

# Nuclear Talks With US Won't Serve Iran's National Interests

Leader says negotiations under current circumstances will only bring harm

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## Ahead of Pezeshkian's New York arrival, Iranians say security is a right, not a privilege

TEHRAN – In a series of remarks on Tuesday, multiple Iranian officials delivered a firm and unified message to the United States: Iran is open to dialogue on its nuclear program, but will not negotiate its core security interests under threat.

Following a difficult decade marked by Washington's abandonment of the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), years of fruitless attempts to revive it, and a U.S.-Israeli war imposed on Iran this past June that resulted in the bombardment of Iranian nuclear facilities, the Tuesday statements from President Masoud Pezeshkian and other senior figures suggest a hardened stance. ► Page 2

## Israel's crimes in Gaza a 'direct assault on human civilization', Iran FM says at UN forum

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi strongly condemned Israel's ongoing military war against Gaza, describing it as both genocide and a direct assault on human civilization. Speaking Monday evening at the High-Level Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum in New York, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Araghchi outlined Iran's position on the vital role of ancient cultures in promoting global peace and security.

He said the war on Gaza "is not merely a political dispute, but a civilization-destroying onslaught," stressing that the systematic destruction of universities, libraries, museums, mosques, and churches in Palestine amounted to war crimes on par with genocide. ► Page 3

## Trump in cloud cuckoo land: US out of step as Palestinian cause dominates UN

*For decades, U.S. hegemony shaped the Israeli-Palestinian narrative, but now it has collapsed, leaving America detached from the rest of the world.*

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The resilience and unwavering spirit of Palestinians, enduring decades of Israeli oppression, have propelled their cause to the forefront of the world's attention at this year's United Nations General Assembly in New York.

World leaders and the UN chief have attached renewed significance to the suffering of Palestinians in the wake of Israel's nearly two-year-long war on the Gaza Strip.

In his address to the General Assembly on Tuesday, UN Sec-

retary-General António Guterres gave particular emphasis to the war in Gaza.

"In Gaza, the horrors are approaching a third monstrous year. They are the result of decisions that defy basic humanity. The scale of death and destruction is beyond any other conflict in my years as secretary-general," he said.

The comments came against the backdrop of Israel's war on Gaza, which erupted in October

2023 and has so far claimed the lives of more than 65,000 Palestinians. Hundreds more have starved to death amid Israeli-induced famine as the Israeli army continues its deadly push into Gaza City.

Speaking at the assembly on Tuesday, Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva denounced Israel's campaign and those enabling it.

"Tens of thousands of innocent women and children are

buried under the rubble in Gaza ... nothing can justify the ongoing genocide in Gaza — this massacre would not have happened without the cooperation of those who could have prevented it," Lula said.

Leaders from multiple countries echoed similar condemnations, describing Israel's actions as atrocities and demanding accountability.

**Wave of recognition for Palestine**

The recognition of Palestine by a growing number of Western states has added to the momentum.

On Monday, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that France was formally recognizing the State of Palestine, even though his country has long been counted among Israel's Western backers. Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, and Andorra followed suit the same day. A day earlier, Britain, Canada, Australia, and Portugal had also recognized Palestine. ► Page 5

## China is a trustworthy partner

By Jin Liangxiang

SHANGHAI – The first week of September witnessed a milestone SCO summit and a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian together with heads of states and governments and representatives of more than twenty countries were present.

The two events together would certainly signify some big changes in global balance of power as China demonstrated its political leadership in shaping the agendas of global governance and safeguarding post-war international order and its hard military power as well. ► Page 5



## Iranians set to join Global Sumud Flotilla from the country's southern waters

An Iranian convoy is set sail for Gaza on Wednesday, joining the Global Sumud Flotilla, a civilian mission dedicated to delivering crucial humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza, who are currently grappling with famine as a result of an ongoing Israeli siege.

"Dozens of boats and vessels are converging towards Gaza, having departed from various points around the world. With Iran now joining the flotilla, individuals from 45 different countries are participating in this mission," stated Hujjat al-Islam Vafi, a member of the Iranian convoy and reportedly one of the initial proponents of Iranian involvement in the cause. ► Page 2

## Iran, Azerbaijan push for stronger economic ties

TEHRAN – Iran and Azerbaijan pledged to expand economic and trade cooperation during a meeting of the countries' joint economic committee in Tehran.

Farzaneh Sadeq, Iran's transport and urban development minister and head of the Iranian side of the committee, said the two neighbors have made significant progress in their economic and commercial relations.

She noted that following President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Baku, new opportunities had opened up in various sectors.

She said trilateral discussions on the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) involving Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia are planned for next month. A joint working group is also reviewing customs and transit issues and will present its findings at the three-way summit.

Sadeq added that the Kalaleh-Aghband bridge would be ready for transit operations by Nowruz, the Iranian new year in March 2026, and that expansion of the Kalaleh-Jolfa road is under way. ► Page 4

## Hezbollah: One year after the large-scale aggression

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — With the first anniversary of the large-scale U.S.-led Israeli aggression against Lebanon, which lasted more than two months, the question arises about Hezbollah's position today in light of regional and international transformations.

Despite the enormous political, economic, and military pressures, the resistance (Hezbollah) has succeeded in maintaining its position and even developing its structure. ► Page 5



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## A valuable statement against snapback

In a note, Khorasan discussed the importance of the Supreme National Security Council's statement in response to the activation of snapback sanctions by the European troika of Britain, France and Germany. It wrote: The Supreme National Security Council's statement in response to the start of the snapback process is very valuable and commendable. There are several basic points about this text. First, it shows that the Islamic Republic makes decisions in a unified manner and with consensus among all its top-level officials. Second, the statement shows that the Foreign Ministry is the most important body in charge of foreign policy. But more important than these two issues are the strategic statement that says, "With the actions of European countries, the path of cooperation with the Agency will be suspended." This unified position in difficult situations is what we need today. If we really put what we said into practice and break the enemy's estimates, we will probably have an improved situation. Any delay in this regard will mean giving in to further pressure and more and deeper problems.

**Etemad: A meaningful trip with active diplomacy**

Etemad covered President Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to New York in an interview with Mohammad Javad Haghsheenas, a reformist political activist. Haghsheenas said: Pezeshkian's trip represents one of the most significant opportunities for the country and must be fully utilized. He warned that if the visit is merely ceremonial, it will not serve Iran's interests. To navigate the current crises, Iran requires a dynamic and proactive diplomacy—one that is attuned to timing, context, and audience. This trip should be strategically planned and executed with the global stage in mind. The goal of the visit should be to establish a distinct diplomatic capacity for Iran. Pezeshkian is well-positioned to foster regional alignment by promoting rational dialogue among neighboring countries. Additionally, the United Nations offers a platform for direct and bilateral engagement with European leaders and members of the UN Security Council. Constructive discussions with the European troika could yield meaningful outcomes. By leveraging Iran's existing regional strengths—alongside emerging partnerships with countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq—Iran can enhance its diplomatic weight and influence.

**Iran: What will happen after quitting NPT?**

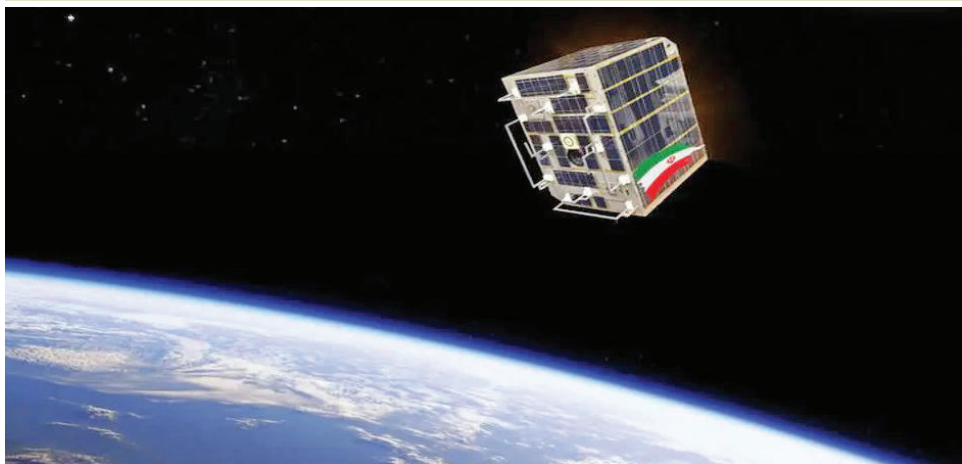
In an analysis, the Iran newspaper examined the potential consequences of a proposed withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), an idea floated by some parliamentarians and

political commentators. It wrote such a move would not benefit Iran—even in the medium term—given that Tehran has no intention of developing nuclear weapons. Exiting the treaty would expose the country to serious repercussions, including increased sanctions, mounting international pressure, and even the threat of military confrontation. Triggering a diplomatic impasse and shutting down avenues for dialogue would only deepen Iran's isolation and intensify unlawful pressure on its citizens. In contrast, President Pezeshkian's visit to New York, alongside his foreign policy team for the annual UN General Assembly, presents a strategic opportunity—provided that national interests remain the sole priority. Neither fear of negotiation nor blind optimism will serve Iran's interests. Navigating this delicate path demands diplomatic precision and vigilance. With smart, proactive diplomacy, the president's presence in New York could help ease international tensions and foster both regional and global cooperation. This appearance carries added weight in the aftermath of the recent 12-day war and Iran's subsequent defense efforts.

**Sobh-e-No: Is a meeting with Trump a guarantee?**

In an article, Sobh-e-No dealt with the suggestions of some citizens and political analysts that the New York visit has provided an opportunity for talks between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and U.S. President on the sidelines of the annual UN conference to possibly resolve the nuclear standoff between the two countries, writing: The important point is that a large part of the political wing that is today proposing a meeting with the U.S. President had previously paved the way for the failure of the JCPOA by blindly trusting Western promises. Those who thought that (John) Kerry's signature was a guarantee and that the UN Security Council resolution (2231) made the return of sanctions impossible have now experienced each of their views at the expense of the Iranian nation. The experience of the JCPOA and its consequences are a bitter but valuable lesson for the country's policymakers. Now, in a situation where the snapback mechanism has been activated and the country is facing sanctions, we are witnessing the continuation of the same ineffective approaches. This shows a failure to learn from past experiences and an insistence on repeating mistakes. If engaging with the U.S. and walking and smiling with them could have had any results, it should have been felt in the last ten years.

## Iran to launch light satellites from Shahid Soleimani constellation this year



TEHRAN – Iran plans to launch several light satellites belonging to the Shahid Soleimani satellite constellation into space this year, according to Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Sattar Hashemi.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Hashemi confirmed the ongoing development of the constellation, stating that it will gradually reach full operational capability through a series of phased launches. "This year, a number of light satellites from the Shahid Soleimani constellation will be sent into orbit," he said.

The Shahid Soleimani constellation is a significant project for Iran's space program, aiming to bolster its capabilities in communications, observation, and other key areas. The minister emphasized that

the current administration, under President Pezeshkian, has placed a high priority on launches that serve a specific purpose and deliver tangible benefits to the Iranian public.

Hashemi further elaborated that the development of the constellation's various components is being spearheaded by the Iranian Space Agency and the Space Research Institute. These institutions are working diligently to ensure the satellites meet the required specifications and performance standards.

"The launches are planned with both domestic and foreign launchers," Hashemi noted, suggesting a collaborative approach to achieving Iran's space ambitions. The details of which foreign launchers may be involved were not disclosed.

# ‘Nuclear talks with US won’t serve Iran’s national interests’

Leader says negotiations under current circumstances will only bring harm

TEHRAN – In a live address to the Iranian nation on Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Khamenei focused primarily on the trajectory of Iran's nuclear program.

His remarks came after some analysts and lower-ranking officials suggested renewed negotiations with the United States regarding the program. The Leader stated, however, that engaging in talks with Washington would only be detrimental to Iran.

"They have already determined the results of the negotiations; they want us to dismantle our nuclear program and stop uranium enrichment. How can we call this negotiation? They are dictating the results to us," he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the crucial role of uranium enrichment in the country's development, citing its current and future use in various sectors, including agriculture,

medicine, manufacturing, and electricity generation. "We have poured significant energy and resources into our nuclear program to become one of only ten countries in the world that can enrich uranium. Of course, the other nine countries also have nuclear weapons, but we do not seek to have nuclear weapons, not now, and not in the future."

He further argued that, beyond the predetermined outcome of potential talks, the U.S. is employing threats to coerce Iran into negotiations that are ultimately useless and potentially harmful. "If we engage in negotiations while the enemy is threatening us, we will be seen as vulnerable to threats. Americans will think that they can make us do anything they want by threatening us," he explained.

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that no "dignified nation" would agree to negotiate under such circumstances. "I don't know how

things will change in the future, but let me tell you that under the current conditions, engaging with America on the nuclear issue is nothing but a deadlock."

The Leader also highlighted a pattern of lying and deception by the U.S. and its Western allies, suggesting that even if a deal were reached, the West would refuse to honor its commitments. He cited the JCPOA, the 2015 nuclear agreement, as evidence of this assessment.

The JCPOA, signed between Iran and the P5+1, limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of Western sanctions. Washington withdrew from the pact in 2018, and its European allies began reneging on their commitments despite remaining official signatories. Since the U.S. withdrawal, Tehran has faced increased sanctions and economic pressure compared to the pre-JCPOA era.

Iran engaged in multiple rounds of talks with European nations during the Biden

administration. However, Biden withdrew from the talks as an agreement neared in 2022, the same year Iran experienced violent riots. Tehran had also agreed to negotiate with the second Trump administration earlier this year. But as it was preparing for a sixth round of scheduled indirect talks in June, its nuclear facilities were attacked by Israel, and later the United States, resulting in over 1000 Iranian deaths during the 12 days of war.

Addressing the war, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that no amount of threat or bombardment could eliminate Iran's nuclear capabilities. "Today, in the country, there are dozens of prominent scholars and professors; this is a report provided to us by the stakeholders, meaning it is a reliable and credible report. Dozens of distinguished scientists, hundreds of researchers, and thousands of graduates from nuclear groups in various related fields are actively working right now."

## Iranians set to join Global Sumud Flotilla from the country's southern waters



A number of the Iranian participants joining the Global Sumud Flotilla to break the Gaza siege

From page 1 ► Hujjat al-Islam Vafi commenced his journey from Tehran's Palestine Square, accompanied by a string of cars carrying fellow participants. The convoy traversed a considerable distance, passing through Qom, Esfahan in Central Iran, Khuzestan, and Bushehr. By Tuesday night, dozens of vehicles had reached Hormozgan Province, where Hujjat al-Islam Vafi anticipated further additions to the mission. By Wednesday

evening, the convoy is expected to be navigating Iran's southern waters, heading towards Gaza.

"We asked that the people of Iran pray for us. I hope we can finally break the siege of this child-killing regime," Hujjat al-Islam Vafi added.

The Sumud Flotilla has been hailed as the most extensive maritime mission of its kind in decades. On Tuesday, the vessels, which had converged in Italy,

were located approximately 715 nautical miles from Gaza.

Israel has a history of intercepting ships en route to Gaza, confiscating the vessels and deporting those on board.

As recently as May of this year, the ship Conscience was targeted by armed drones just 14 nautical miles off the coast of Malta, resulting in a fire that nearly caused the vessel to sink. In June, the Madleen was intercepted 100

nautical miles from Gaza, well within international waters.

The participants, a diverse group encompassing organizers, aid workers, doctors, artists, religious figures, lawyers, and experienced sailors, are bound together by their shared commitment to human dignity, their faith in the effectiveness of peaceful resistance, and a singular goal: to bring an end to the siege and Israel's genocide of Palestinians.

## Ahead of Pezeshkian's New York arrival, Iranians say security is a right, not a privilege

TEHRAN – In a series of remarks on Tuesday, multiple Iranian officials delivered a firm and unified message to the United States: Iran is open to dialogue on its nuclear program, but will not negotiate its core security interests under threat.

Following a difficult decade marked by Washington's abandonment of the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), years of fruitless attempts to revive it, and a U.S.-Israeli war imposed on Iran this past June that resulted in the bombardment of Iranian nuclear facilities, the Tuesday statements from President Masoud Pezeshkian and other senior figures suggest a hardened stance.

Speaking just before his departure for New York where he is set to address the UN General Assembly, President Pezeshkian set the principle that any talks must be based on mutual respect. "We cannot talk with someone who wants to use force and bully," he stated. He described the issue as a matter of universal justice, arguing that security cannot be a privilege for only one party. "It is not the case that only Israel has the right to be secure. The security of everyone living in this world must be preserved," Pezeshkian said.

Government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani was asked to elaborate on this point during a press conference. She emphasized that Tehran distinguishes between a true negotiation and an ultimatum. "We welcome any opportunity for dialogue to resolve issues for our people," she told reporters. "However, dialogue is naturally a two-way action; it is not about dictating one's opinions to another. That is not dialogue." She expressed deep frustration with European powers, accusing them of failing to uphold their commitments after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, which led to "heavy pressure on Iran's economy."

On the specific issue of Iran's missile program—a demand Washington has been putting forth in during nuclear talks—the officials were unequivocal. Mohajerani called the missiles an integral part of national defense, a lesson seared into the national consciousness during the eight-year war with Iraq in the 1980s. "We do not ask for anyone's permission to defend our people," she said, pointing to the recent conflict as proof of their necessity. "Everyone witnessed how our national solidarity and missile power defended our people."

Iran managed to force Israel and the United

States to ask for a ceasefire 12 days after they initiated war on June 13. Iranian missiles dealt significant costs to the Israelis and Americans, as they decimated swathes of Israeli cities and also hit an American military base in Qatar.

Mohajerani's stance on missiles was echoed and amplified in parliament, where lawmaker Seyed Jalil Mirmohammadi revealed that more than 70 representatives are pushing for a fundamental shift in Iran's nuclear doctrine. He argued that in a world where a "criminal America" allows a "Zionist regime to run wild," Iran must consider all preventative tools, "one of which is nuclear weapons." He invoked the fate of Libya, which dismantled its weapons of mass destruction programs, as a cautionary tale. "Iran will by no means become Libya," he vowed, dismissing the idea that concessions would end hostilities.

The underlying skepticism toward American demands was perhaps best captured by Ali Larijani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. "The Americans say the range of Iran's missiles must be under 500 kilometers," the seasoned statesman said. "Do they really think that this will ever be acceptable for an Iranian?"



# Israel’s crimes in Gaza a ‘direct assault on human civilization’, Iran FM says at UN forum

From Page 1 ▶ “The deliberate targeting of cultural and religious sites—the repositories of Palestine’s identity—is a crime designed to erase an entire nation along with its history and future,” Araghchi declared. He added that mass killings of civilians, systematic starvation, and the leveling of towns were crimes against all the values upheld by ancient civilizations, including compassion, justice, and human dignity.

The Iranian foreign minister said silence in the face of such atrocities was unacceptable: “We cannot remain indifferent to the annihilation of a nation and the civilizational values Palestinians represent. The silence of certain powers over the genocide and the destruction of Palestine’s heritage amounts to complicity.”

The minister warned that the destruction of Gaza’s cultural and historical institutions could have irreversible consequences for global civilization as a whole. “When universities and libraries are reduced to rubble, it is not only the Palestinian nation that suffers; the entire human family loses chapters of its collective memory,” he said.

He pointed out that UNESCO conventions obligate states to protect cultural heritage during conflict and accused Israel of grossly violating those commitments. “The international community cannot remain indifferent when binding obligations are trampled with impunity,” Araghchi said.



*Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) attends the High-Level Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum in New York, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, on September 22, 2025.*

He further argued that Israel’s actions were not isolated, but part of a systematic pattern of erasing cultural identity across occupied territories. “The targeting of ancient sites and the looting of artifacts is designed to manufacture historical amnesia,” he said, calling for stronger multilateral frameworks to prevent the trafficking of cultural property out of conflict zones.

Araghchi also urged civil society, academics, and international organizations to document crimes against cultural heritage to ensure accountability in future judicial proceedings. “There must be no impunity for crimes against civilization,” he stressed.

Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza started on October 7, 2023, after Palestinian resistance fighters carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against the occupying entity in response to its de-

cedes-long campaign of death and devastation against the Palestinians in the West Bank.

The Israeli regime’s bloody onslaught on the besieged strip has so far killed more than 65,344 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

Araghchi also linked Israel’s actions in Gaza to broader violations of international law, citing the joint Israeli-U.S. military attacks against Iran in June 2025 as a “flagrant breach of the UN Charter and all accepted norms of international law.” He said those assaults represented a direct attack on the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect, which the UN forum was established to defend.

Calling for urgent international action, Araghchi said: “It is a moral duty to clearly condemn both the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the acts of aggression

against my country. This forum must demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the uninterrupted flow of humanitarian aid, and an end to the occupation that fuels this endless cycle of violence.”

In his broader remarks, Araghchi highlighted Iran’s commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage, promoting technological tools such as satellite imaging and AI to protect ancient sites, and supporting the global movement to return stolen cultural artifacts to their countries of origin. He noted the return of treasures to Egypt, Greece, Iran, Iraq, and Nigeria as vital steps toward correcting historic injustices.

He also underlined the role of cultural tourism in sustainable development, saying ancient civilizations offered the world opportunities to foster dialogue and mutual understanding.

Closing his speech, Araghchi urged members of the forum to draw on the principles of justice that had sustained ancient civilizations for millennia. “Our legacy must be that we were not indifferent bystanders to genocide,” he said. “Let us act to end the bloodshed in Gaza, preserve our shared heritage, and build a future of peace, dialogue, and cooperation.”

Foreign ministers from Iran, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Mexico, Bolivia, Peru, Armenia, and China attended the meeting.

## Iran FM holds high-level meetings on sanctions, Gaza, bilateral cooperation at UNGA

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a series of high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Over the course of the sessions, he engaged with counterparts from Finland, Sudan, Oman, Sweden, Poland, Egypt, and Cyprus, Spain, as well as a joint meeting with the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Germany, and the EU foreign policy chief.

