

What Is Behind Trump's Bagram Dream?



Pezeshkian receives Leader's guidance ahead of crucial UN address and amidst Assembly's crisis of credibility

TEHRAN – In a meeting that took place on Monday, President Masoud Pezeshkian met with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, to coordinate Iran's stance ahead of the president's upcoming visit to New York to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). ► [Page 3](#)

Lawmakers' letter asking for reconsideration of Iran's nuclear doctrine resurfaces amid escalating tensions with West

TEHRAN – After years of fruitless diplomacy surrounding Tehran's nuclear program, and following a full-scale war imposed on Iran in June, the Iranian public and media appear increasingly to favor a shift in the country's nuclear doctrine. ► [Page 3](#)

'Strategic surprises' awaits hostile threats, Iran's top military commanders confirm

TEHRAN – Iran's top military commanders have warned that the country's Armed Forces are fully prepared to deliver "strategic surprises" and crushing responses to any threat posed by hostile powers, vowing that recent acts of aggression by Israel and the United States will not go unanswered.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, issued the warning in a message marking Sacred Defense Week, which commemorates the eight-year war imposed on Iran by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in the 1980s.

"We assure the noble and heroic Iranian nation that the Armed Forces are prepared to give a timely, decisive, regret-inducing, and unfathomable response to any threats by global bullies and oppressors through relying on our strategic surprises," Mousavi said. ► [Page 2](#)

ICCIMA pledges training support, economic cooperation with Palestine

AMMAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) said it is ready to provide training and knowledge-enhancement courses for the Palestinian people in cooperation with the Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC), while urging Islamic countries to commit to purchasing Palestinian products.

ICCIMA President Samad Hassanzadeh, speaking at a gathering of leaders of Islamic countries' chambers of commerce in Amman, said Islamic nations bear a major responsibility toward the "oppressed and Islamic country of Palestine."

Decades of political conflict, war and displacement of Palestinians were described by Hassanzadeh as a bitter experience for humanity. He stressed that to end "genocidal trends," stronger measures are needed.

He highlighted the role of Islamic councils in supporting economic structures, building scientific and social institutions, expanding small industries, promoting agricultural and food production, and developing regional businesses and modern technologies to improve living conditions in Palestine. ► [Page 4](#)

Wave of Palestine recognition: A symbolic rupture wrapped in political interest

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Paris formally recognized the State of Palestine on Monday, a move unveiled in the context of the Franco-Saudi summit on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, and immediately folded into a wave of declarations from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Portugal.

The gesture is widely seen as historic: it signals a rupture in what had been a relatively disciplined Western consensus and marks a diplomatic shift toward condemning the trajectory of Israel's occupation and settlement expansion. Yet the symbolism is inseparable from self-interest, and for many observers the decision reads less as a rescue of the two-state idea than as a calculated realignment of domestic and geopolitical priorities.

France's recognition lands in a moment of contradiction. Western capitals invoke moral duty even as they hedge with conditions and caveats. Paris itself initially attached demands—hostage releases, Hamas disarmament, Palestinian institutional reform—only later to decouple recognition from these prerequisites.

Bint Jbeil tragedy and Ortagus' responsibility

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT — While President Joseph Aoun is leading a Lebanese delegation to participate in the UN General Assembly meetings in New York, Israel committed a new massacre in Bint Jbeil on Sunday afternoon, resulting in the murder of five citizens, including three children.

The crime occurred as U.S. envoy Morgan Ortagus chaired a meeting of the committee supervising the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel on the eve of the first anniversary of the large-scale U.S.-led Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

According to informed sources, Ortagus expressed her appreciation for the Lebanese Army's achievements in confiscating weapons south of the Litani River, but considered it incomplete, and that the state must be more decisive.

For their part, the enemy's representatives emphasized that the initial stages of the plan should include the Bekaa Valley, which they claim houses advanced weapons depots.

Israeli attack on Yemeni journalists among deadliest in history

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) says recent Israeli attacks on a Yemeni media office were the second-deadliest on journalists in history.

According to the CPJ, the strikes on the offices of the September 26 newspaper and the Yemen newspaper in the capital Sanaa killed at least 31 journalists and media staff from the two publications.

The organization has classified the Israeli killing of the journalists on September 10 as "intentional, targeted killings based on their work."

35 people are reported to have been killed in total and more than 100 others were injured in the raids. A child who had accompanied a journalist to the office was also among the dead and 22 journalists were also injured.

Nasser Al-Khadri, editor-in-chief of September 26, described the assault as an "unprecedented massacre of journalists," explaining that a series of strikes hit the newsroom around 4:45 p.m. while staff were finalizing the weekly edition for print. ► [Page 5](#)

Iran approves museum dedicated to 12-day war with Israel

TEHRAN – Iran has approved the establishment of a museum dedicated to the 12-day war with the Zionist regime of Israel, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Monday.

Salehi-Amiri said the museum's exhibits would be displayed alongside those of the 1980–1988 Iran-Iraq War, known in Iran as the "Sacred Defense," at the Sacred Defense and Islamic Revolution Museum.

"The plan to register the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) conference building, known as the Glass Building, which was targeted during Israeli attacks, has been submitted to government officials and approved," Salehi-Amiri said at a ceremony commemorating veterans of the Iran-Iraq War. ► [Page 6](#)



International Ashiq Music Festival concludes in Ardabil

TEHRAN – The closing ceremony of the 3rd edition of the International Ashiq Music Festival took place at the Fadak Cultural and Artistic Complex in Ardabil on Sunday, featuring participants from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Iraq, as well as various provinces of Iran.

The event was graced by the presence of Seyyed Abbas Salehi, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and several cultural officials and artists.

An Ashiq, also known as Ashik or Ashug, is a mystical troubadour or wandering bard who weaves together instrumental and vocal music, dance, poetry, and storytelling in their performances.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Americans' bitter humor

In an analysis, Sobh-e-No addressed Trump's continuous support for the Zionist regime despite his election slogan and wrote: The United States' continuous support for the Zionist regime comes at a time when many Americans are extremely angry and furious with their government's policy of supporting the occupiers and is an accomplice in the genocide (in Gaza). Those who voted for Trump with the slogan "America first" thought that he would end America's intervention in other people's wars, but now they are faced with a president who openly supports the Zionist regime. When the Zionist regime attacked the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States once again showed that it was concerned about Israel's achievements. When the Zionists failed to damage Iran's political system and military and defense structure after a few days of war, the United States entered the conflict directly. This government serves Zionism more than ever, and this policy has caused all anti-war conservatives who support Trump to admit that the slogan "Israel first" has now become the rule throughout the United States, and the slogan "America first" has become a bitter joke.

Arman-e-Melli: New York is the last chance for diplomacy

In a note, Arman-e-Melli discussed Pezeshkian's trip to New York to attend the annual General Assembly meeting, writing: This trip is taking place in a situation where, a few days ago, the European troika activated the snapback sanctions in the Security Council. Therefore, the Iranian diplomatic apparatus must use all its competence to prevent implementation of the six UN resolutions against Iran. The trip of Pezeshkian and the diplomatic team to New York could be a decisive opportunity in this regard. Consultations with European countries, especially the members of the JCPOA, will be among the important topics of the trip. Experts believe that if there is a real will to resolve differences in these meetings, and a temporary agreement is also possible. The experience of past years has shown that Europeans, although under pressure from the United States, have been willing to play a more balanced role in some cases. Therefore, Pezeshkian's discussions on the sidelines of the General Assembly could provide a new space for reducing tensions.

Hamshahri: Iran's splendid performance since June war has angered foes

In an article, Hamshahri discussed the activities of the opposition media against Iran and said: The enemy intended to create a state of suspension and passivity in Iran after the 12-day war against the Islamic Republic in June. However, contrary to the wishes of the Western-Zionist axis, Iran was able to achieve significant successes in various fields such as sports, technology, the Olympics, etc. during these few months, and this caused the (foreign-based) Persian-language media affiliated to Israel to become angry, and the counter-revolutionary networks to take measures to undermine the value of the work of the proud Iranians in various fields. These media outlets constantly suggested that Iran had not targeted a specific place in Israel during the June war, but the spreading of lies occurred while the Israeli media had stated that Iran had dealt fatal blows to the Zionist regime. The (foreign-based) Persian-language media are spreading lies to show Iran as the losing side of the war. It is natural for them to turn a blind eye to Iran's global successes in sports, science, and military and deny or downplay the significance of these victories and achievements.

Iran: Increasing defense capability possible through partnership with China

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the rise in the Iran-China military relationship, writing: China has traditionally tried to keep its relations in the Middle East balanced. It has helped Iran evade oil sanctions and provided limited military assistance. In the short term, Iran's most likely action will be to rebuild its military defense capability by expanding partnership with China. Beijing may see new opportunities in helping Iran regain some of its lost power. Iran's closer relationship with China could be beneficial for Beijing in crisis scenarios. If Beijing sells the HQ-9 mobile air defense systems to Tehran, it could help Iran regain some of its air protection. Iran could also seek a deal with China to modernize its air force. These improvements could make attacks on Iran more difficult and costly. This would allow Iran to rebuild its domestically produced missile stockpile and better prepare for a possible next conflict. The more distant the threat of war becomes for Iran, the more immediate risks it can take.

Iran's FM congratulates Armenia on independence anniversary



TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has extended his congratulations to Armenia on the occasion of the country's Independence Day and national celebrations.

In a message addressed to Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan on Monday, Araghchi highlighted the longstanding ties between the two neighbors, stressing that Iran and Armenia share "deep-rooted historical and civilizational bonds" that provide a solid foundation for expanding cooperation.

He expressed satisfaction with the progress in bilateral relations, noting that Tehran and Yerevan have maintained active cooperation not only in their direct relations

but also on regional and international platforms.

The Iranian foreign minister voiced confidence that with the determination and foresight of leaders in both countries, bilateral ties would continue to deepen. He emphasized that strengthening cooperation would serve the common interests of the two nations while also contributing to peace and stability in the wider region.

Iran and Armenia, which share a land border, have in recent years expanded engagement across political, economic, and cultural fields. Both countries have consistently underlined their commitment to dialogue and cooperation as a means to enhance regional security and development.

‘Strategic surprises’ awaits hostile threats, Iran's top military commanders confirm



Iranian Army's top commander Major General Amir Hatami (R) and IRGC Chief Major General Mohammad Pakpour meet on the occasion of Sacred Defense Week that commemorates the anniversary of the Iraq-imposed war on Iran in the 1980s.

From page 1 ► He stressed that Iran will not remain passive in the face of aggression but will instead turn every threat into an opportunity to demonstrate its power on both the regional and international stage.

Mousavi also referred to Israel's surprise assault on Iran in June, which quickly escalated into a 12-day war. He said the enemy failed to achieve its objectives thanks to the Islamic Republic's military capabilities, defensive power, and regional alliances, as well as the "strong and proportional" response of Iran's Armed Forces.

The general emphasized the importance of advancing modern defense technologies and strengthening deterrence, particularly in confronting hybrid and cognitive warfare waged by adversaries.

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked war on Iran, assassinating high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. In response, Iran carried out waves of missile strikes—including ballistic and hypersonic weapons—on sensitive Israeli targets in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and other occupied cities.

The United States later joined the conflict by bombing three Iranian nuclear facilities, prompting Iran to retaliate against the Al Udeid air base in Qatar. Following these exchanges, the White House proposed a ceasefire, which Israel ultimately accepted.

The escalation occurred while Iran and the United States were engaged in indirect negotiations on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. The sixth round of talks was suspended after the outbreak of hostilities.

Unified command between Army and IRGC

On the same occasion, Major General Amir Hatami, Chief of the Army, and Major General Mohammad Pakpour, Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), reiterated that any act of aggression will be met with "a unified, swift, intelligent, and powerful response" from the combined forces of the Army and IRGC.

Hatami noted that since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, enemies have consistently pressured Iran to abandon its rights, but the nation has resisted through sacrifice and perseverance. "The enemies must change their view



Spokesman for the IRGC Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naini speaks during an interview with the IRIB on September 21, 2025.

of the great people of Iran, the sacred system of the Islamic Republic, and the leadership of the Islamic Revolution," he said.

He described the alliance between the Army and IRGC as "the solid pillar of national security" and "an iron shield" against foreign conspiracies. Citing both the eight-year Iraq-imposed war and the recent 12-day conflict, Hatami said Iran had "thwarted the great conspiracy of the East and the West" through public support and determination.

General Pakpour highlighted the role of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, whose guidance during the June war ensured continuity of command after the martyrdom of senior officers. He said the Leader's strategic direction forced Israel and the United States to retreat and agree to a ceasefire.

Both wars shared the same goal: IRGC Spokesman

Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naini, spokesman for the IRGC, drew parallels between the eight-year Iraq war and the recent 12-day conflict, describing both as proxy wars aimed at breaking up Iran and overthrowing the Islamic Republic.

"In the eight-year war, the enemy sought to separate Khuzestan and ultimately topple the system. In the recent 12-day war, they tried to strike at the core components of Iran's power," he said.

He explained that the enemy expected mass unrest inside Iran after its initial airstrikes against commanders, nuclear scientists, and strategic sites. This unrest, he added, was supposed to coincide with the infiltration of armed groups across the borders to pave the way for partition and regime change.

"The two wars had the same objectives, but their nature was different," Naini said. "The eight-year war was land- and manpower-based, with the aim of occupying territory. The recent conflict, however, was a high-tech hybrid war centered on missiles and air power."

He underscored the Armed Forces' preparedness during the June war, noting that within an hour of the first strikes, Iranian drones were already in operation. "We could have launched missile operations immediately, but due to certain considerations, we delayed by a few hours. Our readiness was extraordinary," he said.

Iran, Russia to seal new nuclear power plant agreements: AEOI chief



Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami (2nd right) speaks to reporters upon his arrival in Moscow on September 22, 2025.

TEHRAN – Iran's top nuclear official says Tehran and Moscow are set to sign fresh agreements on the construction of additional nuclear power plants in Iran during his official visit to Russia this week.

Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and a vice president, arrived in Moscow on Monday leading a high-ranking delegation. His trip coincides with World Atomic Week events, taking place in the Russian capital from September 25 to 29, and includes meetings with senior Russian officials.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival, Eslami said that under an existing contract between

the two governments, Russia is tasked with building eight nuclear power plants in Iran, four of which are already underway in the southern port city of Bushehr.

He explained that Tehran had informed Moscow about the construction of the remaining plants and that necessary studies and negotiations for the second phase of the contract had already been finalized. "The locations have been chosen, prepared, and equipped," he noted, adding that once the new agreement is concluded later this week, work will immediately move into the operational phase of design, engineering, and implementation.

Turning to Iran's relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Eslami stressed that Tehran has consistently upheld its safeguard commitments and continues to pursue a peaceful nuclear program. At the same time, he criticized the European troika of Britain, France, and Germany for what he called their "politicized" approach, urging them not to undermine the credibility of the United Nations and international institutions.

"The European countries should allow world bodies to carry out their duties impartially and professionally within the framework of international regulations," Eslami said. He warned that their current conduct obstructs peace and runs counter to

international law.

Eslami also denounced the IAEA for failing to condemn US and Israeli "terrorist attacks" in June against three Iranian nuclear facilities under the Agency's supervision. "The Agency's silence shows the destructive influence running deep within it," he charged.

Iran says Israel launched a surprise war on June 13, targeting senior military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Days later, the United States joined the conflict, striking three Iranian nuclear sites in what Tehran has called a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The developments come against the backdrop of renewed nuclear tensions. On Friday, the UN Security Council failed to adopt a resolution that would have blocked the reimposition of sanctions on Iran after Britain, France, and Germany activated the so-called "snapback" mechanism, accusing Tehran of breaching the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Tehran dismissed the move as "illegitimate," noting that the United States had already abandoned the accord in 2018. Iranian officials accused the European powers of siding with Washington's sanctions instead of fulfilling their own obligations under the deal.

Drone strike on Sudan mosque a 'gross violation of humanitarian law': Tehran

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry has strongly denounced a deadly drone strike on a mosque in the Sudanese city of al-Fashir, describing the attack as a "gross violation of international humanitarian law."

In a statement issued Sunday, the ministry called for the "immediate cessation" of assaults on civilians and critical infra-

structure in Sudan. The statement emphasized that the crisis must ultimately be resolved through "Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue," not continued bloodshed.

Tehran also conveyed its condolences to the victims' families and expressed wishes for a swift recovery of those injured in the attack.

According to Sudan's army and local rescuers, paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) carried out the drone strike on Friday, killing more than 70 worshippers during prayers in al-Fashir, the capital of North Darfur. The assault represents the latest escalation in Sudan's three-year civil war between the RSF and the Sudanese

Armed Forces (SAF).

The UN Human Rights Office reported Friday that civilian casualties in Sudan have risen sharply this year. In just the first six months of 2025, 3,384 civilians were killed—representing 80 percent of all civilian deaths recorded in 2022

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Lawmakers’ letter asking for reconsideration of Iran’s nuclear doctrine resurfaces amid escalating tensions with West

From Page 1 ▶ A months-old letter from approximately 70 lawmakers to Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) has been widely republished by Iranian media outlets. The letter urges the country’s top security body to reconsider Iran’s long-standing nuclear and military doctrine, whose effectiveness is now being questioned by many after the 12-day war launched by Israel and the U.S. earlier this year. The war targeted Iran’s civilian, military, and nuclear infrastructure.

The renewed discussion also follows increased pressure from Europe on Iran. In late August, Europeans triggered the so-called snapback mechanism, a process that leads to the reinstatement of pre-JCPOA UN sanctions against Iran one month after activation. Any JCPOA signatory can invoke snapback if it considers Iran non-compliant with its JCPOA commitments. The deal had limited Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

Iran began to scale back some of its commitments one



Photo shows Iranian parliament

tion of international law.

It seems that Europeans believe Iran should have fully complied with the JCPOA, despite not receiving its promised benefits from the deal and also being subjected to illegal aggression.

‘What are we waiting for?’

Following an Iranian media outlet’s social media post sharing the lawmakers’ letter, numerous commenters expressed frustration that Iran was not taking “decisive” actions.

One young man wrote, “Our nuclear sites were bombed, and the West still wants to sanction us. What are we waiting for? These people don’t want a deal. Even if we shut down our nuclear facilities they are going to ask for something else. Make the bomb already.”

A fatwa (religious decree) issued years ago by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, prohibits the development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

After the U.S.-Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear facilities, IAEA Chief Rafael Grossi stated that, despite a loaded report released the day before the attack, the agency had found no evidence that Iran had ever moved toward building nuclear weapons. Prior to the attack, Iran’s nuclear sites were subject to the most rigorous UN inspections in the world. American President Donald Trump has said Iranian nuclear facilities were “obliterated” by the U.S.-Israeli strikes.

On a similar post from a different media outlet, one citizen questioned, “What is Iran afraid of?” and added, “Anything that should not have happened has already happened. We signed a deal, they threw it down the

drain, we entered talks again, and they attacked us. We cannot solve this with these vicious Westerners.”

Similar to the public, Iranian analysts and experts have increasingly begun to view engagement with the West in a negative light. Yousef Azizi, a well-known analyst, told the Daneshjoo News Agency that the West “only understands the language of deterrence.”

“Iran must change the equations. Attaining nuclear deterrence is the only remaining option for Iran,” he stated.

Many, especially conservatives within Iran, are also demanding a heavy-handed response to Europe’s activation of the snapback mechanism. The secretary of Iran’s Green Party, Hossein Kanan Moghaddam, has stated that Iran must expel the German, French, and British ambassadors once UN sanctions are reinstated.

Nonetheless, it does not appear that Iran’s leadership will change course, at least in the short term. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told Chinese media Sunday that Tehran will continue to act within the framework of the NPT despite the draconian Western pressure. There is also not expected to be a major break with Europeans. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is set to meet with European representatives on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York this week, the Tehran Times understands.



Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi arrived in New York on Monday. He is set to meet with European representatives

and a half years after Washington withdrew from the deal, re-imposed sanctions, and introduced secondary ones. Europe failed to mitigate the impact of the U.S. embargoes and later imposed its own sanctions based on unsubstantiated allegations of Iran’s involvement in the Ukraine war. Europe also provided diplomatic and political backing to the U.S. and Israel when they attacked Iran’s nuclear sites during ongoing negotiations, a blatant viola-

Iran has said the reinstatement of UN sanctions would nullify a deal signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which allows the resumption of cooperation with the nuclear watchdog after it was suspended shortly following the war’s conclusion. The agreement was signed earlier this month in Cairo.

Iranians have also warned that they may look into leaving the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Pezeshkian receives Leader’s guidance ahead of crucial UN address and amidst Assembly’s crisis of credibility

TEHRAN – In a meeting that took place on Monday, President Masoud Pezeshkian met with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, to coordinate Iran’s stance ahead of the president’s upcoming visit to New York to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Unofficial reports state that Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the importance of the trip and underscored the need for the Iranian delegation to vigorously present the nation’s positions on the international stage. President Pezeshkian is expected to deliver a major speech outlining the Islamic Republic’s views on regional and global issues, with the ongoing genocide in Gaza positioned as a central theme of his address.

This year’s UNGA convenes under the symbolic banner of the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the UN. However, rather than a celebration, the session is widely seen as an unsettling indictment of the international body’s failure to fulfill its founding mission. The organization is facing what many observers describe as its lowest point in credibility, having proven utterly incapable of halting the Israeli regime’s U.S.-backed campaign of mass murder in Gaza.

Despite overwhelming international condem-

nation and a series of resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly calling for an immediate ceasefire, the UN Security Council has been systematically paralyzed by the United States. Washington has repeatedly used its veto power to shield its ally, Israel, from any meaningful consequences, effectively giving a green light for the continued slaughter of Palestinians.

Since the Israeli regime launched its brutal offensive in October 2023, following a Palestinian Resistance operation, the United States has not only provided diplomatic cover but has also funneled billions of dollars in emergency military aid to Tel Aviv. Furthermore, the U.S. has consistently blocked all efforts to hold the Israeli regime accountable at international forums, including the UN Security Council, where it has single-handedly vetoed multiple ceasefire resolutions.

Israel has killed somewhere between 66,000 to 680,000 Palestinians in the last two years, and bombed any civilian structure in Gaza in an attempt to make it uninhabitable.

This unwavering support has enabled Israel to expand its violence across West Asia with impunity, including aggressive attacks on Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Iran, bringing the entire region to the brink of a wider conflict multiple



times in the past months. The upcoming General Assembly is thus set against a backdrop of a crippled multilateral system, where the principles of the UN Charter are being trampled by the very powers that claim to uphold them.

President Pezeshkian’s address is anticipated to deliver a sharp critique of this hypocrisy, holding the United States and its client regime directly responsible for the collapse of international law and the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. A number of other countries are also expected to address the need for fundamental reform and an end to American hegemony over international institutions.

Girls’ U16 basketball team; nothing short of inspirational

TEHRAN- In a heart-stopping final at the FIBA U16 Women’s Asia Cup Division B in Seremban, Malaysia, Iranian girls came within a single point of glory, falling 67-66 to India in a game that could have marked their historic promotion to Division A.

Despite the loss, the team’s journey, led by head coach Sarveh Zarghamian, was nothing short of inspirational. Throughout the tournament, Iran outperformed tough opponents including Uzbekistan, Samoa, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. They reached the final with confidence and high morale, only to see their hopes dashed by the narrowest of margins.

Fataneh Malek, Vice President of the Iran Basketball Federation for Women’s Affairs, accompanied the team in Malaysia and shared her insights in an exclusive interview.

“It came down to the smallest details.” That’s how Fataneh Malek, Vice President of the Iran Basketball Federation, described Iran’s heartbreaking one-point loss to India in the FIBA U16 Women’s Asia Cup Division B final. Despite falling just short of promotion to Division A, Malek believes the team’s performance marked a major leap forward for girls’ basketball in Iran.

“It was an intense match, and our girls played their heart out,” Malek stated. “The final result came down to minor details, especially our free-throw conversion rate. That’s where the game slipped away.”

“In Division B, only the champion earns promotion to Division A,” Malek explained. “That’s what made this final so critical. Losing by one point under these rules is painful, but it also proves that we’re on the brink of competing at Asia’s top level.”

Malek emphasized the importance of post-game analysis and using this experience as a learning curve for future tournaments.

“This wasn’t just about winning or losing,” she said. “It was about seeing how close we are to the elite. If we fix some tactical issues, especially consistency in quarter-three and pressure handling in the final minutes, we’ll absolutely be ready for the next step.”

Iran’s journey through the group stage included wins over Samoa (78-45) and Uzbekistan (61-54), with their only loss again coming against India. They eliminated Malaysia and Hong Kong convincingly in the playoff stages before meeting India once more in the final.

“These girls are talented, disciplined, and hungry,” Malek noted. “We’re building a generation of players who can make Iran a force in women’s basketball in Asia.”

“Looking ahead, the federation is focused on refining technical training, improving mental resilience, and continuing the momentum gained from this campaign.

“This isn’t the end, it’s the beginning of something greater,” Malek concluded.

Mohmadi takes silver at 2025 World Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Alireza Mohmedi lost to Serbian wrestler Aleksandr Komarov 4-3 in the final bout of 87kg at the 2025 World Wrestling Championships on Sunday.

Kyrgyzstan’s Asan Zhanyshov and Milad Alirzaev (UWW) won two bronze medals.

Iran’s Greco-Roman wrestlers Saïd Esmaeli (67kg), Gholamreza Farrokhi (82kg), Mohammadhadi Saravi (97kg) and Amin Mirzazadeh (130kg) won four gold medals.

Payam Ahmadi (55kg) and Alireza Mohmadi (87kg) took two silver medals. And Mehdi Keshtkar in 63kg and Danial Sohrabi in 72kg claimed two bronze medals.

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

Tractor earn late win over Sepahan

TEHRAN –Tractor football team moved up to top of the 2025-26 Iran Professional League (IPL) thanks to a late 2-1 win over Sepahan Sunday night.

In the match held at the Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium in Isfahan, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh put the visiting team ahead from the penalty spot in the 45th minute.

Sepahan leveled the score in the 60th minute thanks to Mohammad Mehdi Lotfi’s goal but Hosseinzadeh scored the winner in the stoppage time, finding the back of the net with a header.

At the end of Matchweek 4, Tractor sit first with seven points above Gol Gohar courtesy of superior goal difference.

Iran down UAE at AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran made it two wins out of two following their 10-0 defeat of United Arab Emirates in their AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026 Qualifiers Group C match on Monday.

Iran, who sailed 12-0 past Bangladesh in the opener, only needed 30 seconds to find the back of the net through Behrooz Azimi, who gained possession from a poor back pass before slipping the ball home.

UAE tried to assert themselves but lost their momentum after Iran capitalized on a counter-attacking move in the seventh minute which saw Mahdi Karimi curling his effort into the top left corner from above the box.

Despite the Emiratis best efforts to contain the men in red with Hamad Hassan Alblooshi forcing Iran keeper Mahdi Rostami into a save a minute later, Amirhossein Dehghani made it 3-0 seconds later after converting Azimi’s corner.

Iran maintained control through their high-press and increased their tally in the 12th minute through Masoud Yousef before Hossein Tayebi etched his name on the scoresheet a minute later following another counter-attacking move.

Yousef then netted from a 10-metre penalty in the 18th minute before Hossein Sabzi gained possession from the right flank to set up Ali Khalilvand for a simple tap-in.

Iran were relentless after the break with goals from Azimi (23rd), Rostami (28th) and Yousef (29th) sealing the emphatic win.

Iran libero Salehi warns of Serbia threat in world championship

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team libero Arman Salehi says that Team Melli will face a difficult task against Serbia in the 2025 FIVB World Championship Round of 16.

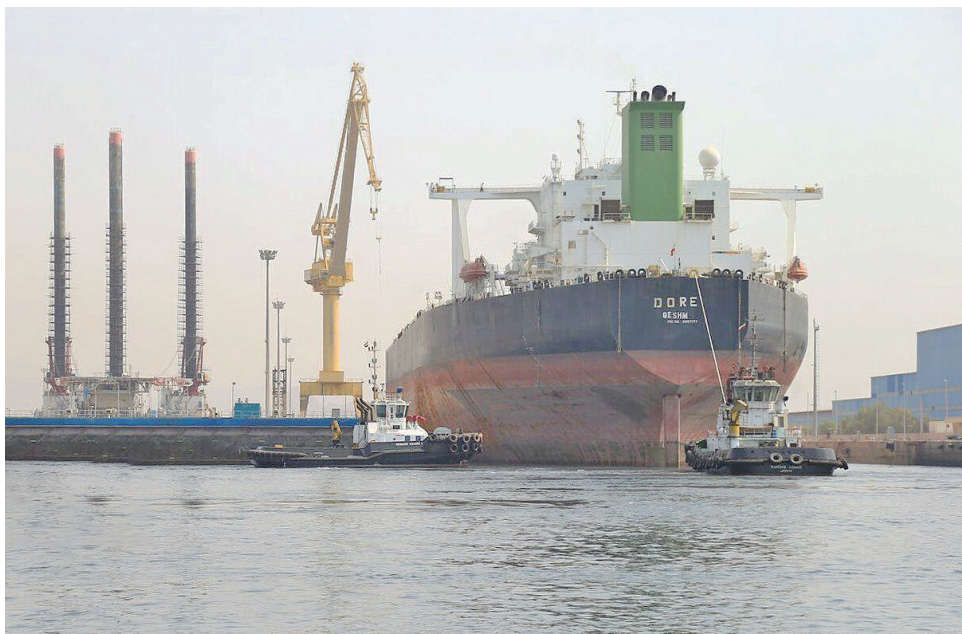
Iran are scheduled to meet the European powerhouse on Tuesday. Roberto Piazza’s Iran had defeated Serbia in the 2025 Volleyball Nations League.

“Serbia are a team that has changed since the Volleyball Nations League. From now on, each match is a final for us,” Salehi said.

“After securing a place in the Round of 16, we have focused solely on the Serbia match. We know we have a tough task ahead,” he added.

“The winner of this match will face the winner of the Czech Republic and Tunisia. I hope we can keep going and the Iranian people give us positive energy for these matches,” Salehi concluded.

NIOC chief says Iran's oil exports continue without interruption



TEHRAN – Iran's oil exports are continuing without interruption, the head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said on Monday, dismissing reports of losses from changes in sales methods.

Hamid Bovard, NIOC's managing director, told IRNA that Iran is pursuing both diversification and expansion of oil sales in different markets, echoing comments by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

He rejected claims that such policies had harmed revenues.

"In a relentless effort and close struggle, Iran's oil industry representatives are carrying out sales of crude and petroleum products appropriately," Bovard said.

He added that the company does not intend to respond to every rumor, but is focused on keeping the "country's economic lights on" through persistent efforts.

Earlier, Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad told reporters that Iran's oil sales had never stopped, continuing strongly despite fluctua-

tions. He said there were no unsold crude shipments stranded at sea.

Recent data supports the officials' remarks. Iran's crude output rose to about 3.27 million barrels per day in early September, the highest in seven-and-a-half years, following upgrades in infrastructure and recovery techniques.

Recent OPEC data showed Iran recorded the largest oil revenue gain among member states in 2024, climbing from \$41.1 billion in 2023 to more than \$46.7 billion.

China remains a crucial buyer, Beijing's imports of Iranian crude reached record levels in June 2025, with estimates ranging between 1.46 million and 1.8 million barrels per day, underscoring Tehran's ability to maintain robust flows to Asian markets despite sanctions.

Such figures reinforce NIOC's position that oil exports remain active and profitable, and that diversification of sales channels has bolstered both output and revenues.

New pipeline secures stable gas production at South Pars phase 16

TEHRAN – The Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (IOECC) has completed a new offshore and onshore pipeline for phase 16 of the South Pars gas field, ensuring stable production from the platform, the project manager said.

Mohammadreza Atefehpour, who leads the project at IOECC said the new line was commissioned after concerns over the aging pipeline that previously connected the phase 16 platform.

The modernization project was described

as one of the oil industry's most strategic undertakings, restoring steady output from the offshore installation while also delivering rare technical and managerial achievements for Iran's energy sector.

Atefehpour told Shana that the project involved significant safety and engineering challenges, alongside innovative methods for securing pipeline operations.

He added that the initiative also advanced domestic expertise and technology localization in the oil and gas industry.

Shiraz Chamber sees new opportunities for Iran-South Korea trade in medical, pharmaceutical sectors

TEHRAN – The head of Shiraz Chamber of Commerce said Iran and South Korea have new opportunities to expand trade in medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and related raw materials, while stressing that Iranian businesses are keen to raise trade levels with Seoul in line with international regulations.

Mohammad Sadegh Hamidian told Yoon Kyung Park, consul-general of the South Korean Embassy in Tehran on September 8, that Iran has a long history of exporting medicinal herbs, minerals and petrochemical products to South Korea.

He noted there is strong potential for cooperation in medical devices, dental equipment, pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals, much of which could be conducted outside the scope of sanctions.

Hamidian added that "in every Iranian household there is a Korean-made product," calling on Seoul to boost economic ties with Tehran.

He said the chamber is ready to pave the

way for humanitarian goods trade, facilitate reciprocal business delegations, and strengthen private-sector links between the two countries, particularly in the medical field.

The South Korean consul general acknowledged the difficulties of past years in bilateral relations but voiced hope that ties between Tehran and Seoul will improve.

She highlighted the cultural appeal of Iran among South Koreans, noting that Korean culture has also been warmly received in Iran.

Park said trade between the two countries had declined over the past decade but that South Korea's private sector still regards Iran as a promising and attractive market.

She emphasized that Korean companies can engage in humanitarian-related activities in Iran and expressed optimism that trade could even surpass past levels. She added that measures were being considered to resolve financial obstacles.

ICCIMA pledges training support, economic cooperation with Palestine

From Page 1 ▶ Hassanzadeh proposed initiatives including commitments by Islamic states to use and buy Palestinian goods, organizing conferences and trade fairs to showcase Palestinian capacities, inviting Palestinian entrepreneurs to events in Islamic countries, dispatching delegations to develop international economic programs, designating a "Day of Economic Cooperation of the Islamic World with a focus on Palestine," allocating scholarships for Palestinian students in Islamic countries, and establishing scientific and cultural centers for youth training with global educational standards.

He said Islamic countries' commitment to Palestine is a "divine duty" and a step to prove international solidarity and compassion for a "suppressed nation."



Hassanzadeh reiterated ICCIMA's readiness to launch training programs with ICRC, and called for forming a council to strengthen Palestinian foundations, saying support should not remain limited to slogans and statements.

The 39th board meeting of the

Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development and the 70th session of its finance committee opened on Sunday in Amman with representatives from 18 countries, including Azerbaijan, Chad, Djibouti, Guinea, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kuwait, Maurita-

nia, Niger, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Turkey, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, along with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as an observer.

The board discussed issues such as the election of the chamber's new leadership for the next four years, a Qatari proposal on future strategic directions modeled after the European Chamber system, broader cooperation with Palestine's economy, and plans for the 50th anniversary of the Islamic Chamber's establishment.

Hassanzadeh was accompanied by Mohammadreza Karbasi, director-general of ICRC, and Sabah Zangeneh, a board member of ICRC and former Iranian envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

NIDC saves \$133,000 in drilling costs through manufacturing of 70 high-demand parts

TEHRAN – The Head of the Engineering and Construction Technology Department of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC), referring to the manufacturing of 70 high-consumption parts in the drilling industry during the first half of this Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), stated: "The manufacturing of these parts, in cooperation with knowledge-based companies and domestic manufacturers, has resulted in savings of 133 billion rials (about \$133,000) in company costs based on calculations made."

Masoud Seyed Mahmoudi stated: "The National Iranian Drilling Company is one of the pioneering companies in the oil industry regarding its focus on domestic manufacturing and has over two decades of history of interaction and cooperation with domestic manufacturers and industrialists in the field of technical and engineering knowledge."

He pointed to the manufacturing of 5,019 parts and 633 pieces of equipment, with a total and breakdown of 23,576 parts, and added: "The number of parts and equipment manufactured in recent years shows an eight-percent growth compared to the past."

The official further explained that, besides savings and after-sales service, an important advantage of focusing on domestic manufacturing is the cessation of purchasing these parts and equipment from abroad, stating: "Domestically produced parts are being localized with priority given to high-consumption and essential parts."

Regarding the most important achievements of the Research, Technology, and Construction Engineering Management of the National Iranian Drilling Company in the field of manufacturing parts and equipment, he stated: "In the drilling operations sector, we can mention the manufacturing of air, oil, and fuel filters for Caterpillar engines; the main shaft of various top drives; fluid screens; various Checkmate and Demco valves; RING JOINT GASKET; various PLUG VALVES; liner and module for various mud pumps; engine radiators; 5/8, 13, and 20-inch packing elements; drilling rig pins; lifting sleeves; brake rim draw works; mud pump connecting rod; and some top drive parts."

Seyed Mahmoudi said: "In the technical and specialized drilling services sector, various parts and equipment, including logging sensors, butterfly valves, high-pressure cementing pipes, the underbalanced drilling rotary BOP stack, OVER SHOT tools, DESANDER UNIT, MOT, SURGE DRUM, MOT, and DISILTER UNIT, MOT have been localized."

The Head of the Engineering and Construction Technology Department of the National Iranian Drilling Company added: "The Research, Technology, and Construction Engineering Management of the company has also placed on its agenda the first-time production of strategic and key drilling industry equipment, with the aim of supporting domestic production and maximizing the use of capacities under Article 10 of the Law on Knowledge-Based Production Leap, and by utilizing the potential of knowledge-based companies active in the country's oil industry."

He stated: "In the drilling operations activity sector, the design and manufacturing of main diesel generators for drilling rigs, drilling mud pumps, drilling rig draw works, rotary tables, blowout control equipment, drilling jars, drilling fluid service centrifuges, and in

the technical services activity sector, the design and manufacturing of cementing pump trucks, mobile wireline units, mobile wireline inspection units, and cementing service densitometers are underway."

In mid-September, the NIDC managing director said that the company had built its second mobile oil treatment (MOT) unit using in-house expertise and equipment.

Mehran Makvandi noted the company's engineers had focused on innovation, integrated technical services and software solutions to improve drilling operations. He said the new unit offers faster deployment and higher reliability than the first domestically produced system.

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

The MOT unit is designed to process crude oil directly at the wellhead by removing water, salt, sediments and associated gases before sending the treated oil to pipelines or refineries. It was recently tested at wells 37 and 38 in the Lali oilfield operated by the National Iranian South Oil Company, with results approved by the client. The system is now in use for well repair operations near Ahvaz.

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

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

National Iranian Drilling Company, a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), is a key player in Iran's oil and gas industry, responsible for drilling operations.

The company that conducts exploration, development, and drilling of oil and gas wells, as well as repair and maintenance services, and has been actively involved in both onshore and offshore drilling projects, is now ready to play a more prominent role in the region.

The deputy managing director of the company has announced the implementation of a comprehensive program to modernize the drilling fleet, widely localize equipment, manufacture a national drilling engine, and set a goal of repairing and completing 150 wells by the end of this year, emphasizing: "Based on decades of experience, this company is ready to play a more prominent role at the regional level."

Regarding the most important challenges of the NIDC due to sanctions, Masoud Afshar has stated: "Domestic production of many equipment has reduced dependence on foreign countries, but in the engine sector, we had challenges that are being resolved with the new contract. The production of SCR, cables, and tanks are other successful examples of self-sufficiency."

"Our experts are currently involved in international projects, and the successful drilling experience in Turkmenistan will be a basis for expanding activities in other neighboring countries", the official has underlined.

Afshar has emphasized that with the development of technology, self-sufficiency in equipment, and the benefit of efficient hu-

man resources, the National Drilling Company is firmly on the path of sustainable development and is ready to play a more effective role in the regional arena.

Meanwhile, the managing director of the company has explained the outlook for the development of the drilling industry in the country, and said: "The most important global indicator in the field of drilling is the reduction of unproductive times; so, we have reduced this indicator from 21 percent to about 9.6 percent and set a goal to reach below three percent."

Mehran Makvandi said that in the five-year outlook, the modernization of the onshore and offshore drilling fleet, the development of offshore drilling in the Persian Gulf oil fields, and the upgrading of technical service equipment and their integration are priorities.

Regarding digital developments in the company, he stated: "Digitalization of drilling processes, from design and monitoring to operation analysis and well data management, is one of the main axes of the company's future vision; this approach will lead to reduced errors, faster decision-making, economic savings, and greater safety."

In addition to upgrading equipment, strengthening cooperation with scientific centers and knowledge-based companies, developing human resources, and increasing competitiveness in the international market are also among the company's strategic priorities in the 5-year outlook, the official added.

The NIDC managing director has also referred to the company's move towards domestic production of the equipment, and said: "One of the strategic priorities of the National Iranian Drilling Company is to increase the share of domestic manufacturing."

"In this regard, cooperation has been developed with companies such as Fajr Shiraz Complex, which has experience in manufacturing key components of drilling rigs. The project to build the third drilling rig in the country with a savings of seven million dollars is an example of these measures", Makvandi added.

According to him, prioritization is based on the operational needs of the fields, the type of projects, and domestic capacity, although the lack of some technical infrastructure, the need for technology transfer, and the timely supply of quality parts are some of the challenges on the localization path. However, the company is determined to strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence.

Makvandi further referred to the NIDC's contracts with knowledge-based companies and added: "Nine one-megawatt generator motors and four drilling fluid purification centrifuges, which were previously imported, will be manufactured inside the country, and the first samples will be delivered by the end of the [current Iranian] year (March 20, 2026)."

He also noted: "A specific roadmap has been developed for utilizing these technologies, which includes continuous cooperation with science and technology parks, universities, knowledge-based companies, and the formation of specialized working groups to evaluate and implement technologies in field operations."

What is behind Trump’s Bagram dream?

By staff writer

TEHRAN- The recent political and military discourse surrounding the Bagram Air Base in northern Afghanistan underscores the renewed strategic tug-of-war playing out in Central and South Asia.

U.S. President Donald Trump has made the reclamation of Bagram a focal point of his political agenda, demanding the Taliban return control of what was once America’s primary military hub in Afghanistan. His statements, notably his warning that “bad things will happen” if the base is not handed back, signal a potential shift towards more aggressive U.S. postures amid a complex global environment.

Historical background of Bagram air base

The Bagram Air Base was originally built in the 1950s with Soviet assistance, initially serving as the Afghan Air Force’s main airfield. During the Soviet invasion from 1979 to 1989, Bagram became a hub for thousands of combat missions against the Mujahideen (the guerrilla forces). Its strategic location roughly 40 miles north of Kabul allowed effective deployment of Soviet air power, making it a target for frequent attacks by rebel forces. Following the Soviet withdrawal and subsequent civil wars, control of Bagram changed hands multiple times among various factions, reflecting the instability engulfing Afghanistan during the 1990s.

With the U.S.-led invasion after 9/11, Bagram was revitalized into the largest American military base outside the United States. The base expanded into a sprawling complex equipped for sustained air and ground operations, with two runways over three kilometers long capable of hosting fighter jets, bombers, transport aircraft, and drones. It housed tens of thousands of troops, contractors, and support personnel. Facilities included hospitals, housing, recreational centers, and extensive logistics networks. For two decades, Bagram functioned as the epicenter of U.S. military operations, enabling airstrikes, reconnaissance, intelligence collection, and rapid troop deployment across Afghanistan.

The Biden administration’s chaotic 2021 withdrawal forced the handover of Bagram to the Afghan National Security Forces, who shortly afterward lost control to the Taliban’s rapid advance. The loss of Bagram closed a chapter on America’s long-standing military presence



in Afghanistan but left a vacuum with substantial regional security consequences.

Trump’s political use and U.S. domestic context

Bagram’s loss has been aggressively politicized domestically by Trump, who has framed it as a sign of weakened American resolve under President Biden. Trump indicates a return to a hawkish posture intended to mobilize his core supporters ahead of the 2026 midterm elections by calling for the return of the base and threatening “bad things” would occur if the Taliban refused.

This strategy draws on a larger narrative that contrasts his “strong leadership” with what he calls Biden’s “disastrous” troop withdrawal. Trump’s stance on Afghanistan continues to be a powerful wedge in American electoral politics, as evidenced by the viral reactions on social media, particularly X. Regaining Bagram, which is highly far-fetched, would represent not only tactical military might but also a demonstration of American dominance and deterrence to audiences at home and abroad.

Iran and geostrategic position of Bagram air base

For Iran, a possible return of U.S. control over Bagram would naturally constitute a threat. Situated in northern Afghanistan close to the Iranian border, the base would allow surveillance and possible military operations to target Iran’s eastern provinces. The base’s proximity to Afghanistan’s shared borders with Iran, China’s Xinjiang region, and Central Asia would enhance its strategic value as a platform for U.S. regional military and intelligence operations.

Bagram would enable U.S. forces to conduct drone reconnaissance, electronic surveillance, rapid deployment of special operations forces, and missile or air strikes at Iranian interests.

Tehran views Bagram through the lens of the U.S.–Iran geopo-

litical rivalry, interpreting America’s likely return as part of a larger strategy to encircle the Islamic Republic and curb its growing influence in the region. Iran’s strategic partnership with China, including a 25-year cooperation agreement spanning economic, military, and technological sectors, is also entwined in this regional contest. From Tehran’s perspective, U.S. possible presence in Bagram acts as a check against Sino-Iranian expansion in Central and South Asia, complicating Tehran’s efforts to deepen ties and increase regional influence.

Broader regional and global context

The struggle over Bagram is embedded within a broader triangular contest involving the United States, China, and Russia, all competing for influence in Afghanistan and the Central Asian corridor. For Washington, Bagram symbolizes a foothold from which to project power, counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative, and monitor regional security threats.

China regards Bagram with concern, as it would U.S. surveillance near Xinjiang province — an area where Beijing faces ethnic unrest and terrorism risks allegedly supported by militants in Afghanistan. Beijing’s deepening engagement with Afghanistan and Pakistan serves to counteract U.S. influence, with China’s support for the Taliban government offering a strategic hedge against America’s military footprint in Bagram.

Given its historical stakes and security concerns in Central Asia, Russia also keeps a close eye on the situation. A reassertion of U.S. military power through Bagram, which is a just a dream, would complicate Moscow’s regional goals, despite the fact that Russia follows a different approach that emphasizes diplomatic engagement and security partnerships.

The Taliban have become a crucial geopolitical actor juggling ties with China, Russia, the

United States, and regional powers like Iran and Pakistan. This is demonstrated by their refusal to give up control of Bagram in the face of American pressure. In a delicate and intricate regional system, control of Bagram continues to be crucial and symbolic, impacting diplomatic dynamics and power dynamics.

Security and military operational capabilities

The Bagram Air Base’s infrastructure supports a wide array of military assets: fighter jets such as F-16s, helicopters including UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinooks, transport planes like the C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III, and extensive drone capabilities. Its multi-layered security includes perimeter fencing, watchtowers, and patrol units, which safeguard this critical site.

As a logistical hub, Bagram manages the flow of troops, weapons, food, medical supplies, and humanitarian aid throughout Afghanistan’s challenging terrain. The capacity to launch rapid air and drone strikes from Bagram enables U.S. forces to conduct surgical operations deep inside hostile territory, crucial for counterterrorism campaigns and special operations.

Reactivating Bagram would restore rapid deployment capabilities in Afghanistan’s northern and central provinces, potentially enhancing pressure not only on militants but also on perceived state adversaries. This operational flexibility heightens the stakes for regional security calculations.

The Air Base stands as a geographic and symbolic keystone of U.S. strategic ambitions in Central and South Asia. Its historical legacy, from the Soviet era through two decades of U.S. presence, underscores its critical role in military operations, intelligence, and regional influence.

Trump’s dreams for return reflect a domestic political strategy intertwined with broader geopolitical contests involving Iran, China, Russia, and the Taliban-run Afghanistan.

The complex interplay of U.S. military ambitions, Taliban sovereignty assertions, and regional power rivalries means that the status of Bagram will continue to influence the balance of power. The base’s future remains uncertain but pivotal to understanding the evolving dynamics of conflict, diplomacy, and power in Afghanistan and beyond.

However, summarily speaking, Trump’s access to the Bagram air base is like a dream.

Bint Jbeil tragedy and Ortagus’ responsibility

Following the meeting, Ortagus left Beirut without meeting Lebanese Army Commander Rudolph Heikal, who insists on implementing his plan without political pressure and provided that the Israeli attacks come to an end and the regime withdraw from the areas under its occupation.

Meanwhile, in tacit and renewed support for the Israeli enemy’s ongoing genocides, U.S. envoy to Syria Thomas Barrack admitted in an interview with Sky News Arabia that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu doesn’t care about borders and red lines.

“He will go anywhere and do anything if he feels Israel is threatened,” Barrack stated, adding that “peace is just an illusion. There has never been peace before, and there probably won’t be in the future because everyone is fighting for legitimacy.”

Barrack noted that “some say they are fighting on borders, but in reality, that is not what they are fighting for,” claiming that “borders are just a negotiation process, and the end result is that one party wants hegemony, and that means the other party must submit,” and that “ultimately, economic prosperity is the only solution.”

For his part, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham threatened to resort to military force if “peaceful” efforts to disarm Hezbollah failed, warning that his country “will not stand idly by” in the face of what he described as “Lebanon’s transformation into an Iranian military base on Israel’s border.”

According to what was prevalent in official



circles prior to the arrival of Ortagus, and what was reported by Saudi envoy Yazid bin Farhan, Israel is heading toward further violence in Palestine and Lebanon.

Informed sources pointed that the meeting between the President of the Republic and Saudi envoy Yazid bin Farhan last week did not address Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem’s initiative to open up to Riyadh.

Meanwhile, MP Hassan Fadlallah, a member of Hezbollah’s Loyalty to the Resistance bloc, said the government is responsible to confront the repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanon, noting that “these attacks are further evidence to the state that this enemy cannot be confronted with only official condemnations.”

Fadlallah considered that “the government has many means it can resort to at political, diplomatic, and international levels to pressure those who sponsored this agreement to stop these attacks, this violation, and this violation of the country’s dignity and sovereignty.”

North Korea’s leader says open to US talks if denuclearization demands dropped

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has urged the US to drop its demand the North surrender its nukes as a precondition for resuming long-stalled diplomacy, AP reported.

Speaking to the country’s parliament on Sunday, Kim stressed that he has no intention of ever resuming dialogue with rival South Korea, a key U.S. ally that helped broker Kim’s previous summits with Donald Trump during the American president’s first term, according to a speech published by state media on Monday.

Kim suspended virtually all cooperation with the South following the collapse of his second summit with Trump in 2019 over disagreements about U.S.-led sanctions against the North. Trump is expected to visit South Korea next month to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, prompting media speculation that he may try to meet Kim at the inter-Korean border, as they did during their third meeting in 2019, which ultimately failed to salvage their nuclear diplomacy.

Palestinian flag raised outside embassy in London

The Palestinian flag was raised outside the premises of what is now Palestine’s embassy to the UK in central London, marking Britain’s recognition of a Palestinian state.

The flag-raising followed a speech by Palestine’s ambassador to the UK, Husam Zomlot, outside what was previously the Palestine Mission to the UK, Al Jazeera reported.

“Please join me as we raise the flag of Palestine with its colors representing our nation: Black for our mourning, white for our

hope, green for our land and red for the sacrifices of our people,” said Zomlot.

“We raise it in honor of the long journey of the Palestinian people towards freedom and justice and in honor of the millions of freedom-loving people in Britain and around the world.”

He continued: “We raise it as a pledge that Palestine will live, Palestine will rise and Palestine will be free.”



Demonstrators in Rome rally as part of a nationwide strike opposing Israel’s war on Gaza, September 22, 2025.

Wave of Palestine recognition: A symbolic rupture wrapped in political interest

From page 1 ► The inversion is revealing: recognition becomes not a lever for change but an end in itself, a carefully staged gesture designed to reshape the diplomatic narrative while leaving the hard instruments of policy untouched.

That posture explains why critics describe the wave as “too little, too late.” On the ground, nothing has shifted: Israeli settlement plans continue to gnaw at West Bank contiguity, the E1 corridor threatens to bisect potential Palestinian territory, and Gaza faces what numerous UN bodies and rights groups describe as genocide — a blockade-driven famine, collapsing services, mass displacement, and relentless bombardment compounded by the obstruction of aid. Recognition on paper cannot redraw borders, dismantle settlements, or deliver humanitarian relief.

Israeli attack on Yemeni journalists among deadliest in history

From page 1 ► “It was a savage and unjustifiable attack aimed at innocent people whose sole offense was working in the media, equipped only with their pens and words,” he told CPJ, noting that many colleagues were left in pieces.

The deadliest attack on journalists recorded by CPJ was the 2009 Maguindanao massacre in the Philippines, where 32 journalists were killed in an

ambushed convoy.

Al-Khadri called on the international community to respond decisively. “The Israeli military demolished the newspapers’ facilities, printing presses, and archives. The archive of September 26 is among Yemen’s most significant historical collections, chronicling the nation’s history since the last century, and its loss is profoundly heartbreaking,” he told CPJ.

CPJ stated that the Israeli regime’s aggression in Yemen mirrors attacks in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran, where it has consistently blurred the line between military targets and journalists, justifying assassinations by labeling reporters as terrorists or propagandists, without presenting credible evidence.

Under international law, journalists, as civilians must be afforded specific protection in military operations.

On September 10, the Israeli military posted a report on social media that stated it had struck “military targets” in Sanaa and northern al-Jawf Governorate.

The Israeli military said the strikes were in retaliation for ongoing Yemeni attacks.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

symbolic rupture. If these gestures carry the language of moral duty, they are also wrapped in political self-interest. France’s Macron is attempting to navigate a volatile domestic landscape: mass pro-Palestine demonstrations, the presence of Europe’s largest Muslim community, and the electoral pressures emanating from both left and right.

Jean-Luc Mélenchon and other left figures have turned Palestine into a galvanizing cause; Marine Le Pen, by contrast, denounced the move as recognizing “Hamasstan,” using the term to equate Palestinian statehood with Hamas and to appeal to conservative voters through security fears.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran approves museum dedicated to 12-day war with Israel



From Page 1 ► He described the war as a defining factor for the [1979] Iranian Revolution and national independence, adding that the “spirit of resistance and sacrifice” displayed during the 12-day war should not be forgotten.

The Iran–Israel conflict, also called the Twelve-Day War, took place from June 13 to June 24, 2025. It began with Israeli strikes on Iranian military and nuclear sites, which martyred several prominent military leaders, nuclear scientists, and politicians, and damaged air defense installations. Iran retaliated with hundreds of ballistic missiles and suicide drones targeting

military, energy, and government sites.

Salehi Amiri also announced plans to hold 31 cultural festivals across Iran's provinces to promote the country's heritage and strengthen national identity among younger generations.

He said both the Iran-Iraq War and the 12-Day War had fostered national unity. “Unlike the image portrayed abroad, those wars have been a source of cohesion in the Iranian society.”

War veterans and commanders are symbols of national dignity, and the media should highlight the moral and spiritual dimensions of these conflicts, the minister explained.

Ali-Sadr Cave discovery documents archived at Iran’s National Library

TEHRAN—Head of the National Library and Archives of West of Iran, Atefeh Zarei, gave news of the registration of documents of the discovery of Ali-Sadr Cave in Hamedan in the institute's list.

According to Mehr news agency, she said that in order to protect historical documents and information and assist researchers and scholars, documents and evidence related to the discovery of Ali-Sadr Cave will be registered and maintained in cooperation with Einollah Bakhtiarfar, one of the discoverers of this cave.

She also said that following a meeting with Bakhtiarfar, he announced his commitment to identifying, collecting, and preserving documents and photographs related to the discovery and identification of this amazing cave and its numerous routes.

Zarei said Ali-Sadr Cave is a symbol of the solidarity between people and nature and an unparalleled asset in Iran's natural heritage that must be recorded in the national memory with careful documentation.

Referring to the necessity of conducting oral history interviews with veterans and distinguished figures from various fields, she added: “The documents and photographs of these distinguished figures and elders who created honor and value for Hamedan narrate their sacrifices and efforts to elevate Hamedan and need to be recounted and documented for future generations.”

ture generations.”

Also, Bakhtiarfar explained the story of the discovery of Ali-Sadr Cave and, by presenting photographs and documents from that historical event, emphasized the value of documenting the experiences and activities carried out in the past and announced his readiness to cooperate in this regard.

In the end, it was decided that all documents and photographs related to the discovery of Ali-Sadr Cave would be collected and, after being donated to the National Library and Archives of Western Iran, would be registered in the National Library and Archives of Iran and made available to the researchers and scholars.

Ali-Sadr Cave, known for its extensive network of water-filled passages, draws thousands of visitors each year and is regarded as one of the world's largest water caves.

According to available data, Ali-Sadr Cave was Hamedan province's most popular destination, welcoming 566,000 visitors during the first six months of the Iranian calendar year (started on March 20).

The cave embraces a huge matrix of sunless channels, ponds, grottoes, and water passages which are stretched along with imposing rock formations and stalactite-covered tops in a span of several kilometers. The entrance to the lengthy cave is situated some 70km north of Hamedan, the provincial capital.

Maragheh becomes pilot for implementation of tourist city plan

TEHRAN—Maragheh in East Azarbaijan province, has been chosen as a pilot for implementation of tourist city.

Maragheh Mayor Shahram Morevati intends to become a successful model of Iranian tourist city by making serious changes in basic tourism in urban changes, ILNA reported.

He announced the change of the management model of Maragheh city to the tourist city planning model.

Maragheh is located northwest of Iran in a mountainous landscape with a river running through the city and a historic observatory.

The mayor is the initiator of the path to revitalizing Maragheh under the title of a tourist city. He said the world is changing with an unprecedented speed. “New technologies have

created new styles of urban life. We can no longer manage cities with the old tools and approaches. If urban management fails to adapt to these changes, it will inevitably face inefficiency, social dissatisfaction, and waste of resources. For this reason, more than ever, we need a revamp of the urban planning system. When we talk about sustainable development, we mean more than just the physical growth of the city.”

He continued: “Today, with economic pressures and decline in household purchasing power, one major question confronts us: traditional revenue-based financing models no longer meet today's needs for urban services and facilities. We need sustainable income models which both guarantee the city's financial independence and do not impose more pressure on families.”

Iran seeks to make China top partner in tourism, minister says

TEHRAN – Iran aims to make China its leading partner in the tourism sector, building on existing trade relations between the two countries, the minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts said on Sunday.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri told the 21st session of the ministry's strategic council in Tehran that negotiations are planned between the two governments to expand cooperation in tourism.

“China is our first partner in trade, and we want it to be our first partner in tourism as well,” IRNA quoted Salehi-Amiri as saying on Sunday. He noted that about 160 million Chinese tourists travel abroad annually, a number expected to rise to 200 million by 2030.

He said Iran needs to increase foreign tourist arrivals to protect 1.6 million jobs in the sector and sustain 22,000 accommodation centers, 6,000 travel agencies, 15,000 tour guides, and 3,000 eco-lodges.



Salehi-Amiri identified Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Persian Gulf neighbors, particularly Iraq, as priority markets for tourism. He added that other Islamic countries, such as Egypt and Indonesia, are also important targets.

According to official figures, 6.2 million foreign tourists visited Iran in 1402 (Mar. 2023-Mar.2024) and 7.39 million in

1403. The minister said the government had aimed for 25% growth in arrivals this year, but numbers dropped in June and July due to a 12-day conflict [the Israeli-imposed war on Iran, which was launched on June 13, 2025].

Under Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, the country seeks to raise foreign tourist arrivals to 15 million [in a year].

Salehi-Amiri added that this requires an annual growth of 19.5%. He also asked the parliamentary research center to provide proposals to help revive the industry following the recent conflict.

Salehi-Amiri also highlighted the role of the Iranian expatriates, calling it one of the country's “greatest assets” for social, cultural, and economic development. He said a structure has been established in the foreign ministry to facilitate the return of Iranians abroad.

Another speaker at the event, Babak Negahdari, head of the parliamentary research center, told the meeting that the institution is connected to more than 17,000 sources of information and produces one of the world's largest volumes of research after the United States. He said the center has signed an agreement with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences to expand cooperation.

400 events planned for Iran’s Tourism Week

TEHRAN – Concurrent with the start of Tourism Week, 400 festivals and special events focusing on tourism and sustainable development will be held across Iran from September 27 to October 3, Mostafa Fatemi, director-general of the Domestic Tourism Development Office, said.

Speaking at a press conference regarding Tourism Week on Sunday, he said that the World Tourism Organization proposes a specific slogan every year, and this year it has chosen ‘Tourism and Sustainable Development’ as the slogan, and all programs will focus on it, IRNA reported.

He stated that each day of Tourism Week is named after a title, adding: “The first day of Tourism Week, September 27, is named ‘Tourism and Sustainable Development’, and various programs will be held in the provinces and embassies, and on this day, a green badge will be awarded to exemplary hoteliers during a ceremony.”

The second day, September 28, is named ‘Sustainable Tourism, Education and Sustainable Development’, and in addition to holding various programs, educational

workshops will also be held on sustainable tourism, he said.

The third day, September 29, is named ‘Tourism and Family’, he pointed out, adding that programs and gatherings regarding social sustainability, women and family participation, and specialized training course have been considered for women and managers of accommodation centers and tourism facilities.

He continued that the fourth day, September 30, has been designated as ‘Tourism and Economic Sustainability’, when tourism projects will be inaugurated simultaneously.

During the fifth day, October 1, themed ‘Tourism, Local Society, and Environment’, tourist tours will be held in Tehran and counties and the meetings will be held on Abbas Abad lands in Tehran, he added.

Fatemi mentioned that events with focus on local customs will be held during the sixth day, October 2, themed ‘Tourism and Culture’.

He pointed that the National Festival of International Tourism Content of Iran will

be held during the seventh day, October 3, themed ‘International Tourism and Digital Development’ in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and a specialized meeting of electronic tourism, a meeting with the heads of the Association of Friendship of Countries, and the implementation of city tours and public visits to museums and historical monuments will be held.

Fatemi stressed: “The events play key role in tourism promotion and we need to hold the events.”

He said that people used to travel only to certain districts of the country and hotels in some provinces, such as Semnan and Kerman, were empty, but currently, hotels in these provinces are also full. This change in approach is due to holding events and showing elegance in different provinces, he added.

“We prepared a package for cheap travel that was not approved by the government, but we have considered another plan in form of a platform with discounts from travel agencies, which we hope will be approved by the government.”

Cotton festival in Gorgan aims to promote tourism

TEHRAN – The fourth Cotton Festival, under the slogan “From Farm to Garment,” will be held on October 2 at Tooska Farm on Tooskestan Road in Gorgan, Golestan province, aiming to promote tourism.

It is a national event that provides a new opportunity to introduce the cultural and tourism capacities of Golestan province and strengthen the province's position as the ‘Land of White Gold’ by combining agricultural heritage, traditional arts, and indigenous rituals, Miras-e Arya (CHTN) reported.

Reza Ghiasizadeh, Head of Gorgan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, said that the Fourth Cotton Festival will be held in Gorgan simultaneously with World Cotton Day and Tourism Week with the slogan ‘Reviving the Roots and Returning to the Sustainable Principles of the Cotton Value Chain’.

He added that this festival was formed in order to revive one of the province's well-known brands, the ‘Land of White Gold’, and reflects the historical and cultural importance of cotton in the region's identity.”

Ghiasizadeh explained that the festival will be held by Tooska Tourist Farm and the ‘Green Women of Orsham’ Art and Business Institute, two prominent brands in the field of

handicrafts and tourism, with cooperation of Golestan Cultural Heritage Department.


According to him, the official registration of the Cotton Festival under number 20323860 in Iran's National Tourism Calendar in September 2024 indicates the national status of this event and its capacity for developing cultural tourism in the province.

Meanwhile, Majid Zamani, founder of Tooska Farm and executive director of the Cotton Festival, said that the festival will include workshops on the process of fabric production, including spinning, dyeing, weaving and needlework, a display of Golestan ethnic clothing, an exhibition and shop of handicraft textiles and products from tourist farms.

He added that performing indigenous rituals, local music and rhythmic movements, tradi-

tional hospitality, lighting and celebrating artists, farmers

and veterans are also part of the festival's programs.



Iran Alumina

AMENDMENT INTERNATIONAL CALL

Invitation to bid for the export of aluminum sows ingot P1020

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

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

1- Commodity: Aluminum sows ingot P1020 min 99.7%.
2-BBG (Bid Bond Guarantee): USD 130000 or in equivalent local currency 93,600,000,000 Rials. The BBG should be valid 3 months.
3-Quantity: Min 1000.MT/months during 6month from November 2025 for export only . IAC is Shipper.
4- Closing date (to submit the proposal): before 16:00, Local time, on the day 15th October 2025.
5- Opening date: 3 days after closing date.
6- Bidder should quote Their firm premium as per following:

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

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

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

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

Tel:0098058-32605312-32605353
website: www.iranalumina.ir
E-mail info@iralumina.ir

Iran among 7 countries implementing newborn hearing screening program

TEHRAN – Iran is one of the seven countries in the world carrying out a newborn hearing screening program (NHSP) in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), with the Welfare Organization covering 227,000 deaf individuals, an official with the Welfare Organization has said.

Some 170,000 out of 227,000 individuals with hearing problems are in moderate, severe, and profound hearing loss groups. The Welfare Organization offers a wide range of services to people with hearing impairments, depending on the severity of their problems, from paying for nursing care, providing hearing aids and rehabilitation services, carrying out hearing screening, and genetic counselling in order to prevent newborn deafness, IRNA quoted Zahra Noparast as saying.

She made the remarks on the occasion of the International Week of Deaf People, which is being held from September 22 to 28.

Screening should be carried out in the first three months of a baby's life so that identified children receive intervention before 6 months of age; otherwise, it will result in loss of speech, she noted.

Currently, 99 hearing impairment centers and 28 integrated centers are operating in the country, providing services such as hearing aid prescriptions, cochlear implants, educational



counseling, and rehabilitation services like speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychological, and counseling services, Noparast highlighted.

The Welfare Organization pays 50 million rials (about 50 dollars) per child to rehabilitation centers annually, and their families pay less than ten million rials (around 10 dollars), the official said.

Presently, 55,523 individuals are benefiting from these services. The children receive direct services and the families learn how to communicate with their children and provide a supportive life environment for them, she noted.

Supported by the Welfare Organization, the ministry of health implants cochlear devices free of charge for children who are less than six years old. Over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024 – March 2025), the organization offered over 94,000 services, of which 80,300 focused

on providing hearing aids. Moreover, 3,050 individuals received a cochlear implant, Noparast stated.

According to global statistics, hearing impairment is on the rise, particularly among young people due to the constant use of headphones, exposure to loud noises, and noisy work environments. Age-related hearing loss is a common problem as a person grows older. Therefore, it is essential to raise public awareness on how to prevent the prevalence of the problem.

Newborn hearing screening program kicked off in the country in the Iranian year 1384 (2005–2006), aiming to diagnose hearing impairments within the first month of age and help diagnosed children receive intervention before six months of age.

Some 95 percent of newborns are screened for hearing; the program has identified over

50,000 infants with hearing impairments using more than 700 stationary and mobile screening, benefiting from nongovernmental sectors' services. Consequently, it has lowered the average age of identification of infants with hearing loss from 3 to 1 or 1.5 years.

In April, Jafar Jandaqi, an official with the health ministry, said that hearing impediments or hearing loss can be treated by timely detection and early intervention, such as the use of hearing aids or cochlear implants.

Highlighting that Iran is sharing its expertise and technology in treating hearing loss with other countries, Jandaqi said, "More than 50 percent of hearing loss and problems in adults and 60 percent of hearing loss and impediments in children can be prevented through health care measures."

The International Week of Deaf People is being observed with the theme of 'No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights'.

Daily themes include September 22, 'Deaf communities leading', September 23, 'No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights', September 24, 'Multilingual education for deaf learners', September 25, 'Deaf Rights in Crises', September 26, 'Recognition of National Sign Language', September 27, 'Sign Language Access services', September 28, 'Set the basis for the future: together we can innovate, inspire, and impact!'.



sustained injuries, with Punjab accounting for 661, K-P 218, Sindh 87, PoGB 52, PoJK 37, Balochistan five, and Islamabad three.

Rescue efforts were concentrated in Punjab, where 2.81 million people were evacuated through 4,749 operations. Sindh followed with 184,011 people rescued in 753 operations, and K-P with 14,317 people rescued in 211 operations, The Express Tribune reported.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Water transfer from Sea of Oman has no environmental risk’

Transferring water from Sea of Oman to central drought-ridden provinces of the country, provided that the environmental requirements are met, will not poses threats to the environment, Issa Kalantari, the Department of Environment chief has announced.

To provide the amount of water needed for the country, agriculture and industries, there is no choice but to use seawater, the incredible and abundant resources, now and in the future, Kalantari stated.

Iran, located in an arid and semi-arid area, is facing environmental problems for many years.

شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان مشکل زیست محیطی ندارد

رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور گفت: شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان به استان های مختلف به شرط رعایت الزامات محیط زیستی، جانمایی مناسب در ساخت آب شیرین کن و رهاسازی پساب آن مشکل و مانع زیست محیطی ندارد و از نظر این سازمان بلا مانع است. عیسی کلانتری اظهار داشت: برای تامین آب کشاورزی، آشامیدنی و صنایع کشور چاره ای جز استفاده از آب دریا نداریم و باید چه اکنون و چه آینده به این منابع بیکران و بسیار فراوان رجوع کنیم. وی افزود: ایران کشور پر آبی نیست و سالهای سال با بحرانهای زیست محیطی مواجه است.

SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Iran attending 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation led by Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), is participating in the fifth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR), being held from September 22 to 26 in Hangzhou, China.

Held every 10 years, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves comes together to identify priorities, strengthen collaboration, and define a Global Action Plan for the future.

More than 2000 stakeholders—including scientists, policymakers, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and conservationists—will gather to shape the future of UNESCO's 750+ biosphere reserves across 136 countries.

Discussions will focus on the World Network of Biosphere Reserves' contributions to the global biodiversity and sustainable development agenda, aligning efforts with key international frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development.

In May, the head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Tehran Office, Ieng Srong, invited the country to participate in the 5th WCBR.

Addressing a workshop on "sustainable alternative livelihoods in Iranian biosphere reserves" and a preparatory meeting for the China 2025 WCBR in Shahrud, Semnan province, the official said it is essential to boost cooperation to protect the Earth and promote the well-being of humans. Holding meetings is important for achieving the goal, ILNA quoted Srong as saying.

The workshop was held to commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity, with heads of thirteen biosphere reserves, professors, as well as experts attending the event.

Iran is a pioneer in protecting the environment. However, the country is facing several challenges, such as climate change, water scarcity, and drought, which pose serious threats to the country's environment, the official said.

"Biodiversity and sustainable development strengthen the relationship between humans and the environment. Hence, these three points are of great significance: using natural resources wisely, improving local economies, and maintaining the health of the ecosystems," Srong added.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated every May 22. This year, the day highlighted the inherent connections between people and the natural world through the theme, "Harmony with nature and sustainable development".

It underscored the need to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss – interlinked with achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Environmental education is placed among the list of major programs of UNESCO in Iran, aiming to develop sustainable solutions and international cooperation to address environmental challenges.

Some 130 earthquakes hit Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 128 earthquakes were recorded across the country in a week from September 13 to 19, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 105 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3; 19 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4; and four earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country, IRNA reported.

Of the total quakes, two had a magnitude of 4.7 on the Richter scale, which occurred on September 18 and 19 in Fars province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kerman, with 17, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by Khorasan Razavi and North Khorasan provinces, both with 13 earthquakes.

During the same period, an earthquake hit Tehran province. No earthquakes were recorded in Ardabil, Alborz, Ilam, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Zanjan, Qazvin, Kordestan,

Kermanshah, Gilan, and Hamedan provinces.

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

Out of registered earthquakes, 150 were more than 4 on the Richter scale; at least five earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 4.5 occurred monthly in the country.

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

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



First graders attend “blossoms festival” to mark new school year

TEHRAN – On Monday, elementary schools across the country hosted “Jashn-e Shokufeha”, literally meaning “blossoms festival”, for more than 1.2 million students who attend schools for the first time, marking the new school year, which officially starts on September 23.

Little students glowing in colorful uniforms walked hand in hand with their parents down the streets to enter schools and classrooms for the first time, some of whom grinning cheerfully, and some others with teary eyes and a bit of anxiety being parted from their parents.

More than 16.5 million students attend classes, of whom around 9.2 million are primary school students.



SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*To render relief to the distressed and to help the oppressed
make amends for great sins.*
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:57 Evening: 18:18 Dawn: 4:30 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:54 (tomorrow)

Iran-Tajikistan joint film “Fish on the Hook” unveiled in Tehran

TEHRAN – The private screening and premiere of the film “Fish on the Hook,” a joint production of Iran and Tajikistan, was held on Sunday at the International Conference Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in Tehran.

The event was attended by Peyman Jebelli, head of the IRIB, Nizomiddin Zohidi, ambassador of Tajikistan to Iran, and the cast and crew of the film, Mehr reported.

Reciting a poem by the Persian poet Rudaki, Zohidi said: “Today is a gathering of friendship and affection between Tajikistan and Iran. We have deep-rooted cultural, historical, and religious commonalities that stem from the ancient history of our two nations. Our great figures and forefathers have passed these commonalities down to us, and it is our sacred duty to honor, preserve, strengthen, and pass them on to our children.”

“Our cultural and linguistic ties are the foundation for strengthening relations between the two countries. I thank God that the political will of the leaders of both nations is fully dedicated to expanding relations, and what has been signed by our leaders must be implemented,” he added.

“I congratulate the intellectuals and people of both countries on the production of this film, which is rooted in our shared cultural, linguistic, and historical heritage. I hope such projects will continue. I look forward to greater cultural affinity and closeness fostered through this film,” the ambassador concluded.

Later in the ceremony, Peyman Jebelli, stated: “Iran and Tajikistan, though located in two different regions, share many historical, cultural, and civilizational bonds. The writers and artists of both countries have always spoken of each other with respect.”

“We are proud that the IRIB has produced two joint film and television projects with Tajikistan in less than a year: the series ‘Capital’ and the film ‘The Fish on the Hook’. Although this film was shot in Tajikistan, there was continuous collaboration behind the camera between Iranian and Tajik crew. We have received a commitment from this team to deliver more new projects,” he noted.

At the event, Muhiddin Muzaffar, director of “Fish on the Hook,” expressed gratitude to the officials and the crew. Amir Tajik, the Iranian producer of the film, also highlighted that the production cost was only one-fourth of a domestic feature film, underscoring the rich potential of both countries.

At the end of the event, the film was screened for the audience.

“Fish on the Hook” is about Daler, a ten-year-old boarding school student, who sets out on a journey with Samad, a gambler, to find his mother, Khursheda. Along the way, they face various challenges that help Daler mature and understand the importance of choice. Upon meeting his mother, the boy must make a fateful decision that could change his life forever.

The film is produced by the newly established film studio Dovfilm, in collaboration with Iranian partners from the television companies iFilm and 30Cup, as well as Tajikfilm.

The concept of the film was developed in 2022 in cooperation with the director of the boarding school in the city of Buston, Tajikistan. The screenplay was originally written by Bakhtiyar Karimov. It was later revised under the guidance of Valery Akhadov’s workshop, with contributions from Muhiddin Muzaffar.

Iran’s Ritual and Traditional Theater Festival to host specialized research sessions in Tehran

TEHRAN- The 22nd edition of the International Ritual and Traditional Theater Festival will feature five specialized research sessions, scheduled to take place from September 25 to 29 at the Mashahir Hall of Tehran’s City Theater Complex, starting at 3:00 PM daily.

These academic gatherings will delve into various aspects of Iran’s rich cultural heritage, including storytelling in traditional performances, the evolution of rituals into contemporary drama, and the global tradition of puppet shows.

Notable scholars and artists from Iran and abroad will participate, with sessions moderated by prominent experts such as Davoud Fat’hali-Beigi, Rahmat Amini, Fahimeh Mirza Hosseini, Nazila Nourishad, and Mohammad Hossein Nasserbakht.

Among the distinguished participants at the festival are also Luiz André Cherubini from Brazil, Stefano Giunchi from Italy, Amela Vucenovic from Serbia and Nazli M. Ümit from Turkey.

Their presence enriches the event, fostering a valuable exchange of ideas and cultural perspectives between Iran and the international community.

The festival also hosts the 10th International Seminar on Ritual and Traditional Performances, organized by Ebrahim Galehdar-zadeh, which will be held in Tehran and continues its tradition of engaging researchers, students, and artists from across the globe.

The 22nd International Ritual and Traditional Theater Festival, chaired by Siavash Sattari, will be held in three sections: educational-research, open-air, and stage performances.

The educational courses con-



cluded on September 15, and the festival’s seminars and sessions will run until October 3, followed by non-competitive performances starting October 4, marking the closing chapter of the culturally significant event.

The 22nd International Ritual and Traditional Theater Festival is a significant cultural event dedicated to celebrating and preserving Iran’s rich heritage of indigenous performing arts.

The festival aims to showcase the deep spiritual and cultural essence of Iran through various traditional performances rooted in local beliefs, rituals, and language. These vibrant traditions are not just relics of the past but living expressions that continue to flow through Iran’s cultural fabric, contributing meaningfully to the present and shaping the future.

The festival is organized with an educational and research-oriented perspective, focusing on the conservation, reinterpret-

ation, and continuity of these traditional art forms. Under the slogan “Iranian Performances for All the People of Iran,” the event will feature three main sections: workshops and training courses, research seminars, and stage performances.

The workshops and training courses aim to discover and nurture new talents across various traditional performance genres in different provinces of Iran. These genres include shadow puppetry, joyful performances like Siah-bazi, narrative arts such as Naqqali, Pardeh-khani, and Shahnameh recitations, traditional puppet shows, and folk dances. Selected students from these workshops will have the opportunity to present their works in a national symposium, fostering a competitive environment that encourages excellence.

In addition to training, the festival features several performance categories. Indoor stage

performances include new productions designed specifically for indoor venues, based on Iranian rituals and theatrical methods, with a maximum of 10 selected pieces.

These productions are non-competitive but receive financial support, depending on the project’s scope and needs. Outside performances encompass open-air shadow puppet shows, lively performances, storytelling arts, traditional puppet shows, and folk rituals.

The festival also emphasizes virtual content production, inviting creators to develop innovative digital content such as videos, animations, and podcasts that depict Iranian folk traditions, rituals, and storytelling. The top three creators in each category will receive financial prizes, and their works will be showcased over the following years, promoting widespread awareness and appreciation of Iran’s intangible cultural heritage.

Tehran center to host reading performance of “Veronica’s Room”

TEHRAN- Hilaj Theater in Tehran will be playing host to a reading performance of American writer Ira Levin’s “Veronica’s Room” on October 4.

The performance will be directed by Mehregan Tehrani based on a Persian translation by Shahram Zargar.

The play will be read by a cast composed of Sarina Kian, Parsa Safari, Niloufar Torabi and Mohammad Javad Mohammadi.

“Veronica’s Room” is a chilling mystery thriller that blurs the boundaries between reality and fantasy, sanity and madness. The story follows students Susan and Larry, who are invited as guests to the eerie Brabissant

mansion by its dissolute caretakers, the lonely and manipulative Mackeys. As they spend time at the mansion, Susan is struck by her uncanny resemblance to Veronica Brabissant, the long-deceased daughter of the family.

The Mackeys, sensing Susan’s resemblance, gradually persuade her to impersonate Veronica, aiming to comfort Veronica’s fragile sister, who is mentally disturbed and believes Veronica is still alive. At first, Susan agrees, thinking it a harmless role-playing experience. However, once she dons Veronica’s clothes and takes on her persona, she finds herself trapped in the role — locked in Veronica’s room and unable to distinguish what is real from what is illusion.

As the story unfolds, it becomes increasingly unclear whether Susan is truly Veronica, reliving her past in 1935, or if she is simply an imaginary version created by the disturbed minds surrounding her. The line between fantasy and reality becomes dangerously thin, leading to a tense and unsettling climax.

“Veronica’s Room” explores themes of identity, madness, and the destructive power of illusion, leaving readers questioning what is genuine and what is fabricated. The story’s psychological depth and suspenseful atmosphere make it a haunting tale of obsession and the horrifying consequences of blurring the lines between perception and reality.

Gaza Biennale opens in Greece

The Gaza Biennial is essentially a platform for resistance and international solidarity, illuminating the contemporary art scene in Gaza.

The Greek Pavilion of the Biennale is called “In the Zone of Fire. Miracles in the Ruins” and is now on at the Hill Art Project in Kipseli, a northern suburb in Athens, Euronews reported.

It features 30 artists from the firing zone who are exhibiting in Greece for the first time, reminding the world that culture is the last line of defense for the Palestinian people.

The Biennale is being held in 14 cities around the world (including New York, London, Berlin, Berlin, Copenhagen, and Valencia), and is the first major showcase of the work of young Palestinian artists.

The Greek Pavilion has selected characteristic works that combine aesthetic excellence, a pioneering artistic and political stance to help fuel the debate on the difficulty of artistic production in Gaza today, as well as to rally the artistic community in favor of justice.

Contemporary Palestinian art struggles for cultural survival and emerges as a force of resistance, combining tradition and innovation under the most unimaginable circumstances. Through painting, sculpture, photography and video art, Gazan artists transform pain into poetry, trauma into memory and loss into a weapon of truth.

The artists participating in the exhibition are: Ahmed Adnan, Ahmad Aladawi, Ahmad Muhanna, Alaa Abu Saif, Alaà Al Shawa, Ashraf Sahwi, Aya Juha, Bassel Aklouk, Diana Alhosary, Emad Badwan, Fadel Tafesh, Hala Eid Alnaji, Jihad Jarbou, Ghanem Al Den, Ibrahim Al Sultan, Khaled Hussein, Lamis Dajani Shawwa, Liza Madi, Maisara Baroud, Mary Ann Jaraisy, Maysa Yousef, Motaz Naim, Osama Naqqa Hussein, Rasha Alrayes, Ruba Mahmoud Hassan, Ola Al Sharif, Sohail Salem, Yasmeen Al Daya, Yahya Alsholy, Yara Zuhod.

The exhibition is curated by Fayez Tzanetoulakou and Dimitris Sarafianos. The organization of the Biennale is supported by the group of artists and curators from Gaza and the Forbidden

Museum of Al Risan Hill, Palestine.

In a statement, the organizers said the artworks presented are made by artists who’ve witnessed the worst horrors of humankind.

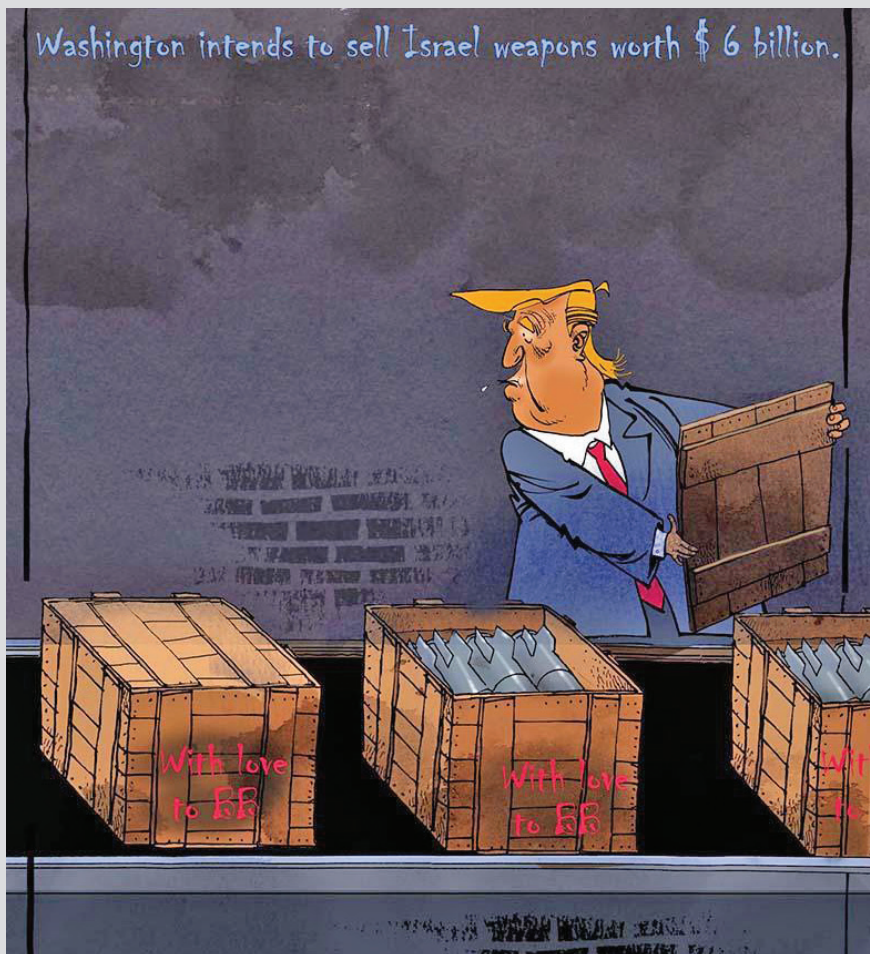
“Defying all challenges, artists have been working, confronting unimaginable difficulties, and creating works that remind us that art is essential to life and to our survival as a species.”

As part of the exhibition, there will be various talks by participating artists from Gaza and a link to the forthcoming opening of the Turkish Pavilion of the Gaza Biennale, part of the Istanbul International Biennale.

Sohail Salem’s “Diary in the Time of Genocide” will also be presented, courtesy of the English Pavilion of the Gaza Biennial.

At least 65,200 Palestinians have been killed in Israel’s genocidal war on the Gaza Strip since October 2023 and the number of injuries in the Israeli onslaught has reached 166,270, the Health Ministry said Saturday in its latest update.

Cartoon of Day



Trump and Israel

Cartoonist: Fares Garabet from Germany