

Germans Demand Government End Support for Gaza Butcher

100,000+ marched in Berlin against Israeli genocide and government complicity



Protesters gather near the Brandenburg Gate in the centre of Berlin.

In meeting with Hezbollah, Iran vows unwavering support for Lebanon and the Resistance

TEHRAN – During a meeting held on Sunday, senior Iranian official Ali Larijani assured Lebanon of the Islamic Republic's full and unconditional support, reinforcing a strategic alliance that stands as a bulwark against American and Israeli aggression in the region. ▶ Page 3

Iran should join Saudi-Pakistan defense pact, Leader's adviser says as Israeli threats intensify

TEHRAN – A top military adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has welcomed the newly signed defense agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, describing it as a positive step for regional security while underlining Iran's own military readiness and commitment to deterrence.

Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi said in a televised interview on Saturday that the "Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement" signed in Riyadh between Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman should be regarded as constructive. ▶ Page 2

Indonesians hail Iran as symbol of resistance and steadfast backer of Palestine

By Sedigheh Hosseini

BALI – In interviews with a Tehran Times reporter, several Indonesian citizens highlighted Iran's historical, cultural, and political significance, describing the country as a "symbol of resistance" and a steadfast supporter of Palestine. Expressing deep respect and admiration for the Iranian people, they emphasized that backing Palestine is a global and humanitarian responsibility that must be pursued across all platforms and sectors.

Interest in Iran and respect for its history

One of the interviewees, Kiki, an Indonesian citizen, has traveled extensively across the Middle East but has not yet visited Iran. "My name is Kiki, from Indonesia. I have traveled to the Middle East, including cities like Dubai, but I have not yet been to Iran. I hope to visit one day and experience the country's people and culture firsthand," she said.

How did Nawaf Salam's government relinquish Lebanon's maritime rights?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — With every step Lebanon takes to demarcate its borders in an effort to assert its rights, the outcome seems to be yet another loss. This was the case in 2007, again in 2022, and it is unfolding once more today.

Lebanon's relinquishment of its maritime rights began with the 2007 agreement signed by Fouad Siniora's government (despite its loss of its charter due to the withdrawal of Shiite ministers).

The agreement adopted a median line and ignored the principles of equity and proportionality, resulting in Lebanon losing thousands of square kilometers of its exclusive economic zone to Cyprus.

A study prepared by the Legal Consultations Center at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2014 under the leadership of Ambassador Saad Zakhia showed that Lebanon lost 2,643 square kilometers, while a hydrographic study by the Lebanese Army, using the latest measurement methods and satellites, showed that the loss exceeded 5,000 square kilometers.

Gaza civilian injuries mirror war zones

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal war on Gaza has inflicted war-zone level injuries on civilians, research finds.

A new study has revealed that civilians in Gaza are suffering injuries that mirror, and in some cases exceed, those typically seen among professional soldiers in intense war zones.

The research, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), offers a rare and detailed insight into the extreme physical toll of the Israeli occupation regime's ongoing genocidal assault in the densely populated Palestinian territory.

Between August 2024 and February 2025, international healthcare workers operating in Gaza collected data on nearly 24,000 trauma cases. The findings are grim: civilians are enduring blast injuries, burns, and limb trauma on a scale usually observed in combat troops.

"The injuries we're seeing in Gaza are what you'd expect from intense military combat, not civilian life," said Bilal Irfan, a bioethicist at the University of Michigan and co-author of the study.

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Iran to host 'Scholars' Rise Against Sophicide' conference to confront terrorism against scientists

TEHRAN – Iran will host the international conference "Scholars' Rise Against Sophicide" on October 9 to confront the global phenomenon of scientific terrorism, including the targeted assassination of scientists.

A press conference was held on Sunday morning at the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences ahead of the international conference "Scholars' Rise Against Sophicide", set to convene on October 9.

The gathering will focus on the joint crimes of the United States and Israel in assassinating scientists in Iran and worldwide.

Mohammad-Javad Larijani, who chairs the conference, warned that the assassination of scientists has become a "dark and dangerous phenomenon" that must be challenged globally. ▶ Page 2

ICCIMA urges new outward-looking economic approach

TEHRAN – Iran's economy must enter a new phase of outward orientation, with greater recognition of the private sector's international role, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Head Samad Hassanzadeh said on Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting of the ICCIMA board, Hassanzadeh condemned efforts by several European countries and the United States to reactivate the UN snapback sanctions mechanism against Iran.

He praised Iran's negotiating team for pursuing diplomacy "in good faith" to resolve disputes.

Hassanzadeh said while new sanctions would cause difficulties, studies suggest the impact of the snapback mechanism would be less severe than portrayed. ▶ Page 4



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Tehran marks World Tourism Day with pledges of investment, jobs, and regional cooperation

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Iran marked World Tourism Day on Saturday with officials pledging financial support, new jobs and greater private sector involvement to revive the country's tourism industry, which has struggled in recent months.

The ceremony took place at Tehran's Laleh Hotel and also opened the national tourism week.

Speaking at the event, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said the tourism sector is a top priority for the Iranian government. ▶ Page 5

Exclusive Interview
China's UNSC stance on Iran boosts credibility as mediator, says Chinese scholar



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran's new black gold customer

In an article, Ettelaat discussed India as a new customer of Iran's black gold although the UN Security Council failed to vote for a resolution to suspend sanctions against Iran permanently. It wrote: Despite the atmosphere created after Europe activated the snapback mechanism, India has resumed importing crude oil from Iran after years of suspension and imported a shipment of crude oil worth \$111 million from Iran. India's move can be interpreted as a sign of the gradual distance of important countries from U.S. sanctions policies. New Delhi has even offered the U.S. the possibility of buying oil from Iran and Venezuela in exchange for reducing oil purchases from Russia. This shows that Iran has been able to maintain its maneuvering space against international pressures through active diplomacy and diversifying its trading partners. It seems that the main consequence of the current snapback activation has more psychological aspects and focuses on Iran's domestic markets than on creating a serious disruption in oil export channels. Relative stability in energy exports allows for longer-term planning for other sectors of the economy.

Zero hours of the JCPOA

In an analysis, Shargh examined the future of Iran's nuclear file after the UN Security Council refused the draft resolution proposed by China and Russia to delay the snapback sanctions triggered by the European troika, writing: With the failure of the resolution proposed by Russia and China in the UN Security Council, Iran's nuclear negotiations have entered a new and tense phase. With the activation of the snapback, the troika will practically be sidelined from future processes surrounding the nuclear file. Evidence showed that the troika has fulfilled its duty of destroying diplomacy and no longer serves a meaningful role for Washington, and now they have lost their importance for Tehran. Therefore, the decision-making circle will be limited to Tehran, Washington, Moscow, and Beijing. By eliminating the troika, a new space will be formed for possible negotiations in the future. However, experts warn that activating the snapback mechanism could overshadow diplomacy for a long time and make a return to the negotiating table more complicated.

Arman-e-Melli: Consequences of snapback sanctions

Arman-e-Melli spoke with Yousef Molaei, a professor of international law at the

University of Tehran, to examine the process of activating the snapback sanctions and its political and economic consequences. He said: Naturally, the security risks of activating the snapback are greater than the economic consequences. However, the economic consequences can also be challenging, and other conditions may arise as the pressures on people's lives intensify. Given the 12-day war, it is likely that the United States and Israel will use this situation to their advantage to the detriment of Iran in line with the global consensus against Iran, although it will not be an easy task. In any case, when Iran is introduced as a threat to international peace and security based on the snapback mechanism, the conditions for international pressure against Iran will increase. Another point is that the economic conditions of society will also be affected by this event. This issue can also create new challenges for the country in the long run.

Hamshahri: Unity against snapback

In a commentary, Hamshahri wrote about the European betrayal, saying: After killing the JCPOA, the European troika committed the last possible betrayal by vetoing the resolution proposed by China and Russia to delay the snapback mechanism "to give room for diplomacy". The important thing is that Europe is losing its last lever. What is important is the origin of the troika's hostile decision on behalf of the United States, while Mr. Pezeshkian's government did its best to open the way for interaction. It is this one-sided interaction of the Iranian side that has encouraged the shameless Western side to become more arrogant instead of respectfully interacting. They believe that their hostile actions against Iran have no cost, and therefore, they can continue their wickedness in the form of harassing operations. This Western miscalculation must be challenged. If we are united and coherent on the domestic front, and if the government, the Supreme National Security Council, and the judicial and intelligence bodies try to control the mental conditions of the snapback and deal with the proxy network with severity, it will quickly become clear that this Western mechanism is not credible and Iran can overcome the threat posed by the West powerfully.



The new uniforms and individual equipment for the Fatehin (Conquerors) Special Unit of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) were unveiled on September 27, 2025, and delivered to the unit's battalions in a ceremony attended by Major General Hassan Hassanzadeh and families of martyrs.

Iran should join Saudi-Pakistan defense pact, Leader's adviser says as Israeli threats intensify

From page 1 ▶ "We assess this treaty as positive. Pakistan has announced that other countries can join, and I recommend that Iran also participate," Safavi said. "Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iraq could move toward a collective pact. Even though Saudi Arabia and Pakistan would not finalize such an agreement without U.S. approval, we should declare readiness as a regional power. This falls under our military diplomacy and foreign policy to take an active role in regional defense-security treaties."

The Saudi-Pakistani deal, signed on Saturday, September 17, pledges that any act of aggression against either country will be considered an attack on both, requiring a joint response. The agreement, which the two sides described as "landmark," aims to enhance mutual deterrence.

The signing came one day before an emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha on Sunday, convened after deadly Israeli airstrikes on Hamas leaders in the Qatari capital. The strikes occurred amid ongoing Qatari mediation efforts to halt Israel's war on Gaza.

Since the attacks, several countries, including Iran and Pakistan, have called for the creation of a regional coalition to defend Muslim nations against foreign-backed aggression. Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif also said



Top military adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi speaks during a televised interview on September 27, 2025.

that the assault on Qatar could not have happened without U.S. consent, urging Muslim countries to establish a NATO-style Islamic military alliance.

The strikes occurred despite the presence of a major American military base in Qatar, underscoring regional accusations that Washington allowed the assault to proceed.

Alongside support for regional cooperation, Iranian commanders reiterated their forces' full preparedness to defend the country against any threat.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, praised the achievements of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC),

particularly its Aerospace Force, during Iran's recent 12-day defensive campaign against U.S. and Israeli aggression.