The talks focused on strengthening bilateral ties, addressing regional challenges, and advancing international cooperation on pressing issues.

**Iran holds joint meeting with E3 FMs and EU Policy Chief**



Foreign Minister Araghchi held a joint meeting with the foreign ministers of three European countries, along with Kaja Kallas, the European Union’s foreign policy chief.

The talks centered on the Iranian nuclear issue and the need to lift the unjust sanctions imposed by the West.

The meeting was held on the backdrop of renewed 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 obliga-

tions under the deal.

**Iran, Finland discuss peace, security, and nuclear issues**



Foreign Minister Araghchi met with Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly session. The two ministers reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on pressing international issues, with a focus on peace and security.

Araghchi strongly condemned two years of genocide in Gaza and the Zionist regime’s ongoing violations of the UN Charter and human rights. He emphasized that all states bear both a legal and moral responsibility to stop the atrocities and confront Tel Aviv’s destabilizing policies in the region.

Turning to the nuclear file, Araghchi highlighted Iran’s constructive and responsible approach, cautioning against the misuse of the UN Security Council by three European powers as a tool to pressure Tehran. He underscored that such political maneuvering could have dangerous consequences for international diplomacy and stability.

**Iran, Sudan call for stronger ties and Islamic unity**



Araghchi also held talks in New York with Sudanese Foreign Minister Mohiuddin Ahmed Salem. The two sides explored opportunities

to expand bilateral ties across multiple fields, including trade, science and technology, agriculture, and mining, stressing the value of strengthening cooperation between Tehran and Khartoum.

The ministers also highlighted the need for unity among Islamic nations in the face of shared threats, particularly in countering the genocide of Palestinians and the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime. Both sides agreed that coordinated efforts were essential to defending regional stability and protecting the rights of oppressed peoples.

Salem also briefed Araghchi on the latest developments inside Sudan, outlining his government’s determination to resist insecurity and foreign interference in domestic affairs. He stressed Sudan’s commitment to pursuing peace and stability until a lasting solution is secured for the nation.

**Iran, Oman stress regional cooperation and nuclear diplomacy**



Iranian Foreign Minister met with his Omani counterpart, Badr bin Hamad Al-Busaidi, in New York, discussing regional challenges and the future of bilateral relations. Both sides underlined the strength of Iran-Oman cooperation and reaffirmed the importance of continued dialogue on regional and international issues.

The talks focused on the situation in occupied Palestine, where the ministers condemned ongoing crimes against Palestinians. They called for urgent international action to stop the genocide and pressed for the prosecution of Zionist regime officials in international courts.

The two ministers also addressed the Iranian nuclear issue. Araghchi urged European states to recognize Iran’s responsible stance, while warning against Western miscalculations. He stressed the necessity of lifting the unjust sanctions on Iran, cautioning that failure to meet commitments could further complicate the diplomatic process and undermine stability.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iran into 2025 FIVB World Championship QFs

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Serbia 3-2 (23-25, 25-19, 24-26, 25-22, 15-9) to book their place in the quarterfinals round of the 2025 FIVB Men’s Volleyball World Championship on Tuesday.

Morteza Sharifi and Ali Hajipour finished with 23 points apiece, while Luburi? of Serbia led all scorers with 27.

Team Melli are scheduled to meet Czech Republic on Thursday.

The U.S. will also play Bulgaria, Poland face Turkey and Italy meet Belgium.

The winners of Iran match will have to play winners of the U.S. and Bulgaria match in semifinals.

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

The tournament is the first World Championship to be hosted in Southeast Asia, and the second of two consecutive World Championships in 2025 held in this region, following the Women’s World Championship in Thailand. The Philippines became the second country in Asia to host the World Championship, following Japan. The competition is also the second world senior championship in Olympic team sports to be hosted in the Philippines.

### Iran to play Mexico in friendly: Taj

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taj, head of Iran Football Federation, announced that Team Melli will play a friendly match against Mexico as part of preparation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The friendly is confirmed for the forthcoming international break, though the exact date has not been determined yet and will be announced soon.

A friendly is also scheduled against Russia, with Uruguay being replaced by another opponent.

Iran head coach Amir Ghalenoei is a capable domestic coach and will remain as head coach of Iran beyond the World Cup.

Taj also stated that Iran federation is asking FIFA to suspend Israeli regime from all activities related to football.

### Iran jump two spots in FIBA Ranking

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s basketball team jumped up two spots in the FIBA World Ranking, which has been updated after the conclusion of the Continental Cups.

The FIBA Asia Cup 2025 bronze medalist advanced by two places, reaching 26th, while finalists China shifted up three positions to 27th.

At the top of the rankings, Olympic champions the U.S. remain in first place. Newly crowned EuroBasket champions Germany moved up one place to second, while Serbia, who disappointed at the tournament, dropped from second to third.

FIBA ranks both men’s and women’s national teams for both senior and junior competitions.

### Three Iranian wrestlers banned for doping

TEHRAN – Three Iranian wrestlers have been banned for three years each after testing positive for anabolic steroid.

Majid Kheradmand, Amirhesam Naderi and Jahed Asadi have been suspended for three years from all sports activities as per the ruling by the National Anti-Doping Organization of Iran (Iran NADO).

Kheradmand tested positive for the anabolic steroid norandrosterone, Naderi was banned for using methandienone and Asadi tested positive for stanozolol.

Norandrosterone accelerates muscle growth and recovery, methandienone and stanozolol are synthetic androgen and anabolic steroid (AAS) medication.

### Iran send beach wrestling teams to Greece

TEHRAN – Iran’s Wrestling Federation has sent three teams to the 2025 World Beach Wrestling Championships.

The event will take place at the foot of legendary Mount Olympus at the Aloha Beach Bar in Katerini, Greece, September 25-26.

Iran’s U-17 Team:

60kg: Amir Ali Domirkolaei and Ali Asghar Kopej  
70kg: Yousef Hosseinpouran and Ilia Vaghari  
80kg: Abolfazl Sa’adati and Touraj Khodaei  
90kg: Mohammad Mehdi Fotouhi

Iran’s U-20 Team:

70kg: Mohammad Hossein Nikpour  
80kg: Sobhan Esmi  
90kg: Ramtin Ravanbakhsh, Sajad Hosseini  
Over 90kg: Mersad Shakeri

Iran’s Senior Team:

70kg: Ali Akbar Zaroudi, Omid Khodadi  
80kg: Ali Gholami, Abdollah Sheikh Azami  
90kg: Hossein Kavousi  
Over 90kg: Amir Reza Sahraei, Soheil Gholipour

### Malaysia’s tough task against Iran at AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers

TEHRAN – It all comes down to Matchday Three of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026 Qualifiers with seven groups to be decided on Wednesday.

In a Group G decider, Malaysia will have to produce the extraordinary if they are to stop Iran.

The 13-time champions hit a total of 22 unanswered goals in their earlier matches against Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates and the Malaysian defense can expect to be thoroughly tested.

The hosts, however, are within touching distance of the Finals and will be motivated to perform.

### Khazaei judges at NPC Worldwide Tbilisi PRO Qualifier 2025

TEHRAN – Iran’s Akbar Khazaei served as one of the judges at the NPC Worldwide Georgia Open PRO QUALIFIER 2025 Tbilisi.

Kuwait’s Mohammad Ashkanani was the head judge in the event.

The event was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on September 20-21.

Khazaei was on the panel of judges at the 2024 William Bonac Classic IFBB Pro Qualifier and 2024 Iron Man & Iron Maiden.

### Persepolis defender Pouraligani visits children at rehabilitation center

TEHRAN – Iran and Persepolis football team defender Morteza Pouraligani visited the children at the rehabilitation center, the Children of Heaven, on Tuesday.

Sports celebrities such as Omid Alishah and members of Persepolis and Esteghlal football teams are especially influential, as they demonstrate success through perseverance and hard work in overcoming obstacles on their path to triumph in life.

During the visit, Pouraliganji presented his No. 8 jersey to one of the children.



## Iran, Azerbaijan push for stronger economic ties



From Page 1 ▶ She said the volume of bilateral trade is expected to grow from \$650 million annually to \$1.0 billion once agreements under negotiation are finalized. Talks on a preferential trade agreement are also being pursued to ease commerce, she said.

Shahin Mustafayev, Azerbaijan's deputy prime minister and head of the Azerbaijani delegation, said President Pezeshkian's visit to Baku was fruitful, citing the launch of Baku-Tehran and Baku-Tabriz flights as one of the results. He said the number of flights

should be increased.

Mustafayev added that banking restrictions between the two countries had been lifted, creating new prospects in trade, oil and gas, water and petrochemicals. He noted that bilateral trade reached \$300 million in the first half of this year, with potential for further growth.

During their three-day visit, the Azerbaijani delegation will also inspect the Kalaleh-Jolfa route, the Kalaleh-Aghband bridge, and Shahid Rajaei port in southern Iran.

## Iran proposes permanent export exhibition in Amman to boost trade with Jordan

TEHRAN – The head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Samad Hassanzadeh, proposed establishing a permanent exhibition of Iran's production and export capacities in Amman, with the support of Jordan Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking during a meeting with Khalil Mohammed Al-Haj Tawfiq, president of Jordan Chamber of Commerce, on the sidelines of the board session of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development, Hassanzadeh said boosting trade ties requires closer familiarity between Iranian and Jordanian business communities.

He said the exhibition would provide a platform for showcasing Iranian goods and

services to Jordanian traders.

Hassanzadeh stressed the importance of expanding economic cooperation among Islamic countries, pointing to their abundant resources, large-scale investments, and vast capacities in industry, agriculture, engineering services and new technologies. He said these strengths could be harnessed for collective progress in the Islamic world.

He added that chambers of commerce in Muslim countries bear a major responsibility to recommend policies to governments, global organizations and Islamic cooperation institutions that would empower the private sector as a key driver of economic development.

## Energy Ministry launches 205MW of solar plants, starts work on 75 new projects



TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Ministry inaugurated 205 megawatts of solar power plants and launched construction of another 75 MW across the country on Tuesday, in projects worth more than 84 trillion rials (\$168 million), the energy ministry said.

The ceremony, held online from the ministry's headquarters, was attended by Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi and Mohsen Tarztal-

ab, head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA). The initiative is part of the national "Iran Abad" development campaign.

The new capacity includes 105 MW of large-scale solar farms and 100 MW of smaller units, while construction has begun on 75 MW of additional projects. These include a 20 MW facility in Sistan-Baluchestan, a 1.0 MW unit in Khorasan Razavi, and a 54 MW project in Yazd, all funded by private investors.

With these plants, Iran's installed renewable capacity will exceed 2,300 MW.

Other projects launched on Tuesday included the construction of 100 MW of small-scale solar plants nationwide, groundbreaking for the 20 MW Cheshmeh Ziarat plant in Sistan-Baluchestan, and inaugurations of 7.0 MW in Fars province and 6.0 MW in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari.

## Industry, tools exhibition opens in Tehran with 250 companies in attendance

TEHRAN – The fifth specialized industry exhibition and the second industrial and workshop tools fair opened at Shahr-e Aftab International Exhibition Center with the participation of 250 domestic and foreign companies.

The exhibitions, covering more than 85,800 square meters of indoor halls and outdoor space, feature firms from China, Turkey, Germany, Malaysia, Italy, India, South Korea and Japan

alongside leading Iranian companies.

Organizers said the event aims to foster interaction, exchange information, gather customer feedback, maintain market position and identify new distribution opportunities.

The exhibition showcases the latest technologies and achievements in industrial and workshop tools, machining, mold-making, and both electric and manual machinery.

# China celebrates 76th PRC anniversary in Tehran, highlighting robust Iran-China strategic ties

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – The Chinese Embassy in Tehran hosted a distinguished ceremony on the evening of Monday, September 23rd, to celebrate the 76th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. The event underscored the robust strategic partnership between Iran and China.

The embassy grounds welcomed a prominent gathering of senior Iranian officials, led by the honorary guest, Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology, Mr. Sattar Hashemi, alongside a significant number of diplomats and ambassadors from various countries.

The ceremony commenced with an address by His Excellency Mr. Cong Peiwu, the Chinese Ambassador to Tehran. The full text of the Ambassador's speech comes as follow.

Your Excellency Dr. Hashemi, Respectable Minister of Information and Communications Technology,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

It is a great pleasure to gather with you all to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Iran and the Consulate General in Bandar Abbas, I extend a warm welcome to all of you, and express my sincere appreciation to friends from all walks of life who have long cared about and supported China and China-Iran relations!

76 years ago, the founding of the People's Republic of China ushered in a new historical epoch for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Over the past 76 years, under the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have worked diligently and forged ahead with determination, explored a development path that suits their national conditions, and created remarkable development achievements that have attracted worldwide attention.

Stable growth is the solid foundation of China's development. From 2021 to 2024 China's economy grew at an average annual rate of 5.5%, with its total economic output expected to exceed 140 trillion yuan this year. China's contribution to global economic growth has remained around 30%. We remain the world's largest manufacturing country, rank first globally in the production of more than 200 major industrial products, and have built the largest number of 5G base stations in the world.

Scientific and technological innovation is a shining hallmark of China's development. China's capacity for innovation continues to strengthen, we have the largest number of Research and Development personnel in the world, the greatest number of top 100 global science and technology clusters for three consecutive years, and we are advancing rapidly from a "global manufacturing center" toward a "global innovation center." We are cultivating new-quality productive forces adapted to local conditions and promoting deep integration of technological and industrial innovation, high-performance chips, operating systems, large-scale AI models, robots and other "hard-core" products are emerging one after another.

Green and clean forms a clear backdrop to China's development. Over the past five years, China has added more new forest area than any other country, increasing its forest coverage to over 25%. We have built the world's largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system, with installed capacity of new energy power generation exceeding that of coal-fired power. Green living has become a common practice.

By 2024, the number of new energy vehicles in China reached 31.4 million, and China has become one of the countries with the fastest reduc-



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tions in energy intensity.

People's well-being remains the unremitting pursuit of China's development. We have always adhered to the people-centered development philosophy and promoted common prosperity through high-quality development. We have historically overcome absolute poverty, created a middle-income group of over 400 million people, built the world's largest education, social security, and medical and health systems, and increased life expectancy to nearly 79 years.

The most fundamental reason for China's remarkable achievements in economic and social development lies in the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the scientific guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. Meanwhile, we have consistently promoted full and strict governance over the Party with the spirit of self-reform, continuously improving our governing capacity and leadership, and providing a strong foundation for high-quality economic and social development.

Friends,

We should pursue a just cause for common good. While pursuing its own development, China has always adhered to having a global vision, actively fulfilling its responsibilities as a major country and contributing Chinese wisdom and strength to world peace and development. In response to the questions of the times, "what kind of global governance system to build and how to reform and improve global governance", President Xi Jinping solemnly put forward the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), a Chinese solution that responds to the universal aspirations of all peoples and meets the urgent needs of the world today. The core concepts of the GGI, namely, adhere to sovereign equality, abide by international law, practice multilateralism, advocate the people-centered approach, and focus on taking real actions, which are the right choice for addressing global challenges, and the surest path to safeguarding international fairness and justice and solve the governance deficit. The GGI is another important global public good that President Xi Jinping has contributed to the world following the three major global initiatives, the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). Each of the four global initiatives has its own focus, yet they are mutually reinforcing, injected stability and certainty into a turbulent world from different dimensions, showcasing China's responsibility and actions in international affairs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The China-Iran Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has entered its 10th year. With the spirit of "grind a sword for ten years", China-Iran relations have grown ever firmer

through mutual support. Not long ago, President Xi Jinping met with President Pezeshkian in Beijing. The two heads of state reached important consensus, charting the course for the development of China-Iran relations. China stands ready to work with Iran to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and jointly promote the steady and long-term growth of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership.

**We should firmly support each other**

The China-Iran relationship has stood the test of changes in the world, and maintained steady and healthy development. China always places its relations with Iran high on its diplomatic agenda in the Middle East, supports Iran in safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity.

**We should tighten the bonds of common interests**

Iran has been a crucial hub on the ancient Silk Road and is now an important country in the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative. China stands ready to work with Iran to strengthen cooperation in such areas as trade, investment, clean energy and connectivity, to ensure the outcomes of cooperation benefit the people of both countries more broadly.

**We should strengthen multilateral cooperation**

China and Iran, both important



members of the Global South, are key forces in practicing multilateralism. China stands ready to continue strengthening cooperation with Iran on international and regional affairs, further enhancing the influence and say of the Global South, and jointly building a community with a shared future for humanity.

**We should promote people-to-people bonds**

In recent years, the two countries have continuously expanded exchanges and cooperation in culture, tourism, subnational affairs and think tanks, effectively enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. Mr. Ali Mohammad Sabeghi, a renowned Iranian sinologist present today, has long been dedicated to promoting Chinese culture and promoting people-to-people exchanges between China and Iran. In 2025, he was awarded the Friendship Envoy Award at the second "Orchid Award". Please join me in congratulating Mr. Sabeghi. We welcome more and more Iranian friends to visit China and help inject greater grassroots momentum into the development of China-Iran relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, As we ap-

proach the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, we will also soon celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, a traditional Chinese festival symbolizing harvest and reunion. As the Chinese poem goes, "May we all be blessed with longevity; though far apart, we'll share the beautiful moonlight together." I wish the great motherland prosperity and peace! May the tree of China-Iran friendship flourish and bear abundant fruit! Wish all the guests good health and all the best!

Thank you!

Following Ambassador Cong's remarks, Honorable Minister Sattar Hashemi delivered a speech on behalf of the Iranian government.

The minister emphasized the importance of the strategic relations between the two countries and the prospects for technological and digital cooperation.

He described the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 as the starting point of a path upon which the Chinese nation, relying on its millennia-old civilization and wisdom, has been able to achieve valuable accomplishments in the fields of science, technology, economy, and global peace.

The minister, referring to the historical relations between the two countries along the Silk Road and their long-standing cultural ties, stated: "Today, this long-standing friendship has blossomed in the form of a comprehensive strategic partnership, and the will of the leaders of the two countries is focused on making great leaps in relations and creating an enduring model of comprehensive cooperation."

Hashemi described the recent meeting of the presidents of Iran and China as a symbol of the shared commitment of the two countries and stated: "The emphasis on the full implementation of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation program during this meeting has drawn a clear roadmap for the future of Iran and China."

A highlight of the evening was the screening of a special video feature detailing the almost five-month residency of two journalists from the Tehran Times, Mahnaz Abdi and Shahrokh Saei, in China. They participated in a prestigious annual program organized by the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC), which brings together over 100 journalists worldwide. Notably, Abdi was the first Iranian journalist to attend the program in 2024. Following her successful participation, Saei was selected for the 2025 edition, reflecting the growing professional and cultural exchanges between the two nations.

Following the formal program, guests were invited to a reception featuring a diverse selection of exquisite Chinese and Iranian cuisine, fostering an atmosphere of cordial dialogue.

The event garnered substantial media attention, with a strong presence of journalists and reporters, ensuring wide coverage of this significant diplomatic occasion. The ceremony itself stood as a powerful testament to the enduring and strengthening ties between Iran and China.



# Trump in cloud cuckoo land: US out of step as Palestinian cause dominates UN

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The resilience and unwavering spirit of Palestinians, enduring decades of Israeli oppression, have propelled their cause to the forefront of the world's attention at this year's United Nations General Assembly in New York.

World leaders and the UN chief have attached renewed significance to the suffering of Palestinians in the wake of Israel's nearly two-year-long war on the Gaza Strip.

In his address to the General Assembly on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General António Guterres gave particular emphasis to the war in Gaza.

"In Gaza, the horrors are approaching a third monstrous year. They are the result of decisions that defy basic humanity. The scale of death and destruction is beyond any other conflict in my years as secretary-general," he said.

The comments came against the backdrop of Israel's war on Gaza, which erupted in October 2023 and has so far claimed the lives of more than 65,000 Palestinians. Hundreds more have starved to death amid Israeli-induced famine as the Israeli army continues its deadly push into Gaza City.

Speaking at the assembly on Tuesday, Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva denounced Israel's campaign and those enabling it.

"Tens of thousands of innocent women and children are buried under the rubble in Gaza ... nothing can justify the ongoing genocide in Gaza — this massacre would not have happened without the cooperation of those who could have prevented it," Lula said.

Leaders from multiple countries echoed similar condemnations, describing Israel's actions as atrocities and demanding accountability.

## Wave of recognition for Palestine

The recognition of Palestine by a growing number of Western states



Protesters block the street outside UN headquarters in New York City ahead of Trump's speech, September 23, 2025

has added to the momentum.

On Monday, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that France was formally recognizing the State of Palestine, even though his country has long been counted among Israel's Western backers. Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, and Andorra followed suit the same day. A day earlier, Britain, Canada, Australia, and Portugal had also recognized Palestine.

That recognition has accelerated dramatically since Israel began its war on Gaza in October 2023. With France's decision, the United States now stands as the only permanent member of the UN Security Council that refuses to recognize Palestine.

In May 2024, Spain, Ireland, and Norway officially recognized Palestine, aiming to revive efforts toward the so-called two-state solution. In June 2024, Armenia and Slovenia took similar steps, further elevating the Palestinian issue on the global stage.

The first formal declaration of Palestinian statehood came in 1988, during the First Intifada, when the late Yasser Arafat proclaimed independence. Algeria quickly recognized the declaration, and within a week, dozens of countries — mostly across the Middle East and Africa — followed suit. Recognition expanded through the 1990s and 2000s.

## Israeli troops killed in Gaza City

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) announced the death of a tank company commander in northern Gaza City.

According to the IOF spokesman, a preliminary investigation shows the officer died after succumbing to severe injuries he sustained in an ambush carried out by the armed wing of Hamas in Gaza City.

Channel 12 confirmed, under the IOF's "permitted for publication" policy, the death of Major Shahar Natanel Bouzaglo, 27, after a tank was struck by a projectile.

The channel noted that Bouzaglo was the commander of the "Volcano" company in the IOF's Battalion 77 of the 7th Armored Brigade, explaining that he sustained critical injuries as a result of an RPG missile fired at the tank he was in, in Gaza City.

This comes alongside reports from Israeli media about two "security incidents" that have

taken place in Gaza City, in which the al-Qassam Brigades ambushed the IOF, killing another occupation soldier.

Israeli media have also acknowledged that a combat officer from the Shaked battalion of the Givati Brigade was seriously wounded during a close-quarters clash with Palestinian resistance fighters in Gaza City.

The Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, announced they targeted an IOF Merkava tank with a high-explosive landmine near the al-Bara'a mosque, south of the Sabra neighborhood in Gaza City.

Israeli media also reported two "security incidents" in Gaza City in which al-Qassam fighters ambushed an IOF unit.

There has been no word about any IOF injuries amid the regime's strict "permission to publish" policy and the sensitive nature of the Gaza City invasion.

The Israeli cabinet approved the plans to invade over a month ago, despite reports of strong

Since Israel's founding in 1948, the quest for an independent Palestinian state has remained central to Palestinian political aspirations. This demand is inseparable from the Nakba — the mass displacement of more than 700,000 Palestinians during Israel's creation. The forced expulsion of Palestinians was a cornerstone of the Zionist movement's ambition to build a Jewish-majority state.

## Trump strikes a different note

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump sharply diverged from the global chorus.

Addressing the General Assembly, Trump reiterated his claim that the recognition of a Palestinian state by several Western countries over recent days amounted to a "reward" for Hamas. He also lashed out at the United Nations, insisting he had solved conflicts around the world while the UN "had done nothing."

"Sadly, in all cases, the United Nations did not even try to help in any of them," Trump said.

The U.S. has not only intensified its military support for Israel but has also repeatedly blocked ceasefire resolutions in the Security Council.

## Symbolism versus reality

Although analysts believe pro-Palestine comments by some

of Israel's Western allies are motivated by tactical or political considerations, the fact remains that the Palestinian cause now dominates the global agenda.

Yet recognition alone does not guarantee meaningful change. For many Palestinians and observers, these gestures risk being seen as largely symbolic. France and the UK's move, for example, are interpreted not only as principled stands but also as responses to mounting domestic and international criticism of their roles in arming Israel and shielding it diplomatically.

Without real international pressure to halt Israel's military operations and force it to respect Palestinian rights, recognition risks becoming an empty moral gesture. For Palestinians, the path to genuine statehood lies in sanctions, accountability mechanisms, and sustained political pressure to end the occupation and siege.

## A shifting global consensus

Despite these limitations, the emergence of Palestine as the world's top issue underscores Israel's growing isolation and, crucially, that of the United States.

Although Israel has devastated Gaza, the Palestinian resistance and spirit of resilience remain alive. Israel may conquer territory, but it cannot crush the determination of a people.

The world has taken notice: recognition of Palestine and denunciation of Israel's actions now stretch across continents. The United States, meanwhile, finds itself increasingly alone.

For decades, U.S. hegemony dictated the global narrative on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But that hegemony has now collapsed like a house of cards in the hearts and minds of people worldwide. Today, the dividing line is clear: the United States on one side — and the rest of the world on the other.

disapproval by the IOF's Chief of the General Staff, Eyal Zamir, over risks to Israeli soldiers.

Since the plan to invade Gaza City was approved, the IOF has faced significant difficulties in trying to invade the city via the western Zeitoun neighborhood.

The armed wing of Hamas had warned the regime that Gaza City would be a "graveyard" for occupying forces.

With the announcement of the latest deaths, the number of IOF fatalities whose names have been cleared for publication rises to at least 911 since October 2023, according to Israeli media.

The occupation regime is widely believed to be censoring the real number of IOF fatalities during its genocidal campaign in the besieged Palestinian territory.

Multiple investigative reports indicate the true death toll is much higher than what is being officially announced with the genocidal war approaching two years.

Japan that had aggressed China many times in the 1890s through 1945 when it gained military advantage for a very short period of time.

In modern times, China has constructed very strong military forces particularly in the last two decades. However, China has refrained from using military means to address issues related to its territorial integrity and sovereignty while others could have legitimately turned for military solutions. The tensions behind these issues could be far more severe than those in other regions as they are more decisive in defining future international order. It is expected that China will exercise its utmost restraint in the strategic competition with the U.S. though it is questionable whether this kind of restraint is limitless in the face of provocations.

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

## Washington to target entire ICC in major sanctions escalation: report

The United States is weighing sweeping sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) that could be announced this week, Reuters reported Monday, escalating its retaliation over probes into Israeli war crimes and U.S. abuses in Afghanistan.

Washington has already sanctioned prosecutors and judges, including lead prosecutor Karim Khan, in February, and now questions the court's "purported jurisdiction" over U.S. and Israeli personnel.

The Hague-based court, which recognizes Palestine's membership and jurisdiction over crimes on its territory, has indicted Israel's Benjamin Ne-

tanyahu and Yoav Gallant.

Facing potential operational paralysis—from banking to basic software—the ICC has paid staff ahead and sought alternative providers, while member states prepare pushback at the U.N. General Assembly.

If imposed, the sanctions would indicate Washington has little regard for international law, prioritizing impunity for Israel over justice. Such a move would also weaken accountability for Palestinian victims and cast a chilling effect over future war-crimes investigations worldwide.

## Trump to push Arab states on Gaza security and reconstruction funding: Axios

U.S. President Donald Trump is set to host officials from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Indonesia, and Pakistan for a multilateral meeting on Gaza, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced Monday.

According to Axios, Trump will present a proposal centered on freeing captives, ending the war, and facilitating an Israeli withdrawal, while pressing Arab and Muslim states to contribute

forces and reconstruction funding.

The talks are scheduled as dozens of world leaders at the UN General Assembly voiced support for Palestinian statehood, a shift resisted by Washington and Israel.

Nearly two years into Israel's war, its operations have killed over 65,000, displaced Gaza's entire population, and triggered famine conditions. Rights experts and a UN inquiry have assessed the campaign as amounting to genocide.

## Tom Barrack: US arms Lebanon to 'fight its own people'

In an interview with The National released Monday, U.S. special envoy Tom Barrack defended Washington's push to make the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) the agent of Hezbollah's disarmament — even as he conceded the U.S. will not equip the army to confront Israel.

"Who are they going to fight? ... you're arming them so they can fight their own people, Hezbollah," he said — language critics say reflects how U.S. aid is designed to interfere in Lebanon's internal political and security dynamics.

Barrack's remarks came after the Pentagon approved a \$14.2 million drawdown to "degrade Hezbollah," a move many denounced in Beirut as

one-sided.

Israel has killed hundreds of civilians in border strikes since last year's ceasefire, underscoring why many fear disarmament would not deter Tel Aviv's aggression.

He also said that "Israel is attacking everybody... Israel is attacking Syria, Lebanon, and Tunisia," effectively confirming Israel's attack on the Global Sumud flotilla earlier this month — an incident Tunisian authorities have publicly denied was a drone strike.

Declaring "peace is an illusion," Barrack acknowledged there is no durable U.S. plan for stability in West Asia.

## Hezbollah: One year after the large-scale aggression

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — With the first anniversary of the large-scale U.S.-led Israeli aggression against Lebanon, which lasted more than two months, the question arises about Hezbollah's position today in light of regional and international transformations.

Despite the enormous political, economic, and military pressures, the resistance (Hezbollah) has succeeded in maintaining its position and even developing its structure.

First, resistance in Lebanon emerged from a pressing need in the absence of genuine sovereign protection. It has become a fundamental element in the balance of power in the Levant.

Since 2006, it has proven its ability to counter unrestrained Israeli aggression and increase the costs for it.

Undoubtedly, the rhetoric that seeks to portray the resistance as a burden on Lebanon reflects the long-standing U.S.-Israeli political intentions that are renewed at every stage. Their main malicious goal is to strip Lebanon of its elements of power and turn it into a submissive state.

Meanwhile, the spies in the U.S. embassy in Beirut have been working tirelessly to hold the resistance responsible for the destruction caused by the wars over the years, clearly falsifying the facts. But the aggression is the direct cause of the losses, while the resistance has controlled its long-term consequences.

The deterrence by the resistance is not an absolute guarantee; rather, it is a dynamic process influenced by military, technological, and political transformations.

Nevertheless, the resistance represents a unique experience compared to other resistance movements in modern history.

A year later, the facts reveal that the Israeli occupation entity has not abandoned its project to weaken the resistance, and that Washington continues to place Lebanon at the heart of its regional strategy.

The coordination between Tel Aviv and Washington has transcended the confines of the last war to a comprehensive program of action encompassing all of West Asia, including Iran.

Meanwhile, observers confirm that Hezbollah has indeed succeeded in restoring its military and organizational capabilities with remarkable speed and has demonstrated a significant financial capacity to compensate those affected, causing concern in Washington about Hezbollah's sources of funding and the effectiveness of the sanctions imposed on it.

In contrast, the Americans are focusing on keeping the Lebanese Army and Banque centrale du Liban under their direct supervision, believing that any support for them must be conditional on the extent of their move to restrain the resistance, despite their awareness that the army is unable to carry out the mission of disarming the resistance.

The Israeli occupation entity has also demonstrated that it is not concerned with the time limits that Washington is rumored to have granted Lebanon, meaning that it will continue its assassinations and raids whenever it deems necessary.

Indeed, leaks by Western sources indicate an Israeli intention to resume its aggression through a large-scale ground operation aimed at controlling southern Lebanon up to the Litani River, then imposing new security arrangements to its north.

This approach intersects with efforts to impose facts on the ground in southern Syria, by establishing demilitarized zones and preventing any possession of strategic weapons. This reaffirms that the battle is not limited to Lebanon alone, but rather includes redrawing the security map of West Asia as a whole.

This is because Tel Aviv, and Washington behind it, believes that confronting the Axis of Resistance must be comprehensive, not limited to Hezbollah, Hamas, or Ansarallah, and extends primarily to Iran, which both sides view as the backbone of this axis. This view is met with European support.

Hence, the resistance in Lebanon is not a burden, as its opponents promulgate, but rather a security and political pillar in the face of a project that continues to pose a direct existential threat.

On the first anniversary of the massive aggression, it is clear that any attempt to weaken the resistance or disarm it will only make Lebanon more vulnerable, while its continuation constitutes the actual guarantee for the resilience of Lebanon, and indeed the peoples of the entire region.

By Jin Liangxiang

SHANGHAI – The first week of September witnessed a milestone SCO summit and a grand gathering to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian together with heads of states and governments and representatives of more than twenty countries were present.

The two events together would certainly signify some big changes in global balance of power as China demonstrated its political leadership in shaping the agendas of global governance and safeguarding post-war international order and its hard military power as well.

There are always doubts and questions and even challenges about what kind of actor China will

## China is a trustworthy partner

be with its rise. Will China grow to be another hegemonic power like the United States and those other hegemonies in human history pressuring others? Will China bully other countries with its military forces?

These questions were raised twenty years ago, are being raised and will be raised by people across the world even including friends from Iran. But history and the practices of contemporary China indicate that China can always be a trustworthy partner for Iran and for other nations struggling for peace and justice.

Firstly, China is a peaceful nation and will never be a hegemonic power. Unlike most other ancient powers, China had remained defensive and responsive in strategic posture in its long history. China, for thousands of years, had just built the walls defending it-

self from being looted and robbed of, and had continued this kind of practice in its ancient history. The Great Wall ran more than 20 thousand kilometers across its northwestern, northern and northeastern territories.

China did construct strong military forces and strategic theories like The Art of War by Sun Tzu, but these forces were a result of response to external invasion by nature rather than a cause of a threat. To put it another way, despite its military buildup, China's strategic culture has long been defensive and responsive. For thousands of years, the spirit of the Great Wall among others has become a part of the DNA in Chinese culture.

Despite its strong military, China never aggressed its neighbors. This can be very easily checked in history books. Unfortunately, it was



## Iran sees tourism roadshow in Iraq as key to boosting sector, deputy minister says

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpei said on Monday that a planned tourism roadshow in Iraq would play an important role in expanding different areas of tourism cooperation between the two countries.

"Negotiations have already been planned with Iraq's prime minister and minister of tourism so that we can increase tourist exchange with Iraq in various aspects, including pilgrimage, heritage and civilization tourism, recreation and health," Mohseni-Bandpei said in remarks carried by ILNA news agency.

Speaking on the sidelines of Tourism Week, Mohseni-Bandpei added that due to the importance of Iran-Iraq tourism issue and the volume and scope of holding roadshow in Iraq, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri will personally attend this important tourism event in Iraq, the report said.

The official said that tourists entering Iran from Iraq have become dual-destination tourists in Iran with the efforts made, adding that Iraqi tourists who enter Iran either first go to Mashhad for pilgrimage and then head to some other provinces, or their purpose of entry is first to other provinces and then to pilgrimage in Mashhad and return to their country.

The deputy minister also said: "Our goal for the second half of the Iranian year of 1404 is to attract 2.5 million tourists from



Iraq, and in 1405 we plan to attract five million tourists from Iraq.

The roadshow, which is scheduled to be held from October 6 to 9 in the three cities of Basra, Baghdad, and Karbala, with the support of the Iranian Travel Service Offices Association and the participation of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, has prioritized the goal of attracting five million Iraqi tourists and exchanging 10 million tourists annually between Tehran and Baghdad.

He reiterated that the tourism roadshows held with different countries have not been held to the size and scope of the event that is to be held in Iraq.

Mohseni-Bandpei added: "Our goal is to bring more tourists to Iran in addition to pilgrimage tourists from Iraq and to introduce other tourism sectors and tourist attractions of Iran to Iraqi nationals and tourists who enter Iran from that country."

## Iranian ceramicist honored as 'most skilled female potter' at Uzbekistan festival



TEHRAN – Zahra Aslani, a ceramic artist from Ardabil, northwest Iran, has won the title of "most skilled female potter" at an international festival recently held in Uzbekistan.

Aslani also received a \$1,500 prize during the event, which brought together tens of participants from various countries, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

This was Aslani's second participation in the festival, which ran from Sept. 18 to 21 in Rishtan, one of Uzbekistan's historic pottery centers.

Organizers described the event as both a showcase for handicrafts and a platform for cultural dialogue, highlighting the role of traditional arts in building connections across borders.

Situated on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble. It is freezing in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. Ardabil was named as the 2023 ECO Tourism Capital by the Economic Cooperation Organization.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Asante Traditional Buildings

Near Ghana's Kumasi, a group of traditional buildings are the last remaining testimony of the great Asante civilization, which reached its peak in the 18th century. The buildings include ten shrines/fetish houses (Abirim, Asawase, Asenemaso, Bodwease, Ejisu Besease, Adarko Jachie, Edwenase, Kentinkrono, Patakro and Saaman). Most are to the north-east of Kumasi, and Patakro, to the south.

Arranged around courtyards, the buildings are constructed of timber, bamboo and mud plaster and originally had thatched roofs. The unique decorative bas-reliefs that adorn the walls are bold and depict a wide variety of motifs. Common forms include spiral and arabesque details with representations of animals, birds and plants, linked to traditional "Adinkra" symbols. As with other traditional art forms of the Asante, these designs are not merely ornamental, they also have symbolic meanings, associated with the ideas and beliefs of the Asante people, and have been handed down from generation to generation.

The buildings, their rich color, and the skill and diversity of their decorations are the last surviving examples of a significant traditional style of architecture that epitomized the influential, powerful and wealthy Asante Kingdom of the late 18th to late 19th centuries. Asante Traditional Buildings reflect and reinforce a complex and intricate tech-

nical, religious and spiritual heritage.

The traditional religion, still practiced in the Asante shrines, takes the form of consulting with the deities to seek advice on specific situations, or before an important initiative. That is why the shrines have been maintained complete with all their symbolic features.

Between 1960 and 1970 the buildings were acquired by the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) and scheduled as a National Monument under the Law of Ghana NLC Decree 387 of 1969.

Therefore, the instruments for the protection of the Asante Traditional Buildings operate on two levels. The first is a prescription of customary regulations, prohibitions and penalties that have been handed down through generations from the past. The second is the modern statutory regulations enacted by Government. The two sets of laws complement each other, and are a generally effective means of protection although the modes of enforcement are different. The long-term challenges for the management of the Asante Traditional Buildings are to ensure regular maintenance in order to mitigate the impacts of the warm humid climate and to put in place a long-term strategy to secure a sufficient supply of organic materials for their repair.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Iran orders reopening of all museums and heritage sites after wartime closure

TEHRAN – Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry has ordered the reopening of all museums, historical palaces, and archaeological sites across the country, following months of closure after the 12-day war with Israel.

The ministry's Directorate of Museums issued a directive stating that managers of national and provincial museums must resume regular operations and ensure their facilities are ready to receive visitors. It added that working hours would be announced on each museum's website and social media pages, ISNA reported.

Iran shut many of its museums and heritage sites on June 13, when the conflict began, to protect historical monuments and artifacts. Some objects were transferred to secure storage. Institutions, including the National Museum of Iran, the UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace, and Saadabad Palace, remained closed for about three months.

Although Ali Darabi, the deputy



minister of cultural heritage, announced in late July that museums could reopen in coordination with provincial security councils, many sites remained shut.

The prolonged closure drew criticism from tour operators and

visitors, ISNA said on Monday.

In its reopening order, the ministry's museum authority said resuming cultural services was aimed at strengthening national morale, enhancing social cohesion and providing content for

different age groups through exhibitions and events.

Museum directors have been instructed to prepare galleries, comply with safety and conservation rules, and inform the public of new visiting schedules.

## Salehi-Amiri: Students are main guardians of Iranian culture

TEHRAN—Iranian culture is like a bubbling spring that has been the lifeblood of this land for centuries, and it is a trust in the hands of the younger generation today, said Cultural Heritage Minister Seyyed Reza Saheli-Amiri.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the schools and start of the academic year at Anoushirvan Dadgar High School on Tuesday, he said: "I am the bearer of the President's greetings to all the children of Iran, especially the students of this school," Mehr news agency reported.

Stating that today, more than ever, the young generation needs hope and joy, he added: "We must all agree on one principle: Iran is our home, honor, dignity, and identity. If we are alive today, it is because of the blessings of Iran and Islam."

Pointing to the registration of the Prehistorical Sites of Khorramabad Valley on the

UNESCO World Heritage List, he said this site, with antiquity of 63,000 years, shows that Iranians have been civilized for a long time.

"We have two Irans: the geographical Iran in which we live and the cultural Iran whose roots extend beyond the borders of the region."

He continued by using autumn symbols and stated that the leaves fall but the roots remain in the autumn season, Iran is like a rooted tree that will always remain strong and proud.

The minister said that students have a great role in safeguarding the cultural identity, adding: "Students are the main guardians of our history and civilizational identity. They are the trustees of the heritage for future generations and are considered the hope of today's and tomorrow's generation of Iran."

Pointing to the historical



background of Anoushirvan Dadgar High School, he added: "This school is nearly a century old and is one of the first centers where girls studied. This place, like a branch of a sturdy tree of education, has special sanctity and value."

Also, Behshid Barkhordar, a Zoroastrian representative in Parliament, stated that education is the foundation of development, adding that Iran is a historical land that achieved the concept of peaceful co-

existence thousands of years ago and has practiced it in practice.

She added: "Students should become more familiar with their historical identity, because along with respect for others, respect for the environment is also part of our cultural heritage. We have a duty to convey the right concepts to the younger generation and familiarize them with cultural heritage and civilizational identity."

## Baba Shams hill links history, nature, and agriculture in Ilam



TEHRAN – Scattered pottery fragments, historic aqueducts, and the proximity of the Karzan River point to ancient settlements at Baba Shams hill, located on the western edge of a village of the same name, according to Habibollah Mahmoudian, a specialist in prehistoric archaeology.

He told ISNA that the archaeological site, covering an area of about 93,000 square meters, lies east of the Ilam-Lumar Road amid the agricultural lands of Baba Shams village.

In the western part of this hill, there are ruins of a building known as Vali Bath, and in its southern part, there is the site of Chega Khomi, he said.

He pointed out that the dimensions of the building in this area were measured as 2.3 x 9 x 33 meters, and on the eastern front, due to the creation of an agricultural water canal, the middle layers of the hill are visible. The north-south length of

the hill is about 33 meters and its west-east width is nine meters.

The soil of this hill is clay, and unfortunately, unauthorized excavations have destroyed parts of it, he said.

"The archaeologist explained that the water sources of this site include springs and aqueducts, and its access is possible via the asphalt road from Ilam to Lumar. This site is located on the connecting route to nearby places, and the closest monument to it is the real estate office building at a distance of 303 meters."

He continued that the cultural relics on the surface of the hill include pieces of scattered potteries pertaining to the Islamic era.

Mahmoudian also explained about the Baba Shams ancient site: "This site is located on the western outskirts of Baba Shams village with an area of ??about 93,333 square meters and is surrounded by agricultural lands. The presence of a qanat, the Karzan River, fertile lands, proximity to mountains, and forest cover in the western region have been factors in the development of this area."

He said: The west-east length of the site is about 323 meters and its north-south width is 303 meters. The water sources of this site include the Baba Shams spring and qanat, and the closest monument to it is the four-arched building of Varmian, located 233 meters west

of it.

The archaeology professor continued that the surface of the hill has scattered potteries of various types, including simple and rough pottery from the historical period. "The color of the pottery is mainly red and pea-colored, and added patterns can be seen on them. A piece of glass and a sample of glazed pottery from the Islamic period were also found on the surface of the site."

He said that the ancient site of Baba Shams, which is located on the heights of the western outskirts of the village, is very large. "The pottery in this site is very abundant and scattered over a considerable distance. No architectural remains are visible on the site, but farmers in the area have collected the stones on the site and concentrated them in a few points to make it suitable for agricultural activities."

Regarding the topography of the area, he said: "The small Baba Shams plain is located on the northern edge of the Karzan River, and this river has created the fertile Baba Shams Valley. The presence of lateral heights and forest cover in the region has affected the climate of the Baba Shams intermontane plain and made it temperate. It seems that this area had permanent settlements in the past, although there was also the possibility of temporary settlements."



# Iranian youths attend BRICS Young Scientists Forum

TEHRAN –Supported by the Center for Progress and Development of Iran (CPDI), and the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, twelve scientists, under the age of 40, have represented the country in the 10th Young Scientists Forum as well as the 8th Young Innovator Prize, focusing on science diplomacy, artificial intelligence (AI), and climate change.

The forum was held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 15 to 17. It brought together researchers and entrepreneurs from the group's member countries, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE, Ethiopia, and Indonesia, to showcase innovative solutions in science, technology, and sustainable development.

According to gov.br, the main goal of the forum was to support scientific projects with a real social impact. This year, three key topics were discussed: mitigating the effects of and adapting to climate change, scientific diplomacy, and the use of AI for social solutions.

One of the highlights of the program was the 8th edition of the BRICS Young Innovators Award, which recognizes inventors and re-



searchers with impactful solutions to social and economic challenges. This recognition symbolizes the bloc's confidence in the potential of youth to bring about significant change in the areas of health, the environment, social inclusion, and new technologies.

During the three-day event, the country's representatives played an active role, delivering scientific lectures and presenting research projects on issues such as comprehensive modeling of the environmental, economic, and social impacts of COP policies in BRICS states, technological innovations in water and renewable energy fields, interdisciplinary studies in the climate change and

biosecurity sectors, science diplomacy in a changing world, utilizing artificial intelligence for social initiatives, and improving the life qualities of citizens in BRICS countries, Mehr news agency reported.

They also proposed strategies to enhance scientific interactions among member states.

## Iranian researchers in world's top 2% list

The latest international data shows that the presence of Iranian researchers in the top two percent list of the world based on citation indicators continues to trend upward, indicating an improvement in the quality of the country's scientific

production.

The reputable "updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators", which provides updated versions of scientist rankings based on standardized indicators, reported on September 19 that Iran has experienced an unprecedented growth in both one-year performance and scientific career-long indicators, IRNA quoted Peyman Salehi, deputy science minister, as saying.

Based on the report, the number of highly cited Iranian researchers in the one-year performance index has increased from 2,326 in the Iranian year 1403 (2024-2025) to 2,533 in 1404 (2025-2026).

This figure represents an increase of 207 persons compared to the previous year and clearly demonstrates the improvement in the quality and impact of the country's scientific production in 2024, he explained.

Also, the number of highly cited Iranian researchers in the career-long index has grown significantly from 1,018 in 1403 to 1,021 in 1404. A five-year trend analysis shows that Iran has achieved this remarkable achievement from 433 in 1399, and has experienced nearly threefold growth in this time period, Salehi added.

## Iran ready for twinning between biosphere reserve sites with other countries

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, has voiced the country's readiness to foster cooperation with other countries, in line with Hangzhou Action Plan, to promote twinning between biosphere reserve sites.

"We are ready to develop a twinning mechanism between biosphere reserves in Iran and other countries worldwide to further promote collaboration on research projects, sharing expertise and knowledge, as well as boosting scientific visits," IRNA quoted Ansari as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the Fifth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR), being held from September 22 to 26 in Hangzhou, China.

"We highlight ecosystem-based and community-centered approaches in managing biosphere reserves so that these areas can expand their impacts beyond their borders and inspire surrounding areas," she added.

Unfortunately, "biosphere reserves in Iran are adversely affected by heat waves, water scarcity, and climate change. We need solidarity, experience exchange, and support from the World Networks of Biosphere Reserves to strengthen their resilience.

We believe that the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) member states have the needed capacity to counter unilateralism and expand multilateralism to strengthen World Networks of Biosphere Reserves," Ansari underlined.

Preserving the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, our common home, is a shared responsibility. These areas are not only sanctuaries for nature, but also symbols of the peaceful coexistence of humans and nature, and a bridge between modern science and traditional knowledge. They should become a center of hope and a sustainable future for our children, she said.

The official also elaborated on biosphere reserves in the country, saying, "Iran, with 13 biosphere reserves, including three wetland sites, two marine and coastal sites, two deserts and arid sites, and six mountainous areas, has always been among pioneering member states in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Biosphere reserves cover less than four percent of our national territory, which is not enough, so we are committed to expanding the network by the establishment of four more biosphere reserves."

Moreover, Ansari expounded on the Zionist brutal attacks against Iran. Since June 13, Zionist aggressive attacks have targeted nonmilitary infrastructures such as medical centers, water distribution facilities, fuel storage, and gas refineries, which have caused the emissions of CO2 and pollutants in the country. These attacks are not only illegal but are harmful to the environment, human health, and regional stability. The potential consequences extend far beyond national borders, affecting natural ecosystems, air and water resources, food safety, and the well-being of civilians in Iran and across the region, the official said.



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.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iranian students snatch 4 medals at IOI 2018

Iranian students secured 4 colorful medals at the 30th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2018) which was held in Tsukuba, Japan, on September 1 to 8.

Iran's team finished in eleventh place claiming one gold medal, two silver medals, and one bronze medal, Mehdi Safarejad, head of the Iranian delegation said.

This year, 341 students from 87 countries participated in the event.

Mohammad Mahdavi grabbed the gold medal, Keivan Rezaei and Mehرداد Saberi were the silver medal winners, and Seyed Mahdi Sadeq Shobeiri claimed the bronze medal, Fars reported on Saturday.

Iran first participated the IOI in 1992, and have claimed some 22 gold medals, 54 silver medals and 25 bronze medals, over the past 26 years.

## کسب ۴ مدال توسط تیم دانش آموزی ایران در المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر

تیم چهار نفره دانش آموزان ایران موفق به کسب چهار مدال رنگارنگ در سی‌امین المپیاد جهانی کامپیوتر در ژاپن شد.

مهدی صفرنژاد سرپرست تیم اعزامی دانش آموزان المپیاد کشورمان به ژاپن، با اعلام این مطلب، افزود: تیم ایران از نظر کسب مدال، رتبه یازدهم این دوره از المپیاد را با کسب یک مدال طلا، ۲ نقره و یک برنز، تصاحب کرد.

در این مسابقات که از دهم شهریور ماه با حضور ۳۴۱ شرکت کننده از ۸۷ کشور در شهر سوکوبای ژاپن برگزار شد، محمدمهدی به مدال طلا، کیوان رضایی نقره، مهرداد صابری نقره و سیدمهدی صادق شبیری به مدال برنز این مسابقات دست یافتند.

به گزارش فارس، تاریخچه حضور ایران در این مسابقات به سال ۱۹۹۲ بر می‌گردد و طی سال‌های گذشته در مجموع، ۲۲ مدال طلا، ۵۴ مدال نقره و ۲۵ مدال برنز حاصل تلاش کاروان ایران بوده است؛ ایران امسال برای بیست و پنجمین بار در این مسابقات حضور یافت.

# SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Global Innovation Index: Iran secures position for third successive year

TEHRAN –According to the 18th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) report, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks second among the countries of the Central and South Asian region, unchanged over the last three years.

GII 2025 measures innovation performance across 139 economies and unveils the world's top 100 innovation clusters. It tracks global innovation trends through investment patterns, technological progress, adoption rates, and socioeconomic impacts.

According to this year's report, Iran ranks 70th among the 139 economies featured in the GI 2025. In 2024, the country ranked 64th among the 133 economies featured in the GI.

The country ranks 17th among the 36 upper middle-income group economies; in 2024, Iran ranks 5th among the 38 lower-middle-income group economies.

The GI ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GI aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.

As stated in the 2025 edition, over the past six years (2020-2025), the statistical confidence interval for the ranking of Iran is between ranks 56 and 75.

Iran performs better in innovation outputs than in innovation inputs in 2025. This year, Iran ranks 109th in innovation inputs, which is lower than last year (85th).

Iran ranks 46th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year (48th).

For Iran, 5 indicators have improved in the short-term (International patent filings, Connectivity, Robots, Labor productivity, Life expectancy), and 5 indicators have worsened (Scientific publications, Research and development (R&D) investments, Venture capital deal Numbers, Fixed broadband, and temperature change).

Iran ranks highest in Creative outputs (45th), Knowledge and technology outputs (46th), and Human capital and research (66th).

The country ranks lowest in Institutions (138th), Business sophistication (107th), and Infrastructure (98th).

Iran performs above the Upper middle-income group average in Human capital and research (Iran's score is 32.43, while the upper middle-income score is 29.7); Knowledge and Technology outputs Iran's score is 27.46, whereas the upper middle-income score is 20.0; and Creative outputs (Iran's score is 31.87, while the upper middle-income score is 22.6).

Published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the report ranks Iran first in Market capitalization.

It ranks 2nd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 14th, 14th, 22nd, and 23rd in Trademarks by origin, Software spending, Gross capital formation, Graduates in science and engineering, Labor productivity growth, Industrial designs by

origin, Patents by origin, Domestic market scale, and High-tech imports, respectively.

The Innovation cluster ranking of the GI identifies local concentrations of innovation activity. Innovation clusters are established through the analysis of patent-filing activity, scientific article publication, and venture capital (VC) activity, documenting the geographical areas around the world with the highest density of inventors, scientific authors, and venture capitalists.

Switzerland remains the world's innovation leader in 2025. China enters the top 10 for the first time, while middle-income economies – India, Turkey, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Morocco, Albania, and Iran – are the fastest climbers since 2013.

GI has ranked Tehran as the world's 63rd-largest science and technology (S&T) cluster this year, according to a report released by the UN's WIPO.

The GI reveals the top innovation clusters worldwide by size and intensity. In 2025, three metrics define the top 100 clusters globally. The first metric focuses on the location of inventors listed in published patent applications under the WIPO Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

The second metric considers the authors listed on published scientific articles. These two metrics have served as the foundation for cluster identification across previous GI editions. This year, however, the GI introduced a third metric, namely Venture capital (VC) deal locations.

In Asia, there are four clusters, including Tel Aviv-Jerusalem (19), Starbucks (58), Tehran (63), and Cairo (83).

Tehran is the only cluster within Iran that falls within the top 100 innovation clusters in 2025. It filed 49 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications, published 8,269 scientific articles, and had 12 venture capital deals, all per 1 million inhabitants over the latest five years, making it the 63rd largest innovation cluster and 85th innovation cluster by intensity (relative to population density) in 2025.

Top publishing organizations in Tehran are University of Tehran with 7,275 articles (12 percent share), the Islamic Azad University with 5,763 articles (10 percent share), and Tehran University of Medical Sciences with 5,158 articles (9 percent share).

Top PCT applicants are Mohammad Abdolahi with 16 patents (four percent share), Ahmad Ghanbari with 5 patents (one percent share), and Mohammad Durali with five patents (one percent).

Some 4 percent of Tehran's PCT patent applications are filed in collaboration with other inventors, with Los Angeles, Graz, and Vienna emerging as the top collaborative locations; 26 percent of Tehran's scientific articles are published in collaboration with other organizations, with the top three collaborating locations being Seoul, London, and Boston-Cambridge.

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

## Sign language a basic human right

TEHRAN – Observed annually on September 23, the International Day of Sign Language aims to raise awareness of the significance of sign language in the realization of human rights.

This year, the day is commemorated under the theme of 'No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights'. The day is a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. All people have an inherent right to human rights from birth.

For deaf people, sign language rights are fundamental for the full enjoyment of their human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80 percent of them live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

Sign languages are fully fledged natural

languages, structurally distinct from spoken languages. There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when travelling and socializing. It is considered a pidgin form of sign language that is not as complex as natural sign languages and has a limited lexicon.

The Iranian Sign Language is recognized as the official language of people with hearing impairments. Accordingly, the Welfare Organization is taking measures such as sending sign language interpreters and supporting the training of interpreters so that deaf people can benefit from interpretation services in visits such as court appearances and other official institutions.

Over the past Iranian year (March 2024-March 2025), a total of 9,000 interpreters assisted deaf individuals. The Welfare Organization is planning to help deaf and hard-of-hearing people benefit from smart sign language translators without the interpreter needing to be physically present, IRNA reported.





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SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:56 Evening: 18:16 Dawn: 4:31 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:55 (tomorrow)

## Arabic translation of “Underground Temple” published in Iraq

TEHRAN- In conjunction with the Sacred Defense Week (September 22 to 29), the Arabic translation of the book “Underground Temple,” authored by Masoumeh Mir-Aboutalebi and adorned with a commendation from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has been published by Dar Temkeen Publishing House in Iraq.

Originally published by Jamkaran Publications in Iran, “Underground Temple” recounts a lesser-known chapter of the Sacred Defense, set during the Iran-Iraq war years (1980-1988). The narrative unfolds during a time when a complex knot in the war effort is miraculously untied by Martyr Gholam-Hossein Rayat Rokn Abadi, who led a group of well sinkers from Yazd involved in tunneling during Operation Fath al-Mobin.

This story follows a young man's quest to discover his true self beneath the soil. Elias, a disheartened and lonely youth, strives to change how others perceive him. Exhausted by constant belittlement from his uncle, he has grown increasingly isolated and withdrawn.

His mother's overwhelming attention compared to others has shattered his pride, and he is now determined to prove to everyone that he is neither a coward nor lacking in strength. Elias embarks on a journey until Haj Gholam-Hossein, the well sinker, arrives in his village, introducing him to a new world that demands bravery and valor for entry. His acquaintance with Haj Gholam-Hossein leads to unexpected and transformative events in Elias's life.

Back in January, the commendation for the

book from Ayatollah Khamenei was unveiled during a ceremony in Rokn Abad Village, Meybod, in Yazd province.

In his commendation, Ayatollah Khamenei described the subject of the book as both noble and innovative.

“The theme of this novel is unique and innovative, and its writing is both delightful and captivating,” the Leader stated in his commendation.

“Addressing peripheral yet crucial and influential aspects of the Sacred Defense is a necessary endeavor, which the eloquent author of this novel has accomplished,” he noted. He added, “The contributions of the well sinkers from Yazd were highlighted multiple times by Martyr Sayyad Shirazi, a fact we were aware of; however, the importance, delicacy, and challenges as depicted in this book were not fully understood by us or others like us.”

“May God's mercy and favor be upon these artists wielding their pickaxes,” he concluded.

The 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq, locally marked as Sacred Defense, was launched by the order of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein nearly 19 months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The conflict had a profound impact on Iranian society, as it mobilized both the military and civilians in a united effort to defend the newly established Islamic Republic.

The term “Sacred Defense” reflects the spiritual and patriotic nature of the conflict, emphasizing the belief that defending the homeland was not only a physical battle but also a spiritual duty.

## 53rd Belgrade Golden Pen Competition selects 9 Iranian illustrators among finalists

TEHRAN – Works by nine Iranian illustrators have been selected among the finalists of the 53rd Belgrade Golden Pen Competition – 18th International Biennial of Illustration.

The Iranian works are among the 83 selected by the jury of the event, which will be exhibited in early November in Belgrade, Serbia, IRNA reported.

Raha Amini, Salimeh Babakhan, Najla Mahdavi, Maryam Mahmoudi Moghadam, Hajar Moradi, Mahshid Raghemy, Shideh Sekhavati, Ghazal Fatollahi, and Maral Forouzesh are the Iranian illustrators whose works have been recognized at the competition.

“Zal and Simurgh” by Raha Amini will be part of this year's exhibition as well as “Dreams, Whether Far or Near” and “Valda Orange,” which are children books written by Hadi Mohammadi and illustrated by Salimeh Babakhan.

Najla Mahdavi's illustrations for the children's book “The Sun in the Turkmen Sahra” written by Yousef Qoujaq, Maryam Mahmoudi Moghadam's book “Everything is Great in Our Farm,” which she wrote and illustrated, and Hajar Moradi's “Land of Dragon”, which she wrote and illustrated, will also be shown at the exhibition.

“TiTak” written and illustrated by Mahshid Raghemi, “An Ordinary Day at the Café” written by Payam Ebrahimi and illustrated by Shideh Sekhavati, “Mahour” written by Shahrzad Shahrjerdy and illustrated by Ghazal Fatollahi, and “A Girl Named Mari” written by Mazdak Forouzesh and illustrated by Maral Forouzesh are the other Iranian finalists at the event.

Belgrade Golden Pen Competition



53rd GOLDEN PEN OF BELGRADE  
18th International Biennial of Illustration



Illustrations by Ghazal Fatollahi for the book “Mahour”

tion is one of the oldest and most important illustration events in the world, and the finalists will have the chance to receive the main Golden Pen awards in the final judging.

Back in 1959, illustrators were not recognized in the art world in the way they are today. It took a lot of effort and dedication for illustrators to be valued equally as painters or sculptors.

The first European illustration exhibition that continues to this day – the Golden Pen of Belgrade – was

founded with a clear intention: to provide illustrators with equal status with fine artists and to affirm their role in society, and subsequently, in the history of art.

Today, social media and personal websites are the best form of presentation, which raises the question: are exhibitions still necessary for artists?

Exhibitions today represent necessary physical places where like-minded people gather, and in the case of cultural content; an

opportunity for the visitor to experience a work of art in a physical space! Also, exhibitions are a reflection and continuity of the duration of cultural events during which respect is paid to those who once invested immeasurable effort to ensure that illustration is recognized as an art, and not just a craft!

The Golden Pen of Belgrade still exists today, but with great effort, without financial resources, and thanks to the dedication of enthusiastic individuals.

## Iran's “Hear” to debut at French puppet festival

TEHRAN- “Hear,” a puppet play by the Iranian ensemble Yase Tamam, led by director Zahra Khialy Sabri, will be performed at the 23rd edition of the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes (FMTM), currently underway in Charleville-Mézières, France.

Commissioned by the Center for Theater and Puppet Theater Production of Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon, the play is designed for both teenagers and adults.

Inspired by the stories “The Parrot and the Merchant” by Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi and “A Fish Hearing the Voice of the Sea” by Sabri herself, the performance will take place on Thursday and Friday, with French surtitles.

“Hear” tells the story of a fish dreaming of the sea. Using delicate paper puppets, Yase Tamam

weaves a poetic fable about longing, freedom, and hope, blending Persian storytelling with a Western aesthetic.

The narrative centers around a fish living in a bowl, dreaming of freedom. It is told through the perspective of a parrot, who recounts the famous story of “The Parrot and the Merchant.” This story describes a kind merchant in Iran who owned a beautiful parrot confined in a cage. Before traveling to India, he asked his servants what gifts they wished for. The parrot, yearning for justice and liberation, requested the merchant to explain its plight to the parrots in India, questioning the fairness of its imprisonment while others fly free.

When the merchant conveyed the message, it caused distress among the parrots. One parrot trembled, fell, and died. Later, when the merchant told his own parrot in Iran about the message, his parrot was overwhelmed by sadness and also

died. Filled with regret, he threw the parrot out of the cage, and she flew away, symbolizing the longing for freedom and the consequences of neglect.

The Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes, held biennially, is one of the most prestigious global events in puppet theater. Prominent groups from around the world showcase their latest productions, transforming the city into a vibrant stage for the art form. Many of Zahra Khialy Sabri's acclaimed performances—such as “Earth and Wheel,” “Until One Counts,” “Soil and Crown,” and “The House of Bernard Alba” have previously been featured at this festival, receiving widespread acclaim.

Following its premiere in France, “Hear” will be staged in Tehran and various cities across Iran, continuing its series of performances in line with the national theater tour.

## British singer Dua Lipa drops agent over campaign against pro-Palestine band Kneecap

Celebrated British pop star Dua Lipa has allegedly parted ways with her William Morris Endeavour (WME) agent David Levy, after it was claimed that he was involved in a campaign to remove the Irish rap trio Kneecap from the Glastonbury line-up over their pro-Palestine beliefs.

According to The Mail on Sunday, Dua Lipa “made sure through her people that David Levy wasn't working on her music anymore. She is very openly pro-Palestine, and that doesn't align with David.”

“She views him as being a supporter of Israel's war in Gaza, and the terrible treatment of the Palestinians and that was made very clear through the letter that he signed and sent to Michael Eavis,” the source added.

The letter referred to is an email signed by Levy, which was sent to Glastonbury festival's organizers. It was intended to be confidential but was leaked by a Glastonbury employee, Eurone ws reported.

The petition to have Kneecap removed was not successful, and the rappers performed at

Glastonbury as scheduled.

British police received complaints about the group's performance but, following an investigation, dropped the case, citing a lack of evidence of any criminal offense.

Dua Lipa has always been a supporter of the Palestinian cause, condemning the violence in Gaza and joining other artists in protests.

She previously joined the likes of Jessica Chastain, Michael Stipe, and Cate Blanchett in signing an open letter to then-US President Joe Biden, calling for a ceasefire and “an end to the bombing of Gaza and the safe release of hostages.”

The Kosovo-born singer has long been very vocal in her support of Palestine. She criticized what she called “Israeli genocide” in Gaza last year on her Instagram account to her 88 million followers, and has also been seen at rallies condemning “UK complicity” in Gaza.

In May this year, was among hundreds of artists to call on British Prime Minister Keir

Starmer to end UK arms sales to Israel.

The open letter to the PM, led by refugee charity Choose Love, stated: “The world is watching and history will not forget. The children of Gaza cannot wait another minute. Prime Minister, what will you choose? Complicity in war crimes, or the courage to act?”

Dua Lipa remains with the talent agency WME and has not yet made any public statements on the split with her agent. However, Kneecap reposted a screenshot of the original Mail on Sunday article on their Instagram Stories.

British trip-hop outfit Massive Attack has also stopped working with Levy over his stance on Gaza.

Last week, we Massive Attack was the latest music act to pull their catalogue from Spotify in protest at founder Daniel Ek investing €600m in Helsing. The band also asked their label, UMG, to remove their music not just from Spotify but all streaming platforms in Israel.

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 has surpassed 166,270 in the Israeli onslaught, the Health Ministry said on Friday.

“Many victims are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them,” it added.

Since March 2, Israeli authorities have completely closed all Gaza border crossings, pushing the territory's 2.4 million population into famine.

Famine has been confirmed in northern Gaza, and is projected to expand to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis in central and southern Gaza by the end of September, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

## Cartoon of Day



Two-State Solution  
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen