers and for national trade.

Saffron's global trade faces persistent risks from adulteration to inconsistent post-harvest handling that can erode value and weaken consumer trust.

“To address these issues, FAO is collaborating with MUMS to strengthen procedures for how saffron is tested, processed, and marketed. The collaboration responds to the challenge by combining advanced laboratory verification with field-ready post-harvest guidance to better define saffron's quality and protect authenticity and reputation,” said Farrukh Toirov, FAO Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the core of the work is a scientifically validated fingerprinting approach using high-resolution Nuclear Magnetic Resonance to characterize saffron's three key constituents (crocin, picrocrocin, and safranal) supported by robust data analysis. This will provide a more precise chemical profile for authenticity checks than routine methods alone. Complementing the lab work, the initiative will develop practical guidance to help preserve colour, flavour, and aroma after harvest so that quality measured in the lab is maintained through to the final consumer.

Equally important, in the framework of this LoA, MUMS will train farmers, traders,

and laboratory experts across the main saffron-producing provinces of Khorasan Raza-vi, North Khorasan, and South Khorasan. This training will help to develop the understanding that everyone involved in the saffron value chain should apply better practices, meet international requirements, and offer buyers around the world a product they can trust.

While international trade commonly references ISO 3632 / 3632-1 for grading saffron, these basic tests do not always capture subtle quality differences or guard against sophisticated adulteration, and they provide limited guidance on post-harvest handling.

By promoting higher quality and stronger safeguards, improved practices and advanced quality control protocols will help to reduce fraud, build consumer trust, and increase transparency in saffron markets. This will create better opportunities and returns for farmers and traders while enhancing Iran's reputation as the global source of authentic saffron.

This work forms part of FAO's wider efforts to support Iran in improving food authenticity, strengthening agricultural value chains, and ensuring that local food products are competitive in international markets and adhere to international quality and safety requirements.

In May 2024, FAO signed a project with the Ministry of Agriculture aimed at ensuring access to safe and authentic saffron products.

Titled “Control of Food Authenticity and Management of Food Supply Chain for Successful Achievement of SDGs,” the project was in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), Sustainable Development Goals, and FAO Country Programme Framework (CPF).

The initiative was part of FAO's Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) and is set to span two years, concluding in December 2025.

The project's impact will be profound, warranting consumer access to safe and authentic saffron products through the enhanced capacity for immediate response and effective enforcement mechanisms for food quality testing and traceability.

This project represents a significant step towards enhancing transparency and traceability in the saffron industry, ultimately contributing to food security and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.



SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If someone's deeds lower his position, his pedigree cannot elevate it.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:59 Evening: 18:27 Dawn: 4:25 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:49 (tomorrow)

Iran-Turkey joint film “Intoxicated by Love” to be released in Turkey, Europe in October

TEHRAN – The Iran-Turkey joint film “Intoxicated by Love” directed by Iranian director Hassan Fat’hi will be released in Turkey and Europe in October.

The film was screened in Iran last year. After a long wait for international release, it will premiere in Turkey and 10 European countries from October 17, ISNA reported.

Produced by Mehran Boroumand and Hassan Alizadeh, “Intoxicated by Love” attracted more than two million Iranian viewers and achieved 1200 billion rials (\$1.2 million) at the local box office, making it the fifth highest-grossing film of the year and also the highest-grossing non-comedy film in the history of Iranian cinema by then.

The filmmakers expect that the Turkish release of “Intoxicated by Love,” thanks to cultural ties between Iran and Turkey regarding Rumi and the shared admiration for this great mystical poet, will repeat its domestic box office success.

The movie will be screened in 250 theaters in Turkey, with the number of cinemas increasing over time. According to the producers, release contracts have also been signed for Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, and Jordan, as well as East Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and India, plus Russia, Canada, the U.S. and South American countries. The release dates for these regions will be announced soon.

The biographical historical drama, which was shot in Konya, Turkey, tells the story of the great Iranian poet Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi, his friendship with the wandering sage Shams Tabrizi who later became the mentor of Rumi in the 13th century CE.

The movie chronicles the love Rumi had for Shams and the great influence of Shams over Rumi in his life, his poetry, and his love for God.

Rumi undertook journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish, Shams. He was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit to Konya and for months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.

Celebrated Iranian actors Parsa Pirouzfar and Shahab Hosseini star as Rumi and Shams respectively while Turkish TV star Hande Erçel plays the role of Kimia, Rumi’s stepdaughter and Shams’ lover.

Turkish actors Ibrahim Çelikkol, Selma Ergeç, Boran Kuzum, Burak Tozkoparan, Bensu Soral, and Iranian actor Hesam Manzur are the other cast members.

The soundtrack features well-known Iranian traditional vocalist Alireza Ghorbani performing a mystical poem by Rumi, with original score composed by renowned Turkish musician Fahir Atakoğlu.

“Intoxicated by Love” was written by Fat’hi himself and his fellow Iranian writer Farhad Tohidi in consultation with Mohammad-Ali Movahhed, a top Iranian expert on Rumi.

Fat’hi, 64, is one of the most well-known and successful Iranian directors, best known for his popular historical TV series including “Heroes Never Die,” “Lighter Than Darkness,” “Zero Degree Turn,” “Tenth Night,” “Shahzad,” and “Jeyran”.

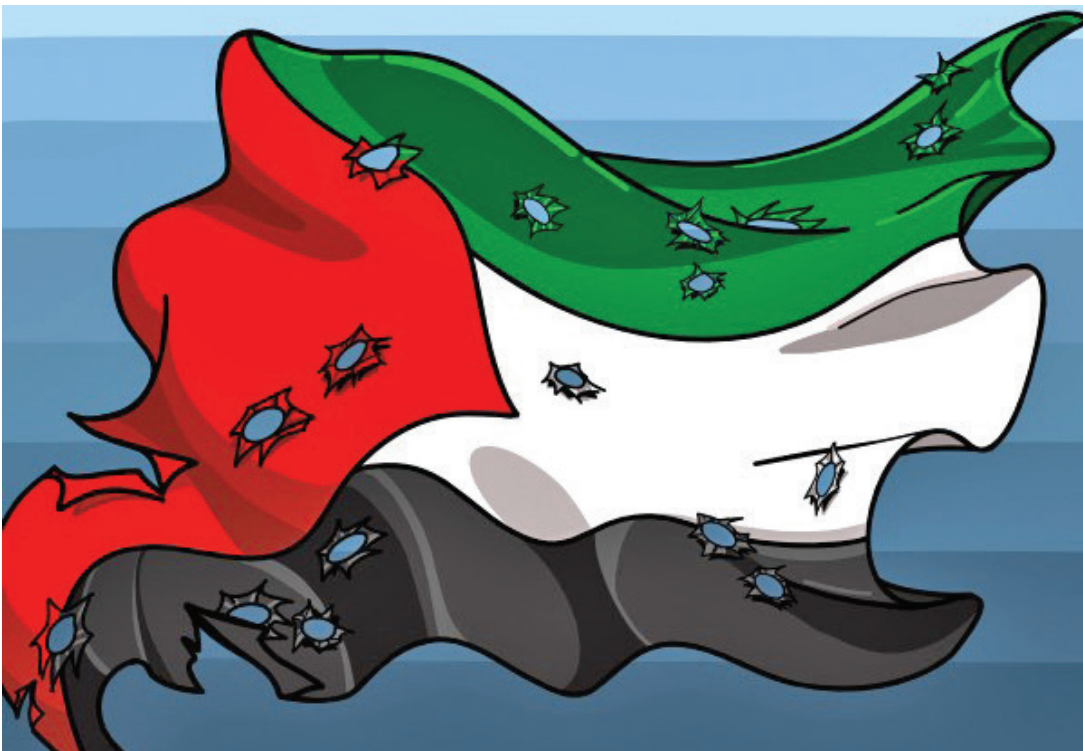
Cartoon of Day



Doha Summit!

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Novel on Gaza brings fictional heroes into real struggle



By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN-The superhero of this story, Z, does not soar over imaginary skylines nor strike with an iron fist; his mission is different: to tear down the barricades of fake news and pull the truth from beneath the rubble of lies that Zionists pump daily into the media about Gaza. In “The Last Superhero: The Fight for Palestine”, Z searches for the roots of Zionism and the project of Israel in the twentieth century—a project that, through its propaganda machine, labels every Palestinian as “Hamas” in order to justify the killing of women and children.

In this inverted world, the media is no longer a tool of information, but a weapon to conceal Israel’s crimes and to blur the reality of Palestinian genocide.

Mark Urizar, the Australian author of the book, has crafted the work not as a mere piece of entertainment, but as a hybrid of narrative fiction and historical-political analysis. He employs the superhero metaphor to weave together the history of colonialism, references to the scriptures, and contemporary politics.

“The Last Superhero”, published just ten days after the first anniversary of the October 7, highlights the false Zionist interpretations of the holy texts, portraying them as a religious cover for colonialism and genocide. The book’s form is a blend of Z’s narrative and the author’s direct commentary on media, Zionism, and the ongoing war in Gaza.

What follows is the Tehran Times’ exclusive interview with Mark Urizar about his work:

Your book combines direct historical-political analysis with the voice of Z. Why did you choose this structure?

How can you give people without a voice, a means to tell their story? The answer is not through documentaries, but through a storyline that captures all the vested nuances, interests, narratives, and the meanings we attach to concepts of good and evil, just and unjust, and moral and immoral. This story evolved from dry historical facts and was shaped by Western notions of fairness and justice, with the inclusion of a superhero—something we can all relate to.

This type of storytelling is exactly what Israel has done to gain Western support—but with biases and narratives not based on historical facts, but rather distorted by falsehoods and designed to appeal to the masses. The difference is that, in the end, truth will persist over lies and fabricated narratives.

What led you to use such wide-ranging historical comparisons, from scripture to Nazi Germany, in your book?

The search for truth requires a historical and religious context. By following this trail, we can uncover the elusive truth. What I found was that old Nazism had evolved into Zionism, which has kept its aim intact: to gain total control. With the added complexity of today, the onslaught

that Israel has unleashed on Gaza needed a book to decipher.

As we follow this inverted trail with its narratives, we also see how evil has hidden itself through cowardice and cruelty, and how it has sought to recast religion and faith by diluting the truth with new rifts. This has allowed Israel to use God’s name to serve its agenda.

Power has been seized by wealthy minorities with vast fortunes. These groups form part of interconnected global secret societies that set the narrative and determine what is considered right and wrong. Democracy is used to justify their evil actions not only against other nations but also against their own people — those who demonstrate or protest against them.

By seeing the truth, we must break the spells cast by this evil with its inversion of reality. If we do not, then nothing — not politics, religion, or democracy — will help or save us.

Writing this book required you to study the Quran. Which part of it (perhaps in comparison with the Bible) did you find most striking or surprising?

The religious texts provide both prophetic and historical context, each offering insight into the meaning of existence and why things are the way they are. In deciphering these for the book, I was mindful that the Bibles, unlike the Quran, have had their messages rewritten over time, which has distorted and corrupted their truths.

An extract from the book noted that what is occurring in Gaza is not a just war. It is not what should be part of humanity or what it means to be human. The Jewish Talmud and the Quran state that whoever saves a life saves the world, and for each of us, our life is the world. None of us asked to be born, and no one should have to beg to live. This implies that we must all become part of the solution to dispel the problem — a solution requiring activism with tremendous courage and passion.

“Indeed, it is they who are the corruptors, but they fail to perceive it.” (Quran 2:12)

Ultimately, the true message within these scriptures is that we should strive for peace through forgiveness, something we have failed to do. This message has been overridden by narratives of separation, entitlement, hatred, and vengeance — all used to promote a divergent agenda.

You refer to the concept of the “The False Messiah”. What motivated you to address the distorted apocalyptic interpretations of Zionist Judaism and Christianity?

We live in interesting times. Many in Israel and Christians in America believe that an apparent biblical prophecy is unfolding in the Middle East. This has led many in Israel and Christian Zionists in America to act as they do toward the Palestinians, believing that this will trigger the Second Coming. This, in turn, has set the stage to welcome the Antichrist and thereby enable what will follow: Christ’s return. Ezekiel, Chapters 38

and 39, prophesized a great war involving Israel and a confederation of nations led by a figure from the north.

For the true Messiah to come, the collective Jewry would have to be redeemed for their sins and evil, with punishment in the form of the whole world turning against Israel. For this to occur, the Israelis would need to engage in such blatant wrongdoing that it becomes absolutely obvious to all — which, according to this belief, they have done. And with the world turning against Israel, severe punishment would follow.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, together with Netanyahu, has ensured that Israel makes progress toward this goal. The date for this redemption has been foretold to be September 2027.

The Bible describes the “last days” as the period between Jesus’ first coming and His second coming, starting with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and continuing until the final events of the “Day of the Lord.” During this time, the Bible predicts increasing wickedness, a departure from faith, signs in the heavens, and the eventual return of Jesus, followed by global judgment, a new heaven, and a new earth.

There is, however, no rational basis for this cause or why it should be acted upon. It is unreasonable, destructive, and stems from Israel’s collective conduct and aggressive actions, which will have consequences. This is mass psychosis that has left reason out of decision-making as it waits for divine intervention.

If your book had been written after the 12-day war between Iran and Israel, would you have included that conflict as well?

No. But if I had, I would have written something like this: the 12-day war was a political resurrection — a maneuver by Netanyahu, who solidified his position by bombing Iran. With the attack on Iran, he managed to temporarily overshadow the mounting challenges surrounding him. At the time, chief among these challenges were the ongoing war crimes in the Gaza Strip, while more than two-thirds of the Israeli population were calling for a deal with Hamas to release all hostages.

This was a period when domestic divisions had deepened, the anti-war movement had gained traction, and Israel had become increasingly isolated on the world stage.

You strongly emphasize the importance of the media in representing the truth. Do you consider this to be the central message of the book?

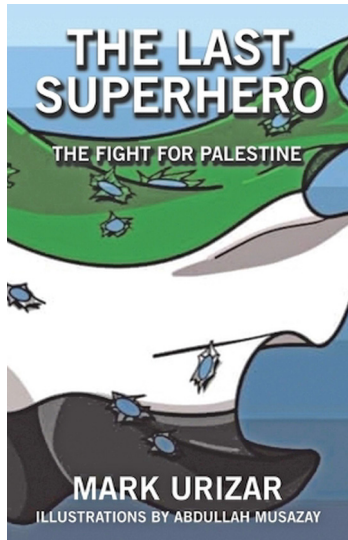
We are ruled by narratives that prevent salvation from reaching this world. What is narrated has penetrated deep into the human psyche. This is the propaganda and carefully crafted language we hear, influencing and reinforcing certain mindsets while ignoring and dismissing human value. It is reinforced through language, authority, control, education, doctrinal reinforcement,

ritualistic formatting, and repetition — and if challenged, it brings the fear of external damnation. This narrative is predominantly controlled by the media. Messages are carefully crafted to set or change perception through persuasion, guilt reinforcement, moral confusion, and dependency. Yet this narrative is not used for salvation, but rather to influence and perpetuate a cycle of disempowerment.

On the global stage, such narratives are used to condition and indoctrinate governments and societies. This has given power to ruling minorities, who then freely condemn others — those they no longer recognize as human. This is relayed through media-broadcast propaganda with messages such as: only certain populations are worthy of care and sympathy, while targeted populations are to be regarded as vermin in need of extermination. This subverts our basic sense of human empathy, to the point that many are now unable to feel the same humanity toward targeted populations.

The false narratives that have inverted this reality are unleashing unimaginable cruelty and abominations upon the disenfranchised and the most defenseless — babies, children, and women. This is an evil that uses its beguiling tongue to convince and capture many, including the world’s most powerful leaders, who then forsake themselves and their souls for it.

What does Z’s journey in Gaza say about our own responsibility when no real superheroes will come to save us, and why did you choose to convey this through a fictional character?



Writing about Israel and Palestine is very controversial in the West, and anything to be published needed to be sanitized through a fictional character — one who could observe and record events from a distance. This approach was chosen because, like many, I did not want to become a participant or complicit in what was occurring. From this came a glimpse of the truth, with the message that we do, in fact, have a choice.

From this storyline emerged the character named Z, who first appeared in a children’s series featuring superheroes that dealt with issues such as COVID-19, climate change, the plight of the disadvantaged, the state of the environment, and the war in Ukraine.

For many, as for Z, Gaza became a clarifying and defining event that changed them. Z is part of the silent majority — those who cannot understand how the world has stood by while the onslaught of this genocide continued unabated and with full support from the West. As Z grappled with this dilemma, he sought answers and the truth, as we all must. And with the truth came the realization that there are no superheroes who will save us from evil; when we need it most, no one will come to help.

We have allowed a minority of powerful people and groups to place themselves above the law and set the agenda for us. The UN, ICC, and ICJ have no means to contain the evil that exists. We now all face the fear of becoming the next Palestinians — the presage of a new world order, should we allow this to continue.