"These victories reflect the faith, innovation, and resilience of our commanders and fighters. They demonstrate that the strategy of active deterrence and decisive, crushing response is effective and instructive," Mousavi said during a Sunday meeting with Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Major General Mohammad Pakpour. He added that Iran is continuing to modernize its defense systems and that coordination between the Army and IRGC ensures both deterrence and the safeguarding of national independence.

Major General Amir Hatami,

Commander-in-Chief of the Army, echoed the message, stressing that Iran constantly monitors adversary activities and will respond firmly to any miscalculation. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the Army's 23rd joint cadet training program during Sacred Defense Week, Hatami reminded young officers of the Army's mission to safeguard independence, territorial integrity, and the Islamic Republic.

"The enemy must know that, with the capacities, capabilities, and lofty ideals of the Iranian nation, we will inevitably emerge victorious. Our armed forces, supported by the people and guided by the wise leadership of the Commander-in-Chief, have always defeated aggression and will continue to do so," Hatami said.

He also pointed to the decisive role of Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei during the recent 12-day conflict, saying his strategic guidance ensured unity and success against the combined efforts of the United States and Israel.

Iran's military leaders stress that the country remains open to collective security frameworks while relying on its own deterrent capabilities. As Safavi underlined, the prospect of Iran joining a Saudi-Pakistan-led defense arrangement could strengthen regional security against foreign interference.

Iran to host 'Scholars' Rise Against Sophicide' conference to confront terrorism against scientists

From page 1 ▶ "The United States and the Israeli regime openly pursue this criminal policy and even seek to legitimize it," he told reporters.

Larijani outlined three main axes of threats to the global scientific community:

1. The legitimization of assassinations for political purposes, which he said sets a dangerous precedent for targeting scholars under false pretenses.
2. The creation of an atmosphere of scientific intimidation, deterring young talent by making them feel that entering advanced fields could cost them their lives.
3. The monopolization of knowledge, with Western powers seeking to restrict emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, contrary to the universal nature of science.

He recalled that over 15 Irani-

an scientists were killed during the recent 12-day war, including radiotherapy expert Dr. Feqhi and academic leader Dr. Tehrani, none of whom were connected to the allegations cited by Iran's adversaries.

Larijani also condemned Israel's use of artificial intelligence in Gaza, calling it "the worst possible misuse of science." He stressed that the October 9 conference aims to mobilize scientists across the world — including those attending virtually — to resist "scientific terrorism," end intimidation, and prevent monopolization of knowledge.

The event's findings will be shared with universities and research centers, while Larijani urged the systematic documentation of all assassinated scientists worldwide. Although he cautioned that UN resolutions may not immediately halt such



Mohammad-Javad Larijani, chair of the "Scholars' Rise Against Sophicide" conference, addresses the press on September 28, 2025, ahead of the October 9 international gathering in Tehran.

crimes, he said raising global awareness was essential.

"This conference is not an end but a beginning," he concluded, announcing plans for follow-up panels on fields such as

telecommunications, artificial intelligence, and quantum informatics to examine whether new technologies are serving peace and progress or being misused for terror and genocide.

Balance and lessons from war with Israel according to speaker of Iranian Parliament

Xavier Villar

MADRID – Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, granted an extensive interview to national television in which he discussed in detail the 12-day war between Iran and Israel, a conflict that marked a turning point for the Islamic Republic on multiple levels.

In this dialogue with documentary filmmaker Javad Moghui, Qalibaf offered a clear technical and political perspective, acknowledging weaknesses exposed during the conflict while simultaneously emphasizing the resilience and adaptive capacity of Iran's armed forces.

Among the most notable points of his discussion were the neutralization of prior sabotage attempts targeting Iran's missile program—a direct reference to operations similar to the device explosions in Lebanon; the renewal of command within the ranks of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) in the presence of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei; the explicit support of President Masoud Pezeshkian for the armed forces; the demand for clear conditions for any potential ceasefire; and the technical and tactical modernization of Iran's missile capabilities.

Qalibaf revealed that, for years, the enemy had managed to infiltrate chips and electronic systems into the military

chain of command, affecting some missile platforms. Nevertheless, he explained that approximately seven years ago this vulnerability was detected and rectified—a fact that underscores both the technical complexity of the confrontation and Tehran's ability to respond to covert operations. This scenario highlights the hostile strategic behavior Iran faces, which extends beyond open confrontations to include advanced sabotage targeting critical military infrastructure.

One episode Qalibaf addressed with particular frankness was the delay in Iran's response following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, rejecting accusations of "government obstruction or commanders' fear." His technical explanation focused on the limited results of a missile attack identified as "Operation True Promise 1," in which satellite systems allowed the enemy to monitor and divert some Iranian missiles in real time, achieving a lower effectiveness than anticipated. The lessons drawn from that episode were treated as an urgent warning to reinforce and modernize offensive systems, demonstrating a capacity for self-criticism and learning rarely recognized in Western analyses of the conflict.

Regarding military operations during the 12 days of hostilities, Qalibaf emphasized the increasing precision and sophistication of the attacks. He explained that from

the first to the seventh day, the strategy involved launches both day and night, with fewer missiles but greater effectiveness. He recalled the impact on the strategic Israeli city of Beer Sheva, where a single Iranian missile was fired and managed to successfully hit its target. Additionally, he elaborated on missile launches after the supposed start of a ceasefire declared by Iranian officials, arguing that since Israel was the initial aggressor, the Supreme National Security Council of Iran decided that the final response would come from Tehran.

From a military perspective, this narrative serves a crucial role: it not only demonstrates defensive strength but also projects a policy of proportional and controlled response, aimed at minimizing tactical errors and maintaining high internal morale while sending a message of calculated strength internationally.

Hamas and Hezbollah

In the interview, Qalibaf was directly questioned about the Hamas operation on October 7 and whether, given the significant weakening of Hamas, it could be considered a tactical error. His response began by emphasizing the importance of context: Hamas, he noted, did not act as a nihilist group, but as a force seeking to liberate its land from occupation.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

In meeting with Hezbollah, Iran vows unwavering support for Lebanon and the Resistance

TEHRAN – During a meeting held on Sunday, senior Iranian official Ali Larijani assured Lebanon of the Islamic Republic's full and unconditional support, reinforcing a strategic alliance that stands as a bulwark against American and Israeli aggression in the region.

Larijani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), emphasized that, following the direct guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Iran is prepared to stand by Lebanon and its Resistance movements "at all levels."

The high-level discussion, which also included Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem and Iran's Ambassador to Lebanon Mojtaba Amani, focused on the escalating challenges facing the region. Larijani confidently predicted the demise of the Israeli regime, stating, "We believe that the aggressive Israeli domination will meet a disgraceful end in the face of this steadfastness."

For his part, Qassem highlighted the unwavering determination of the Lebanese people and their support for the resistance in the face of ongoing pressures. "Anyone who witnesses the determination of this brave and patient people will believe in victory over the Israeli enemy," he stated. He reiterated Hezbollah's openness to cooperation with all



forces opposing the existential threat posed by the Israeli occupation.

The Sunday meeting comes amidst a concerted and failing campaign by Washington and the Israeli regime to weaken Lebanon's defensive capabilities. Recent American diplomatic efforts have aggressively pushed for the disarmament of Hezbollah – a demand widely rejected across Lebanon.

This pressure was a key topic during Larijani's previous visit in August and remains a focal point of discussion. Analysts see the

U.S.-Israeli disarmament campaign as a transparent attempt to strip Lebanon of its most potent deterrent force, thereby leaving the nation vulnerable to further Israeli violations of its sovereignty. Hezbollah is broadly recognized within Lebanon not as a militia, but as a legitimate Resistance force that has successfully countered Israeli occupation and defended the nation's interests.

Larijani's presence in Beirut, where he arrived on Saturday, underscores the depth of the Iran-Hezbollah relationship. His

visit has been to attend a memorial for Hezbollah martyrs, including the revered leaders Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine, who were assassinated in targeted Israeli attacks last year.

The Iranian official's itinerary has been packed with high-level engagements, including talks with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam at the Government Palace, signaling Iran's commitment to engaging with all facets of the Lebanese state.

Exclusive: China's UNSC stance on Iran boosts its credibility as mediator, says Chinese scholar

Professor Fan notes Beijing's support is grounded in fairness, justice, and universal international interests

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- As debates intensify at the United Nations following the Security Council's failure to extend sanctions relief for Iran, global attention has shifted to the broader geopolitical rift between Western powers and rising challengers such as China and Russia. The snapback mechanism's reactivation has revived questions about the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the credibility of multilateral institutions, and the balance of power in a world increasingly divided along ideological lines.

To shed light on these developments, the Tehran Times conducted an exclusive interview with Professor Hongda Fan, director of the China-Middle East Center at Shaoxing University.

In this conversation, he examines how China's stance may reshape the security architecture of West Asia, enhance Beijing's credibility as a mediator, and accelerate the global transition toward a multipolar order. He also reflects on the significance of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement between China and Iran, the challenges posed by Western sanctions, and the prospects for deeper bilateral cooperation in areas such as energy, infrastructure, and technology.

Below is the full text of the interview:

Do you view China's rejection of the snapback as a direct challenge to Washington's strategy of using sanctions as an instrument of foreign policy?

The United States was the core factor that prevented the implementation of the JCPOA as planned, while Iran was forced to reduce its obligations under the agreement due to the inability to obtain guarantees. China's opposition is based on international law and the fact that the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA led to another escalation of the Iran

Could this move deepen the ideological divide between China's vision of a multipolar world and the West's insistence on maintaining dominance through sanctions and military alliances?

Unfortunately, the world is currently experiencing severe division. The international order dominated by Western powers is facing serious challenges, and China and developing countries need a more fair and reasonable international order. This is the divergence between the two camps in the world.

How do you see China's position on Iran shaping the security architecture of the Middle East?

There is no doubt that Iran is a regional power and has a significant impact on the development of the region. In the current changing regional politics, China hopes that Iran can work with neighbors to promote greater stability and peace in the region.

Could China's support for Iran at the UNSC enhance Beijing's credibility as a mediator in regional conflicts?

China's support for Iran in the United Nations Security Council is based on international law and fairness and justice. China's actions are in line with the universal interests of the international community. I believe that China will win the trust of more countries.

In your view, how does the Iran case illustrate the limits of Western power when facing a united front from China, Russia, and non-aligned countries?

The Iran case largely demonstrates that some Western countries are undermining the international relations norms for their own interests. This is very detrimental to the stability and development of the world. Other countries have to seek new paths that align with their own interests. The world cannot continue



The Chinese representative present during a Friday UNSC vote on sanctions relief for Iran

to be dominated by some Western countries.

What long-term implications do you foresee for China-Iran relations if Western states continue to weaponize international institutions against sovereign nations?

I don't believe this will completely hinder the relationship between China and Iran, but, but I also believe that cooperation between the two countries will face some obstacles. The two countries should actively explore new paths of cooperation.

Do you think the UNSC vote marks a decisive moment in the transition toward a more multipolar global order, with China as a guarantor of countries resisting Western domination?

It is obvious that the international order is undergoing adjustment, which is jointly determined by the failure of the existing order led by the West and the defense of their own interests by the vast number of developing countries. In this regard, China and many developing countries share the same pursuit.

The 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement between Iran and China reflects a strategic partnership. Can China's recent vote at the UNSC be seen as a continuation of this path to counter Western hege-

mony?

China and Iran have a good foundation for cooperation, otherwise the 25-year agreement would not have been signed. The ideal bilateral relationship is based on mutual needs, not opposition to a third party. Bilateral relations fostered by third-party factors are difficult to maintain stability and sustainability.

Could China's position lead to expanded economic cooperation with Iran, particularly in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and technology?

To be frank, it depends on the degree to which both countries evade UN sanctions and their determination to develop bilateral relations. Yes, the true level of importance that Tehran and Beijing place on bilateral relations is worth noting.

How does China interpret the legality of the snapback mechanism under UNSC Resolution 2231? Does Beijing consider it consistent with the UN Charter?

So far, I have not seen any official Chinese denial of the legitimacy of the snapback mechanism under UNSC Resolution 2231. However, China advocates resolving disputes through diplomatic means. Currently, China believes that launching snapback mechanism to unilaterally punish Iran is unfair and unreasonable.

Iran javelin thrower Papi takes bronze at New Delhi 2025

TEHRAN – Iranian javelin thrower Amano-lah Papi won a bronze medal at the New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships underway at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in New Delhi, India on Sunday.

Papi seized a bronze at the Men's Javelin Throw F57 with a throw of 51.55 meters with personal best and season best efforts.

Mohammad Khalvandi of Turkey won a gold medal with 53.30 meters and silver medal went to Uzbekistan's Yurkinbek Odilov with 52.06 meters.

The New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships competition will feature 186 medal events (101 men's, 84 women's and one mixed), 15 more than at the last edition of the championships in Kobe.

Barancheshmeh remains head of Iran's Zurkhaneh federation

TEHRAN – Mehrali Barancheshmeh was re-elected as president of Iran's Zurkhaneh and Koshti Pahlevani federation on Saturday.

In the presidential elections held at the Iran's Academy Olympic, Barancheshmeh was elected for a four-year term till 2029 by receiving 49 votes out of 50 votes.

Amir Arab came second in the elections with one vote.

The sport is also known as Varzesh-e bastani (Ancient sport) and its particular form of wrestling is called Koshti Pahlevani, Traditional Iranian Wrestling.

Iran eye 2025 Goalball Asia /Pacific Championships title: coach

TEHRAN – Iran head coach Bahman Doosti Vala says Team Melli will defend their title at the 2025 IBSA Goalball Asia/Pacific Championships.

Iran have been drawn in Group A alongside Australia, Thailand, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Defending champions Iran will open against Saudi Arabia on Oct. 16.

Group B features Pakistan, South Korea, China, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

"We are ready to defend our title in the competition. Iran are drawn in a difficult group, but we will focus on winning the title," Doosti said in an exclusive interview with Tehran Times.

"As you know, the top two teams will qualify for the IBSA World Championship. So, we want to secure our berth in the event as well. That's why we are here," he added.

The 10-day competition will run from Oct. 16 at the Sports Complex Liaquat Gymnasium in Islamabad.

Iran defeat India at 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated India 3-0 at the 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup Saturday night.

Team Melli started the campaign with a 4-0 win over Poland but were held to a goal-less draw against England.

Iran will play South Korea and Italy on Sunday and Monday, respectively.

Morteza Karimi, Sadegh Rahimi and Mo-

hammadamin Rahimzadeh were on target for Iran.

Team Melli are headed by long-serving coach Javad Felfeli.

This tournament is an official event for the top six countries in the IBSA rankings announced in January 2025.

It is the first official event in the new cycle leading up to the next Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.

Following the conclusion of the men's tournament, India will then host the IBSA Blind Women's World Championship between October 6 and 12.

Iran's women's volleyball team head to Tashkent

TEHRAN – Iran's women's volleyball team traveled to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Sunday morning. The event will bring together Uzbekistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

The competition was originally scheduled to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, but was relocated to Tashkent.

The Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup is an international volleyball competition in Central and South Asia, contested by the senior women's national teams that are members of the Central Asian Volleyball Association, the sport's regional governing body.

AFC Champions League Elite: Tractor vs Al Wahda

TEHRAN - Tractor football team will tread carefully when it welcomes Al Wahda to the Yadegar-E-Imam Stadium for its AFC Champions League Elite 2025-26 tie on Monday.

UAE's Al Wahda kicked off the campaign with a stunning 2-1 defeat of Saudi Pro League champions Al Ittihad Club while Iran's Tractor had to share points with Shabab Al Ahli in a 1-1 draw.

Despite Al Wahda's Matchday One heroics, the record books are firmly in Tractor's favour with the Tabriz-based side unbeaten in home games against teams from UAE in the competition (W4 D2).

Scoring in continental matches at home has also not been an issue with Tractor having scored in each of their last nine AFC Champions League games at home. They, however, have failed to keep a clean sheet in each of their last four such games, winning just one (D1 L2).

Al Wahda have not been successful in their previous trips to Iran, having drawn twice and lost four while their win against Al Ittihad was their first victory in an opening tie on the continental stage since 2007.

Despite the odds, the win against Al Ittihad was a morale booster and Al Wahda will head into the tie brimming with confidence.

Italy winners of 2025 FIVB World Championship

TEHRAN - Italy defeated Bulgaria 3-1 (25-21, 25-17, 17-25, 25-10) in the final match of the 2025 FIVB Volleyball World Championship on Sunday.

In front of an official number of 15,682 spectators in Pasay City, they overpowered the young team of Bulgaria in four sets to claim the crown.

It was their second consecutive and fifth overall world title, after their triumphs in 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2022. Bulgaria settled for silver, their second in the history of the World Championships, after 1970. Earlier on Sunday, Poland beat Czech Republic in four sets to claim the bronze.

Iran also came eighth in the competition.

ICCIMA urges new outward-looking economic approach

TEHRAN – Iran's economy must enter a new phase of outward orientation, with greater recognition of the private sector's international role, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Head Samad Hassanzadeh said on Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting of the ICCIMA board, Hassanzadeh condemned efforts by several European countries and the United States to reactivate the UN snapback sanctions mechanism against Iran.

He praised Iran's negotiating team for pursuing diplomacy "in good faith" to resolve disputes.

Hassanzadeh said while new sanctions would cause difficulties, studies suggest the impact of the snapback mechanism would be less severe than portrayed.

"Even that level of impact requires realistic planning and management within government policy," he added.



Despite foreign media narratives, he argued that the business environment in Iran has not and will not change significantly as a result of snapback sanctions, noting that the country has endured years of economic pressure and gained valuable experience in navigating complex conditions.

S. Korea says U.N.'s reimposition of sanctions on Iran to have limited impact on bilateral ties

TEHRAN – The South Korean foreign ministry said Sunday the United Nations' move to reinstate sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program is expected to have a limited impact on South Korea.

The U.N. reimposed sanctions on Iran early Sunday (GMT) in a "snapback" process that was triggered by Britain, France and Germany.

Seoul's foreign ministry said the return of the Iran sanctions is expected to have a limited

impact on South Korea, noting bilateral trade remains insignificant.

"As a responsible member of the international community, we will continue to join global efforts to peacefully resolve Iran's nuclear problem and bring peace and stability to the Middle East," the ministry said.

It said the government will continue efforts to minimize potential difficulties facing Korean businesses.

Iran's export to Iraq, excluding gas, stands at \$2.7b in 5 months

TEHRAN– The value of Iran's export to Iraq, excluding gas, stood at \$2.797 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), according to an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

Referring to the status of Iran's exports to Iraq, excluding gas, in the first five months of this year, Abdolamir Rabihavi, the director general for West Asia at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said: "Last year, Iran's total exports to Iraq were about three billion dollars, but in the first five months of this year, it reached 2.797 billion dollars, a decrease of about seven percent."

In terms of export diversity, 53 percent of goods exported to Iraq were consumer and value-added, 42 percent of exports were intermediate goods, and 3.95 percent were capital goods, he added.

Considering Iran's vast export capacity and Iraq's large market for Iranian goods, both sides want to expand the volume of bilateral economic exchanges.

Iran and Iraq have set a target of \$20 billion in annual trade, and businessmen and authorities of both countries are determined to meet that target.

In late May 2024, the head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) said that Iran exports some 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign currency reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

In an interview in mid-December last year, the ambassador of Iran in Iraq praised the economic relations between the two sides and expressed hope that these relations will be more and better.

Mohammad Kazem Ale-Sadeq announced the value of commercial exchanges between the two countries, and stated that economic relations between Iran and Iraq are very good, and expressed hope that these relations will improve.

The envoy further noted: "Iraq is an important country in the region, and we have very important economic, political, and social relations with this neighbor."

In early May 2024, Tehran hosted the 6th meeting of the Iran-Iraq Joint Economic Committee.

The two-day event was co-chaired by the former Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi and Iraqi Minister of Commerce Atheer Daoud Al-Ghurairi.

On the first day of the meeting, specialized committees including commercial, industrial, agricultural, standardization and quality control, energy, finance, banking, investment and Insurance, shipping, transport, and Customs, scientific, educational, tourism, health, as well as sports consulate held meetings to discuss areas for cooperation.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

Iran's industry minister heads to Minsk for EAEU talks

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak left Tehran early Sunday for a three-day visit to Minsk to attend the Council of Ministers meeting of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and hold talks with senior Belarusian officials.

According to the government's information portal, Atabak will join the formal EAEU Council session and meet Belarus's ministers of transport and industry to discuss bilateral cooperation in specialized fields.

During his stay, he will also participate in the EAEU Intergovernmental Council and consult with counterparts from member states.

On the final day, he is scheduled to attend the union's Industrial Policy Council to review strategies for boosting cooperation and trade volumes among members.

The minister's trip follows his visit to Moscow last week, where he met Russia's deputy prime minister, several cabinet ministers, and the EAEU trade minister. Atabak held talks on removing technical and customs barriers and signed an executive roadmap for future cooperation within the union.

On Friday, the Eurasian Economic Commission said it has signed a three-year roadmap with Iran to expand economic cooperation across multiple sectors.

Andrey Slepnev, trade minister of the Eurasian Economic Commission, told reporters the agreement covers areas such as transport, logistics, and notably the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

He said the two sides also agreed to establish a "green customs" framework, pursue digitalization, and move toward electronic transit systems to create new opportunities for businesses.

Slepnev added that serious efforts are underway to remove barriers on imports into Iran.

A full free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union came into effect on May 15 this year.

Iran and the EAEU, which comprises Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, first signed an interim trade deal in 2018, reducing tariffs on hundreds of goods. That agreement helped push bilateral trade to nearly \$6.0 billion in 2023, according to official figures.

Iranian officials have repeatedly described the EAEU as a gateway to Eurasian and Central Asian markets, while the bloc views Iran as a vital link to the Persian Gulf and the INSTC route that connects India, Iran, Russia and northern Europe.

The permanent free trade pact signed in December 2023



replaced the interim deal and granted preferential access to more than 7,500 categories of goods. Both sides say the accord will pave the way for deeper industrial, agricultural and energy cooperation in the coming years.

Iranian officials said that steel and petrochemicals are expected to account for 50 percent of the objectives set under Iran's free trade agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), highlighting the sectors' pivotal role in boosting exports and activating trade opportunities in the region.

In mid-August, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), said the FTA, which entered into force on May 15, 2025, is unprecedented for Iran, reducing tariffs on 87 percent of traded goods.

He noted that while previous preferential trade agreements with the EAEU had expanded trade volumes, this latest agreement presents a unique opportunity for deeper integration.

"Trade agreements create both opportunities and challenges. The overall outcome is positive for both sides if vulnerabilities are addressed and opportunities maximized," Dehnavi said. He emphasized that steel and petrochemical industries are major drivers of production and exports, and leveraging them effectively could achieve half of Iran's FTA objectives.

The official called on the private sector to actively engage in Eurasian markets, pointing to research identifying which Iranian products have the highest export potential. "Private companies should focus on maximizing profitability, while policymakers ensure collective benefits such as employment, economic growth, and foreign currency inflows," he said.

Dehnavi also noted that export opportunities vary across member states, highlighting Russia as one of the most lucrative markets for Iranian products and promising further studies to optimize engagement in the region.

According to Elham Haji Karimi, head of the Iran-EAEU FTA secretariat, the agreement, signed in December 2023 after more than

two years of negotiations, covers 11 chapters, including trade in goods, technical measures, sanitary standards, rules of origin, customs cooperation, dispute resolution, government procurement, and sectoral cooperation in transport, energy, automotive industries, and free trade zones.

Iran's exports to member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) rose by 20 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), reaching over \$2.0 billion, according to figures released by Iran's Customs Administration.

The volume of exports to EAEU countries totaled 5,059 million metric tons—up 21 percent compared to the previous year.

Breakdown of exports includes \$1,121 billion to Russia, \$505 million to Armenia, \$278 million to Kazakhstan, \$111 million to Kyrgyzstan, and \$21 million to Belarus.

Iran also imported 2.174 million metric tons of goods worth \$1.51 billion from EAEU member states in the same period. This marks a 39 percent decline in import volume and a 20 percent drop in value compared to the previous year.

Belarusian Industry Ministry places great importance on the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between Belarus and Iran, Belarusian Industry Minister and Co-chair of the Belarusian-Iranian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation Andrei Kuznetsov told BelTA on the sidelines of the high-level talks between Belarus and Iran at the Palace of Independence in Minsk on August 20.

"We highly value the achieved level of interaction and see significant potential for further expansion of bilateral ties. The Industry Ministry is ready to offer Iranian partners a wide spectrum of opportunities for deepening our industrial partnership," Andrei Kuznetsov said.

The minister highlighted specific areas of joint work that demonstrate a commitment to long-term and productive interaction between the two states.

For instance, the establishment of assembly production for Belarusian harvesters would integrate the technologies of the

Belarusian mechanical engineering industry into Iran's economy and create a local enterprise for assembling high-quality agricultural machinery. This would reduce logistics costs and provide the local market with access to the advanced technologies of the Belarusian agricultural industrial complex. The minister noted that work in this direction has already begun.

Belarus could gain access to open waters via Iran's free trade zones, officials from the two countries said during talks on expanding investment and transit cooperation.

Alena Perminova, head of Belarus's National Agency of Investment and Privatization, met Reza Masrour, secretary of Iran's Free and Special Economic Zones High Council, to discuss new avenues for collaboration.

Perminova said a cooperation agreement signed between her agency and Iran's free zone secretariat was aimed at boosting joint projects.

She stressed Belarus's interest in building partnerships with Iran's free zones, saying the two countries could meet many of each other's needs through investment and re-exporting goods. "We are committed to implementing the framework of this agreement and creating more opportunities for cooperation," she said.

Perminova noted that Belarus's free trade zones were established to stimulate provincial development and commercial dynamism, and added that Minsk was ready to pursue serious joint projects with Tehran.

Masrour said Belarus could use Iran's ports to bypass its landlocked geography and sanctions-related restrictions.

He cited the Caspian route from Makhachkala in Russia to Iran's Caspian Port as a corridor that could provide Belarus with maritime access. In return, he said Belarus could enhance Iran's entry into the Eurasian Economic Union's 180-million-strong market.

"Both Iran and Belarus face unjust economic sanctions," Masrour said, adding that the measures had restricted Belarus's traditional access to Baltic ports in Lithuania and Latvia. "Iranian ports can serve as an alternative."

The official also pointed to Iran's role in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), saying Belarus could secure vital export routes for its potash fertilizers, agricultural products and other goods to Arab countries, Africa and beyond via Iranian free zones.

The talks also covered cooperation in tourism, high-tech industries, the digital economy, logistics, and organizing joint investment exhibitions.

Iran to launch \$1b Parsian alumina project to boost aluminum chain



TEHRAN – Iran will begin implementing its largest alumina production project by the end of this year in the Parsian Special Economic Zone, the state-owned Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said.

The project, part of Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, aims to produce one mil-

lion tons of alumina powder annually.

Its execution will start after securing approvals from relevant authorities and the Supreme Economic Council.

Currently, Iran's only alumina producer is the Jajarm plant, with an annual capacity of about 240,000 tons.

IMIDRO said Parsian, located in western Hormozgan province and equipped with a dedicated port, will provide direct access for raw material imports and mineral exports.

Officials said the new plant would sharply reduce reliance on imports, expand domestic production capacity, and mark a major leap for Iran's aluminum industry, cementing its position as a leading producer in West Asia.

Production of alumina powder in Iran reached 74,425 tons in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), according to the data released

by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

Germans demand government end support for Gaza butcher

100,000+ marched in Berlin against Israeli genocide and government complicity

By staff writer

TEHRAN – The growing disconnection between public sentiment in Germany and the government's pro-Israel stance was on full display this weekend as Berlin hosted its largest-ever protest in solidarity with Gaza, against the backdrop of Israel's nearly two-year military campaign in the territory.

Organizers of the "All Eyes on Gaza" rally said more than 100,000 people filled central Berlin on Saturday, condemning Israel for committing "genocide" against Palestinians and accusing the German government of downplaying the scale of atrocities in Gaza.

"The actions of the Israeli government have long been described as genocide by experts and international organizations, and the International Court of Justice is investigating them as such," the organizers said in a statement. "While it is clear that the Israeli military is committing mass atrocities in Gaza, the German government continues to deny the systematic violence."

The protest, coordinated by an alliance of roughly 50 groups—including pro-Palestinian organizations, The Left party, Medico International, and Amnesty International—called for an immediate halt to German arms exports to Israel. Demonstrators also urged the European Union to impose sanctions on Israel and demanded unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza.



People hold a banner reading "Germany is complicit in the genocide in Gaza" during the protest in Berlin. [Christoph Soeder/AP Photo]

According to Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA), chants of "Free Palestine" and "Long live international solidarity" reverberated through the crowd, alongside placards reading "Gaza – Stop the massacre," "Never again for everyone," and "Freedom for Palestine." In a speech, The Left party leader Ines Schwerdtner criticized the government's perceived inaction. "The chancellor and ministers talk, but they do not act," she said, adding that German officials "remain silent about the genocide—and make themselves complicit."

Berlin police deployed around 1,800 officers and reported arrests amid scuffles with demonstrators.

The protest comes in the wake of an independent United Nations inquiry that concluded Israel has

committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Israel-based human rights groups have reached similar conclusions, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is also reviewing allegations of genocide. Meanwhile, UN agencies warn that large portions of Gaza's population are facing famine.

Germany has historically maintained close ties with Israel, remaining one of its largest arms suppliers. It has continued to provide military support to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, who has been labeled the 'butcher of Gaza.' Yet public opinion appears to be shifting. A recent survey indicated that over 60 percent of German voters believe Israeli actions in Gaza constitute genocide, creating mounting pressure on the center-right gov-

ernment to reevaluate its policy.

While Chancellor Merz and Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl have recently intensified criticism of Israel's military offensive and blockade of humanitarian aid, they have stopped short of using the term genocide, instead labeling the military actions as "disproportionate." Germany has also yet to recognize the State of Palestine, in contrast to countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada.

The massive demonstration underscores a palpable shift in German public sentiment as the death toll in Gaza continues to rise. According to Gaza's Health Ministry, more than 66,000 people have been killed since Israel's campaign began in October 2023, with the true figure likely higher due to victims still trapped under rubble.

The protest in Berlin powerfully signaled solidarity with Palestinians and drew attention to the resilience of their enduring spirit of resistance. It also highlighted a growing domestic challenge to Germany's long-standing alliance with Israel. Whether the German government will meaningfully heed public sentiment remains unclear, but the scale of citizen mobilization could increasingly pressure policymakers to reconsider arms exports, humanitarian aid, and broader foreign policy decisions in the months ahead.

Gaza civilian injuries mirror war zones

From page 1 ►

Explosions driving mass casualties

About two-thirds of the documented injuries were caused by explosions. These included high-energy blast wounds to the head, chest, abdomen, and limbs; injuries that often require immediate and complex medical intervention.

In other war-torn regions, such patterns are almost exclusive to front-line soldiers. By contrast, in Gaza, these injuries are appearing in large numbers among children, the elderly, and people who were not involved in any fighting.

Burns and limb trauma at alarming levels

Burn injuries were particularly devastating. Over 18% of the trauma cases involved burns; many of them severe. Shockingly, more than 10% of these were fourth-degree burns, meaning they burned through all layers of skin and into muscle and bone.

Children were disproportionately affected by burn trauma, often caused by incendiary weapons and fuel-air explosives, which are known to spread fire indiscriminately in confined urban areas.

Medical infrastructure collapse

The study also points to the near-collapse of Gaza's healthcare system. Over 1,500 healthcare workers have been killed since the genocidal war escalated in October 2023, and hundreds of hospitals and ambulances have been targeted. This has left survivors of traumatic injuries with little access to care or rehabilitation.

Additionally, the blockade on fuel and medical supplies has crippled the ability of hospitals to respond effectively. Many trauma patients face amputations or life-long disabilities that could have been prevented with timely treatment.

Legal and ethical implications

The use of heavy explosive weapons in crowded urban areas, including refugee camps, raises significant concerns under international humanitarian law. The Geneva Conventions prohibit indiscriminate attacks on civilian populations, yet the scale and type of injuries reported suggest that these protections are being systematically violated.

Satellite imagery backs up these concerns. Nearly two-thirds of Gaza's infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, and entire neighbor-

hoods have been flattened, leaving little doubt about the scale of bombardment.

A civilian population under fire

Perhaps most striking is the comparison to U.S. military data from Iraq and Afghanistan. In those wars, around 67% of combat injuries were from explosives; the same percentage now seen among civilians in Gaza.

Experts say this overlap underscores the militarized nature of the genocide on a trapped civilian population.

"This isn't just collateral damage," said Irfan. "It reflects the reality of modern urban warfare waged without meaningful distinction between combatants and civilians."

Call for accountability and monitoring

The study concludes with a call for robust, conflict-sensitive medical surveillance systems to track injuries in real time. The goal is to improve trauma care, but also to inform international accountability efforts.

With over 66,000 Palestinians killed and another 168,000 wounded, Gaza's civilian population is enduring what experts call one of the most medically devastating sieges in modern history.

How did Nawaf Salam's government relinquish Lebanon's maritime rights?

From page 1 ► Thus, Cyprus, with its long, open coastline, became the biggest winner at the expense of Lebanon, with its short coastline, in stark contradiction to the principles of the Law of the Sea Convention, which requires a fair outcome.

Years later, specifically in 2022, Prime Minister Najib Mikati formed a committee to study the issue and attempt to rectify the imbalance.

The committee concluded that it was necessary to adopt a three-pronged approach to fairness, starting with drawing a provisional median line, then adjusting it according to specific circumstances, leading to a test of proportionality.

It also recommended amending Decree 6433/2011 according to new coordinates, re-negotiating with Cyprus, registering these coordinates with the United Nations, and even resorting to international arbitration if negotiations failed.

These recommendations opened the door to reclaiming thousands of kilometers for Lebanon, but they were quickly neglected with the formation of Nawaf Salam's government.

On July 11, 2025, Salam decided to form a technical committee headed by Minister of Public Works

Fayez Rasamni. The committee included Brigadier General Mazen Basbous, a representative of the army, and lawyer Najib Massihi, an expert in international law, in addition to directors general with no technical expertise.

Notable was the exclusion of prominent experts such as retired Brigadier General Affi Ghaith, known for his opposition to the 2007 agreement.

The new committee again adopted the median line, ignoring the jurisprudence of international courts that makes fairness the basis for demarcation, and ignoring the recommendations of the Mikati Committee.

What's even more suspicious is that it completed its work with unjustified haste, reflecting a clear acquiescence to American dictates that pushed for accelerating the agreement with Cyprus.

Just a few days after the formation of the peace committee, Cypriot intelligence chief Tasos Tzionis visited Beirut, threatening that his country would demand additional areas if Lebanon failed to implement the 2007 agreement, which would mean halting the development of four key maritime blocks.

This threat came under blatant

American cover, and as a reward for Cyprus, which since 2017 has opened its airspace and territory to the Israeli Air Force for maneuvers simulating an invasion of Lebanon.

The developments prompted the Parliamentary Public Works and Energy Committee to hold an extraordinary session on September 18, 2025, chaired by MP Sajih Attieh, and attended by Rasamni, Basbous, and Masihi, along with prominent experts, including Brigadier General Khalil Gemayel and Dr. Issam Khalifeh.

Basbous and Masihi presented the committee's justifications, noting that the principle of "estoppel" prevents amendment to Decree 6433 and that the difference in the length of the Cypriot and Lebanese coasts is immaterial.

However, MPs and experts responded firmly, emphasizing that Article 3 of the decree allows for amendment when new data becomes available, that the length of the Cypriot coastline was deliberately inflated by introducing undulations, and that the Court of the Law of the Sea's rulings rely on the principle of proportionality rather than a pure median line.

Brigadier General Gemayel presented eight international rulings proving Lebanon's right to reclaim

vast areas, recalling that Cyprus represents only 3 percent of the region's coastline and yet claims maritime areas ten times its land area, while Lebanon claims less than 1.7 times its land area.

During the session, strong parliamentary voices were raised, most notably from Hezbollah.

MP Hussein Hajj Hassan called for freezing any agreement with Cyprus until the demarcation with Syria is completed, as recommended by the Court of the Law of the Sea. He warned against using the threat of companies withdrawing as an excuse, as this is primarily a foreign political decision, and pointed out that Cyprus is the one that could be most harmed.

For his part, pro-Resistance MP Jamil al-Sayyed stressed the need to seek the assistance of specialized international experts to form a comprehensive scientific picture that guarantees Lebanon's rights.

At the same time, Dr. Issam Khalifa described the incident as bordering on high treason and urged that committee members be prosecuted if it were proven that they had squandered the rights of the Lebanese people.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel counts 77 absences during Netanyahu's UN address, highlighting isolation



Israel tallied 77 delegations absent or walking out during Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's 41-minute UN address—including neighbors Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, and regional powers such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, alongside Spain, Brazil, South Africa, and Ireland.

According to Yedioth Ahronoth's Saturday report, not all withdrawals were coordinated boycotts: Pakistan reportedly exited but listened

from the sidelines, while the UAE and Bahrain remained despite Gaza-related strains.

The emptying hall eclipsed the speech itself, as Netanyahu doubled down on vows to "finish the job" in Gaza, defying expanding moves toward Palestinian recognition.

The tableau captured a broader realignment across the Arab world, the Global South, and parts of Europe—signaling mounting censure and Israel's growing diplomatic isolation.

Indonesians hail Iran as symbol of resistance and steadfast backer of Palestine

From page 1 ► Pointing to her understanding of Iran, she said, "What I know and love most about Iran comes from its Persian stories and ancient history. I also remember that in the 1980s, Iran faced war. Yet despite immense hardships, the people stood strong and resilient. They resisted alone but with determination and strength."

Religious composition and global respect

Kiki also pointed to Iran's religious composition as a defining feature, saying,

"I know that about 90 percent of Iranians are Shiite. We are aware of this and respect it."

She emphasized that in Indonesia, there is both recognition and respect for Iran's religious identity. "This shows that despite cultural differences and geographical distances, Indonesians feel a spiritual connection with Iran," Kiki noted.

Freedom is a universal right

According to Kiki, one of Iran's most notable traits internationally is its unwavering support for Palestine:

"We are very grateful that Iran has always stood with the Palestinians. Indonesians also support Palestine. This is not just a religious matter; freedom is a universal right. We oppose all violence and do not favor war. Our desire is for peace."

Speaking about the plight of Palestinian children, Kiki added, "When Palestinian children live under hardship and war, it pains our hearts. Our hope is that Palestine will be recognized as a legitimate and independent country. This is not a religious issue—it is a humanitarian and global one."

Concluding her remarks, Kiki expressed to visit Iran. "I hope one day to visit Iran and witness this resilient country and its people in person."

The need for practical and media support

Another Indonesian citizen, Maya, emphasized the importance of global and practical support for Palestine:

"Many things are happening around the world, but when it comes to Palestine, we need to do much more. We pray for them, but that is not enough; practical support is necessary."

She stressed the role of cultural and media activities in raising awareness, saying, "We must speak about Palestine across all platforms. Whether through media, cultural events, concerts, or public programs; people need to understand the real situation in Palestine and the suffering endured there."

Maya added that addressing the issue of Palestine should not be limited to politics alone. "Every cultural, social, or media initiative can serve as an opportunity to highlight the plight of Palestinians. Greater global attention will increase pressure on the Israeli regime," she remarked.

Voices from Indonesia: Solidarity with Palestine

Two Indonesian citizens, Dinda and Wasila Putri, shared their heartfelt concerns over the ongoing tragedy in Palestine.

Speaking with Tehran Times, they expressed deep sorrow over the suffering of the Palestinian people, particularly the children.

"We are deeply saddened by the situation in Palestine and hope the war will end soon," they said. Highlighting the devastating impact of the

conflict on the younger generation, they said many children have lost hope, with countless students forced to abandon their education.

"Dropping out of school means losing their future. We want Palestinian children to live a normal life, just like every other child in the world."

Dinda and Wasila emphasized that the voices of ordinary people worldwide should not be ignored, and that solidarity with Palestine must continue until peace is achieved.

Critical perspective on Israel

Also, an Indonesian citizen openly criticized Israel, calling its existence "illegitimate".

He said, "From our perspective, Israel is the worst country. Its existence is not based on legitimacy but on occupation. They came from outside and seized Palestinian land."

He further highlighted the impact of Israeli policies, saying, "The Israeli regime has not only taken Palestinian land but has also disrupted daily life through violence and oppression. What matters is the steadfastness of countries like Iran in opposing this injustice and raising global awareness."

Indonesia's solidarity with Iran and Palestine

The testimonies of these Indonesians clearly reflect their country's deep solidarity with Palestine. They repeatedly praised Iran's role, emphasizing that Tehran's support strengthens Iran's position among Muslim nations and inspires freedom-loving people worldwide.

They believe the voice of resistance must be amplified across all arenas—media, cultural initiatives, and public platforms.

"Palestine is not merely a religious matter; it is a human and global responsibility that every individual, anywhere in the world, can help," they explained.

Iran is an inspiration for freedom-loving nations

These accounts illustrate that, in the eyes of Indonesians, Iran is not just a country with a rich history and culture. It is also a symbol of resistance and justice. Iran's support for Palestine and its unwavering stance against Western hegemony and Israeli policies have earned it a prominent place among Muslim and freedom-seeking nations.

According to these citizens, Iran's resilience in the face of sanctions and pressures serves as a model for other nations, demonstrating how to resist injustice. This steadfastness provides hope for Palestinians and inspires countries far from the Middle East to recognize and respond to their plight.

These narratives also underscore that the Palestinian issue is not merely regional but a global mission uniting both Muslim and non-Muslim nations. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, follows this matter closely, and its citizens, in interviews with Tehran Times, highlighted the deep connection between Iran, Indonesia, and the Palestinian cause.

In conclusion, these interviews demonstrate that Iran's clear and consistent support for Palestine has earned it a distinguished place in the hearts of Muslim nations. For Indonesian citizens, Iran is not just a distant Middle Eastern country; it is a symbol of courage, resistance, and justice—a symbol inspiring a global movement for freedom and peace.

National Museum is to reopen after three-month closure



TEHRAN – The National Museum of Iran is set to reopen today after more than three months of closure, starting with an exhibition titled “Narrators of Ancient Iran,” the museum announced.

The museum has been closed since June 13, when Iran shut down museums and heritage sites nationwide at the start of the 12-day war with Israel. Some of its collections were transferred to storage for protection.

The reopening will begin at 11 a.m. local time with a selection of artifacts on display, the museum said in a statement carried by ISNA news agency. It added that the process of reopening the museum's main halls would take place gradually.

Jebrael Nokandeh, director of the National Museum of Iran, said the opening of the museum's affiliated sites would be announced in later statements.

Last week, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts ordered the reopening of all museums, historical palaces and archaeological sites across the country.

Chock-full of priceless objects showcasing the juicy history of the nation, the National Museum showcases ceramics, pottery, stone figures, and carvings, mostly taken from excavations at Persepolis, Ismail Abad (near Qazvin), Shush, Rey, and Turang Tappeh to name a few.

Inside, among the finds from Shush, there's a stone capital of a winged lion, some delightful pitchers and vessels in animal shapes, and colorful glazed bricks decorated with double-winged mythical creatures. A copy of the diorite stele detailing the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, found at Shush in 1901, is also displayed – the original being in Paris.

Tehran inaugurating 40 tourism facilities

TEHRAN-Concurrent with Tourism Week (September 27-October 3), 43 tourism facilities including traditional hotels, hotel apartments, traditional restaurants, recreational and entertainment centers and travel agencies will be inaugurated, Ali Tolouei, the head of Tehran Cultural Heritage Department has said.

According to Mehr new agency, he pointed out that these facilities, which have been with a credit worth 5,660 billion rials (\$5.66 million), have generated 382 direct jobs.

These projects have been implemented in line with the development of tourism infrastructure and responding to the growing needs of domestic and foreign tourists, he added.

He continued that the opened facilities include a traditional hotel, two hotel apartments, a recreational and entertainment center, 10 catering units, and 29 travel and tourism agencies, which can significantly increase the capacity to receive and provide standard services to the tourists.

Pointing to the importance of these proj-

West Azarbaijan tourism industry to boom

TEHRAN—Tourism industry in West Azarbaijan province will be overhauled in near future through boosting the infrastructures and exploiting the projects, said Morteza Safari, the head of West Azarbaijan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department.

According to ISNA, he said on September 28 that tourism thrives in light of security in society, adding that if in the past, the tourism sector was not given the attention it should have, today, tourism has been added to the development discourse of West Azarbaijan.”

He also said that for using this potential, tourism activists must unite and learn that the development of the tourism industry requires collective and team work.

Safari stated that tourism is a revenue-generating industry that requires up-to-date knowledge and skills to operate. For example, in provincial accommodation and catering units, although the quality of food is at a high level, there is a weakness in the way the staff arranges and serves food, and their behavior is a form of disrespect for the customer, which is effective in reducing the number of customers and tourists, he added.

Safari said that for achieving development,

first the mindset of growth and development must be created in the minds, and if this growth is created, development will happen.

He continued that currently, 11 hotels are under construction in the province, and after an investment opportunities conference, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for a five-star hotel project in Mahabad and a commercial and tourism complex in Miandoab, an investor has announced to build a five-star hotel in Urmia in near future.

Safari noted that 52 projects are being implemented by the private sector, and in addition, the organization, restoration, and restoration of historical monuments and access routes to tourist attractions are being carried out by an office in charging restoring the historical monuments.

“We ranked first in the country in the allocation of provincial funds last year, which is unique in its kind.”

He said the global dossier for the village of Hasanlu in Naghadeh has been prepared and this village is currently among the eight villages nominated for UNESCO registration, and hopes for the registration of this village are high.

Tehran marks World Tourism Day with pledges of investment, jobs, and regional cooperation

From Page 1 ▶ “The [Iranian] president and the government have placed tourism among the three main priorities of the country,” he said, adding that new allocations included 200 trillion rials (about \$200 million) from the central bank, 40 trillion (\$40 million) from the national development fund, and additional resources from the banking sector and provincial budgets.

Salehi-Amiri stated that the government aims to attract 15 million foreign tourists and create 100,000 new jobs annually under Iran's Seventh National Development Plan. He said 1.6 million people currently work in the industry.

The minister underlined the role of the private sector. “We are facilitators and policy-makers, and the foundation of this industry is the private sector,” he said. He added that 27 tourism-related responsibilities had already been delegated to provincial authorities and that more powers would soon be given to industry associations.

Seyyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, vice president and head of the Planning and Budget Organization, called tourism “a strategic priority” for the government.

He also stressed the importance of accelerating the attraction of tourists, adding: “Tourists are the best carriers of Iran's civilizational message to the world, and we must act with greater prudence and speed to host them.”

Referring to the government's financial support for this sector, he noted: “Last year, the tourism budget increased, and I am confident this trend will continue next year as well.”

Pourmohammadi concluded by emphasizing the readiness of the Planning and Budget Organization to cooperate in developing tourism infrastructure and strengthening global promotion of Iran's culture, civilization,



and nature.

Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey, for his part, cited the UN World Tourism Organization's 2025 theme of “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation.” He said Iran's strategy rested on three pillars: strengthening tourism governance through legal and financial tools, expanding regional and international cooperation, and simplifying processes by devolving more authority.

Malaysia's ambassador to Iran, Khairi bin Omar, said Iranian travel to Malaysia had grown by 30% in recent years. “Every tourist is in fact a cultural ambassador,” he said, adding that the two countries saw opportunities in Halal tourism, medical tourism, and nature-based tourism.

In addition, a number of industry representatives raised structural and pricing challenges. Jamshid Hamzehzadeh, head of Iran's hoteliers' association, and Hormatollah Rafiei, head of the travel agencies' association, both stressed the sector's vulnerability to re-

cent crises and the need to diversify markets.

The ceremony also saw 12 Iranian hotels awarded the country's first “Green Label,” recognizing compliance with environmental standards and sustainable tourism practices. Awardees included hotels in Tehran, Mashhad, Isfahan, Yazd, Kish, Babolsar, Chaboksar, Nowshahr, Arak and Kerman.

Several MPs from the Iranian parliament (Majlis), the Saudi ambassador to Tehran, and a group of industry activists also attended the event.

Moreover, the event brought together stakeholders to discuss strategies for sustainable tourism development, focusing on resilience, inclusivity, and environmental stewardship. Key sessions explored topics such as digital transformation in tourism, community-based tourism models, and climate-neutral travel solutions, aligning with the theme “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation.”

Tourism ministry hosts Sacred Defense exhibit dedicated to 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war

TEHRAN – Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has played host to an exhibition at its central headquarters to mark Sacred Defense Week, which commemorates the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The exhibition features artifacts from war veterans and fallen soldiers, along with models of prominent figures such as General Qassem Soleimani and commander Mohammad Ebrahim Hemmat.

A banner titled “Notes to the Martyrs” was also displayed, allowing visitors to leave

written tributes to those killed during the eight-year conflict.

According to organizers, cultural competitions were held alongside the exhibition to familiarize participants with the lives of the martyrs, with cultural prizes awarded to attendees, the report said.

Sacred Defense Week, observed annually starting on the first day of the Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar 31, marks the outbreak of the war when Iraqi president Saddam Hussein announced the invasion of Iran, ending the 1975 Algiers Agreement.



Sistan-Baluchestan handicrafts houses to be launched across Iranian metropolises



TEHRAN—Handicrafts houses of Sistan-Baluchestan Cultural Heritage Department are to be launched in Tehran and several other Iranian metropolises, said Deputy Minister of Handicrafts Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi.

Speaking at inauguration ceremony of opening the first Sistan-Baluchestan handicrafts marketplace in Zahedan on September 28, she said: “Today, narrative is the supreme power, and the strength of Sistan-Baluchestan lies in having authentic narratives and stories, which we must do with the help of the ar-

Surely, cultural diplomacy and communications and collaborations with neighboring countries will be effective in this route, she said, adding: “We ask our neighboring countries, friends and brothers to accompany us and keep pace with us in strengthening this path.”

Jalali-Dehkordi emphasized: “Setting up a permanent place to introduce the magnificent works of Sistan-Baluchestan handicrafts in the capital of the country is among the demands of the director general of Sistan-Baluchestan Cultural Heritage Department and other trustees and artisans, and I promise to set up the Sistan-Baluchestan Handicrafts House not only in Tehran but also in most of the metropolises of Iran so that the neglect that has occurred in introducing this vast province can be quickly resolved and we can play our part in this issue, and in this path we will benefit from the help of all our loved ones and trustees.”

She stated: “We hope that with the efforts made in Sistan-Baluchestan Cultural Heritage De-

partment, we will soon be able to have a comprehensive document for the development and progress of the province based on an identity-based economy that includes cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts.”

Jalali continued: “The launch and inauguration of the first Sistan-Baluchestan handicrafts market has turned the long-held dream of many artisans in the province into reality, and we intend to preserve the honor, status, and position of the artisans of the province even more than before in this permanent market, and we will also strive to realize it.”

Sistan-Baluchestan, located in southeastern Iran, is renowned for its rich and diverse cultural heritage, especially its traditional handicrafts.

One of the most notable crafts from this region is needlework, often depicting floral and geometric patterns. This craft is predominantly practiced by women and holds significant cultural importance, often passed down through generations.

DOE ready to take part in China’s Longjiang initiative

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has announced its preparedness to collaborate on the Longjiang initiative proposed by China, which focuses on strategic partnerships in key areas such as biodiversity conservation, ecological product development, and environmental education.

Harnessing the unique capacities of biosphere reserves, the initiative highlights the transformation of ecological values as a key strategy for linking biodiversity conservation with sustainable economic development, doe.ir quoted Hamid Zohrabi, an official with the DOE, as saying.

With the acceleration of the green transition in different countries, biosphere reserves are increasingly recognized as models for nature-based solutions, inclusive livelihoods, and sustainable markets, he added.

On the sidelines of the Fifth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves (WCBR) held in Hangzhou, China, from September 22 to 26, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) East Asia Regional Office and the Heilongjiang Provincial Forestry and Grassland Bureau jointly held a side event on September 22nd.

Following the event, the Heilongjiang Provincial Forestry and Grassland Bureau and representatives of relevant Asia-Pacific organizations launched the Longjiang initiative, which focuses on deepening cooperation in six



areas: strengthening ecosystem protection and restoration, deepening scientific monitoring and research, building an ecological brand system, expanding market channels and value chains, promoting green technology and financial innovation, and strengthening international cooperation and exchanges.

The initiative calls for joint efforts to transform intangible ecological value into a tangible force supporting high-quality development, and to contribute positively to building a community of shared future for mankind and nature, and achieving global sustainable development goals, isenlin.cn reported.

An Iranian delegation led by Shima Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), participated in the fifth WCBR.

Held every 10 years, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves comes together to identify pri-

orities, strengthen collaboration, and define a Global Action Plan for the future.

Addressing the fifth WCBR, Ansari voiced the country’s readiness to foster cooperation with other countries, in line with the 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.

“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 re-

serves 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 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.”

Rainfall forecast to be low in fall, normal in winter

TEHRAN – According to numerical weather prediction modeling, the precipitation in the fall is predicted to be less than normal, while in winter, it is expected to be above normal, Ahad Vazifeh, the head of the Meteorological Organization, has said.

The current water year started on September 23, with rainfall in the northern part of the country. Since the beginning of the fall till September 26, an average of 0.5 mm of rainfall was recorded across the country. Compared to the long-term amount of 0.4 mm, it has increased by 19.3 percent, he noted.

During the same period, the average temperature was about 1.3°C lower than the long-term average; only in Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, and Hormozgan provinces, the temperature was above the long-term average, the official said.

Despite increased rainfall at the beginning of the fall, the precipitation is expected to be below normal in most areas. Rainfall is also likely to start later than normal with a delay of about 10 to 15 days, Vazifeh noted.

From October 7 to November 6, the temperature will be normal in the eastern half of the country and the southern coastal strip, and 0.5 to 1°C above normal in other regions.

From mid-November to mid-December, the average air temperature is predicted to be normal in parts of the eastern strip, northern strip, and provinces within the desert plain is expected to be normal. It will be 1-2°C and 0.5 to 1°C above normal in the west and southwest, and other regions, respectively.

According to numerical modelling, rainfall is likely to be near-normal at the end of the fall and in winter. Winter accounts for a large share of the rainfall, particularly in the southern parts, the official said.

In the past Iranian year (March 2023 – March 2024), precipitation was 50 to 75 percent below normal in the southern parts of



the country, he added.

The official went on to say that over the past five years, the country has experienced consecutive droughts. Due to the significant reduction in autumn, winter, and spring rainfall, the previous water year (September 22, 2024 – September 22, 2025) was one of the exceptional drought years of Iran; it came to an end with 142.3 mm of precipitation, showing a 39.4 percent drop compared to the long-term figure of 234.9 mm.

During the last month of the summer, 4.1 mm of rainfall was registered across the country, which has decreased by 2.5 percent compared to the long-term figure of 4.2 mm.

Throughout the summer, recorded rainfall amounted to 8 mm, showing a 27.9 percent decline in comparison to the long-term figure of 11.1 mm.

According to official statistics, groundwater levels and dams’ storage have noticeably dropped, and water stress is being felt more than ever in densely populated areas, threatening water security, increasing the likelihood of land subsidence, and intensifying drought.

Iran is facing an unprecedented water crisis that threatens not only its agricultural sector but also regional stability and global food markets.

Iran plans to eradicate rabies by 2030

TEHRAN – The national veterinary organization has taken extensive measures, such as fostering cross-sectoral cooperation and implementing rabies vaccination to eliminate rabies in the country by 2030.

Highlighting the importance of managing and preventing rabies in the livestock and human population, Seyyed Saeed Hosseini, an official with the national veterinary organization, said, “Rabies, as one of the common diseases between humans and animals, is a serious public health problem. If we can control the disease in the livestock, particularly in dogs, which are highly susceptible to carrying the disease, we can prevent its transmission to humans and move towards its eradication.”

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Rabies Day, which is observed annually on September 28.

Referring to the One Health approach, he stated, “The world is aiming to achieve the goal of zero human deaths from rabies by 2030. Through synergy and cooperation, we can take effective measures to prevent animal-borne or zoonotic diseases. In the meantime, veterinary medicine is mainly responsible for disease care and vaccination.”

Most pet dogs get vaccinated by their owners, and the national veterinary organization vaccinates a total of 800,000 herd and guard dogs annually, as in previous years. But this is not enough. The more important issue is taking action against stray dogs, Hosseini noted.

To achieve immunity, at least vaccination coverage of 70 percent of the dog population at risk is required. Responsible organizations such as municipalities and rural cooperatives should work with the Ministries of Interior and Health, as well as the private sector and NGOs. No single act will be able to address the problem, Hosseini added.

The official went on to say that about 59,000 annual deaths are reported worldwide. Fortunately, the fatality rate in Iran is

much lower.

World Rabies Day aims to raise public awareness about rabies prevention and what to do in the event of a bite. In this line, the Pasteur Institute of Iran held special programs both in person and online.

The main objective is to educate people about rabies, and its potential risks, the ways to prevent it, as well as enhance collaborations between governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the health ministry’s website quoted Qobad Moradi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

“The event serves as a great opportunity to showcase achievements, measures, and challenges in managing the disease,” Moradi added.

This year’s World Rabies Day theme was ‘Act now: You, Me, Community’. The theme highlights the importance of promoting cross-sectoral involvement and collaboration in preventing the disease.

For the first time in its 19-year history, WRD’s theme does not include the word ‘rabies’, showing how well-established this movement has become. It is calling on everyone to take responsibility, work together, and drive real change. Whether you are an individual, part of an organization, or a decision-maker, the time to act is today.

The call to Act Now is the difference between life and death. As a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD), rabies disproportionately affects underserved communities, mainly in Africa and Asia. Every nine minutes, rabies claims another victim, but death is 100 percent preventable. When we work together, eliminating this disease for good relies on all of us acting now! Rabies need not be fatal if all the post-exposure steps are taken.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a series of educational films to support community understanding. The films are aimed at different audiences: children, parents, and community health workers.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Rainfall increases Lake Urmia level

Recent rainfall has increased the level of Lake Urmia to 1,271 meters, a step closer to its ecological level of 1,274 meters.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program’s office in West Azarbaijan province, said that the Lake’s level is now 58 cm higher than it was last year.

According to the latest monitoring, the lake’s water volume is estimated at more than 3.6 billion cubic meters.

He added that the lake surface area has reached 2,883 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 538 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

Although the ecological level of the lake is defined as 1,274 meters, the lake will also have favorable conditions at 1,272 meters and more than 90 percent of sand and dust storm hotspots will be eliminated.

افزایش سطح تراز دریاچه ارومیه بر اثر بارش

بارش های اخیر تراز فعلی دریاچه ارومیه را به یک هزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۸ سانتی متر رسانده است که در حال رسیدن به تراز اکولوژیک یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر است.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رییس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه گفت سطح دریاچه ارومیه اکنون ۵۸ سانتی متر بیشتر از زمان مشابه سال گذشته است. طبق آخرین پایش صورت گرفته حجم آب این دریاچه بیش از سه میلیارد و ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب برآورد شده است. وی با بیان اینکه وسعت دریاچه ارومیه در حال حاضر به بیش از ۲ هزار و ۸۸۳ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، اضافه کرد: وسعت این دریاچه نیز نسبت به سال گذشته ۵۳۸ کیلومتر مربع افزایش دارد.

هرچند تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر به عنوان ارتفاع اکولوژیک دریاچه ارومیه اعلام شده ولی این دریاچه در تراز یک هزار و ۲۷۲ متر هم شرایط مطلوب خواهد داشت و بیش از ۹۵ درصد کانون های ریزگرد آن رفع خواهد شد.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Knowledge is the missing goal of a believer, so obtain it
event from a man of discord.*
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:55 Evening: 18:09 Dawn: 4:35 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:58 (tomorrow)

Travelling art exhibit showing stories of hope, resilience in Gaza

Nearly two years of conflict and devastation have caused unimaginable suffering in Gaza. Today, over half a million people face famine, destitution and death in the ongoing Israeli onslaught. The entire population of Gaza—over two million people—is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance while the Zionist regime continues genocide in the strip.

Behind the headlines are lives marked by loss, resilience and hope—stories that often go unheard. To bring these stories closer to European audiences, the World Food Program (WFP) and the European Union (EU) are curating a travelling art exhibit that reveals the human side of this humanitarian crisis—through the eyes of someone who lives it every day, WFP reported.

Featuring 100 of Ahmed Muhanna's paintings and drawings, the exhibit offers a deeply personal perspective on Gaza.

Ahmed Muhanna is a painter born and raised in Gaza. He has lived there his entire life and still does today. Besides being an artist, he also specializes in art therapy for children and helps them process their trauma through art.

For months, the horrors of the war left him unable to create – his supplies ran out and he had to focus on taking care of his family. But compelled to document what he and his people live through daily; he started drawing again, using whatever material he could find.

That is how the cardboard boxes from WFP became Muhanna's canvas. Once used to deliver food, he has turned them into both a medium and a message, transforming them into objects that testify to the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza.

Muhanna started using coffee, tea, and other materials to draw and paint once his supplies ran out. By doing so, the materials themselves now embody the very themes he paints: resilience, endurance, and the unbroken will to create beauty amid devastation.

This travelling exhibit is the first time his original works are exhibited outside of Gaza.

Relentless conflict, the collapse of essential services, and severe limitations on the delivery and distribution of aid have led to catastrophic conditions across the Gaza strip. Half a million Gazans are facing famine while the rest of the population endures emergency levels of hunger.

Food aid is the only real way for most people inside Gaza to eat. WFP has enough food in – or on its way to – the region to feed the entire population for almost three months, but the amount of food delivered to date is far from enough to stave off hunger and starvation. People are dying due to a lack of humanitarian assistance.

An agreed ceasefire is the only way for humanitarian assistance to reach the entire civilian population in Gaza with critical food and other relief supplies in a consistent, predictable, orderly and safe manner – wherever they are across the Gaza Strip.

Partners like the EU have been vital to WFP's operations in Gaza. The EU has been providing humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in need since 2000, supporting people affected by emergencies and shocks, and has significantly stepped up its funding since the outbreak of hostilities in October 2023.

Since the start of the conflict, the EU – through its Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – has contributed EUR 86 million to WFP's operations in Gaza. This funding has helped WFP dispatch thousands of trucks to reach starving civilians inside the enclave since border crossings reopened to aid on 21 May 2025.

WFP continues to bring convoys of food aid into Gaza virtually every day, but dire operating conditions prevent the delivery of life-saving supplies at the scale needed to push back escalating starvation.

Iranian miniseries “At the End of the Night” selected for Top Ten TV section at Film Festival Cologne

TEHRAN – The 2024 Iranian drama romance television miniseries “At the End of the Night” directed by Ida Panahandeh has entered the Top Ten TV section of the 35th Film Festival Cologne, which will take place from October 9 to 16 in Germany.

This is the first time that an Iranian series has been ranked among the top 10 television works of this European event, Honaronline reported.

The Film Festival Cologne is one of Europe's prestigious film and television events. “At the End of the Night” will compete at this festival alongside major productions from Germany's ZDF, the UK's BBC, Denmark's NRK, France's ARTE, as well as Discovery and Warner from the United States.

The Iranian series has previously won three international awards. Participating in the Series Mania festival in France in March, it won the award for Best Directing.

In June, the series attended the 40th Valencia International Film Festival – Cinema Jove in Spain and received the Jury Mentions for Best Actor and Best Actress for Parsa Pirouzfar and Hoda Zeinolabedin, respectively.

Written and produced by the real-life creative couple Panahandeh and Arsalan Amiri, the nine-episode series delicately and skillfully dissects the separation of a couple shattered by



the disillusionment of their social situation.

Behnam and Mahi have built a middle-class life for themselves on the outskirts of Tehran, but their marriage is falling apart – a son with behavioral problems, strict parents, financial worries, and an intrusive state put additional pressure on the family.

The miniseries feels like an emotional car crash in slow mo-

tion: piece by piece, a family falls apart. This is not a loud, explosive drama, but a collection of intimate, brilliantly written and outstandingly acted scenes from the everyday life of a modern marriage.

A powerful and bitter reflection on the sacrifices of a life together, the Iranian miniseries stands out for its deeply authentic characters and the excep-

tional performances of its two lead actors, Pirouzfar and Zeinolabedin.

The other cast members include Rayan Sarlak, Alireza Davoudnezhad, Reza Behboudi, Ehteram Boroumand, Siamak Sa-fari, Kazem Hajirazad, and Nahid Moslemi, among others.

Film Festival Cologne is a festival for film, pop culture, and society. Since 1991, the festival has grown into one of Germany's most important media and cultural events. As a platform for creative exchange, a showcase for outstanding international film and series highlights, and a meeting place for the industry, the festival attracts both national and international film and media professionals to Cologne every year.

For eight days, the focus is on innovation, international perspectives, and socially relevant issues. With a carefully curated program of films, series, and new forms of audiovisual storytelling, the event creates a unique space for discussion, discovery, and inspiration.

The festival is committed to creating a respectful, inclusive, and safe environment for everyone. In cooperation with Diversity Culture Cologne, the organizers continuously reflect on how awareness can be ensured, both within the internal structures and in the festival experience for guests, partners, and filmmakers.

16th Ammar festival launched with focus on Iran’s resistance against the West

TEHRAN- The 16th edition of the Ammar Popular Film Festival has officially commenced, highlighting the theme “The Civilizational Battle of Islamic Iran with the Wild West.”

According to the official call, Iran's centuries-long experience of confronting colonialism, terrorism, sanctions, censorship, war, and cultural infiltration can only be comprehensively analyzed through the lens of a “civilizational conflict.” This ongoing struggle manifests today in media warfare, distortion of resistance discourse, attacks on Islamic identity, and efforts to portray the revolutionary movement as ineffective.

The festival's secretariat emphasizes that in the face of such aggression, no front is more effective than the realm of committed art, thought, and media.

In its sixteenth edition, Ammar invites filmmakers, documentarians, writers, media activists, social media influencers, grassroots groups, and young enthusiasts to produce diverse works across various formats, contributing to this civilizational narrative. Artists, filmmakers, and media activists are invited to submit their works by November 6.

Eligible submissions may include feature films (short, medium, full-length, telefilms, series), documentaries, animations, music videos, television productions (combined, reality-based, documentary contests, news reports), internet programs, social media content (short clips, human-centered pages, content-focused pages), AI-based video productions, and complete scripts or screenplays. The festival underscores that all submitted works should align with the principles of the Islamic Revolution and address contemporary societal needs, with priority given to themes related to the civilizational struggle of Iran against the West.

The festival places strong emphasis on thematic sections that reflect Iran's ongoing resistance and revolutionary ideals. One major focus is the civilizational struggle of Iran

against the “savage West,” encompassing topics such as Zionist attacks on Iranian soil, the heroic efforts of martyrs and scientists, Western imperial efforts to maintain their dominance, reactionary movements within the enlightened intellectual circles opposing Iran's resistance, and betrayal by certain intellectual factions that facilitated concessions to Western powers.

Another key theme involves the global uprising of oppressed peoples, highlighting grassroots movements worldwide, resistance in Palestine, the achievements and challenges of the resistance axis, and the historical narratives of anti-imperialist struggles in Latin America and Africa.

The festival also aims to showcase the shared struggles between Iranian migrants and the Iranian nation, the decline of U.S. hegemony, the emergence of a multipolar world, and Iran's opportunities to influence this new global order. Additional topics include the internal challenges faced by Iran, such as seditions and internal disturbances, and the importance of exposing foreign interference and media distortions aimed at destabilizing the country.

Thematic sections further extend to the celebration of heroic figures within Iranian society, emphasizing family, social, and political heroes, as well as stories of resilience, hope, and community effort during crises like pandemics and natural disasters.

The concept of “Sacred Unity” is also prominent, focusing on citizen participation in exposing Zionist infiltrators, supporting resistance martyrs, and promoting community-led initiatives during emergencies.

The festival aims to highlight justice through narratives of active resistance against corruption and systemic injustice, the role of media in propagating fairness, and the importance of legal and institutional reforms. The “Iranian Dream of Progress” section features stories of technological, scientific, and economic advancement, show-

casing successful models in various sectors, including nuclear, space, biotech, and medical fields, alongside grassroots management and sports achievements. The importance of preserving Iran's cultural memory is also recognized, with themes covering Iran's historical resistance, cultural milestones, and sacrifices during the Iran-Iraq war.

The festival also encourages films that portray the resilience of Iran's economy, including rural capacities and Islamic economic principles such as interest-free lending, charity, and cooperation. Cultural warfare is another significant theme, focusing on defending Islamic identity, the traditional family model, youth identity, and confronting reactionary movements that distort the revolution's values.

The role of grassroots cultural initiatives, mosques, and arts in soft power confrontation is also highlighted.

A noteworthy feature of this year's festival is the “Our Film” segment, encouraging the general public, especially youth, to produce short films using mobile phones or home cameras on local, community, and environmental themes. Participants can register through the official website, which will provide instructional materials to support amateur filmmakers.

The festival also maintains its tradition of community screenings, which will be held nationwide, allowing cultural activists, students, religious groups, and grassroots organizations to host screenings, participate in local premieres, and engage in film critique sessions by registering on the festival platform.

Ammar Popular Film Festival was established in 2010 by a number of Iranian revolutionary figures to honor film and art products promoting topics such as resistance and revolution. It was named after Ammar Yasir, a close companion of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Iranian short film “Ramy” wins two awards at Best Shorts Competition

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film “Ramy” written and directed by Pouyan Rostami and produced by Kasra Tirsahar won two awards at this season edition of the Best Shorts Competition in California, the U.S.

The film won the Award of Merit for its cinematography by Tirsahar and also an Award of Recognition for the leading actress Houra Pakizehdel, IRNA reported.

“Ramy” marks the professional debut of

Rostami as writer and director. It offers a poetic, visually striking exploration of grief and liberation. Salar Saki, Houra Pakizehdel, and Ramin Yahyazadeh perform in the film.

The 10-minute film happens in the heart of a forest, where a group of women carry a coffin on their shoulders, while a grieving woman follows them, wailing and crying out. Unmoved by her cries, the women proceed toward a cemetery.

Established in 2011, Best Shorts Competition is an avant-garde worldwide competition that strives to give talented directors, producers, actors, creative teams, and new media creators the positive exposure they deserve. It discovers and honors the achievements of filmmakers who produce high-quality shorts and new media. The talented award winners have gone on to win Oscars, Emmys, Tellys, and other awards.

Cartoon of Day



Peace!
Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria