

'Iran Will Not Kneel'

President appears less hopeful of diplomacy with the West after an all-out war and snapback of UN sanctions



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No legal basis for reimposing Security Council sanctions: Iran to world powers

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign minister has dismissed as baseless recent claims by the United States and its European allies that UN Security Council sanctions on Tehran, terminated under the 2015 nuclear agreement, have been reinstated.

In a letter addressed to counterparts across the globe, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said assertions by Washington, London, Paris, and Berlin that previous Security Council resolutions had been "restored" through the so-called snapback mechanism were "unfounded, unlawful, and invalid." ► Page 3

UN snapback sanctions will not derail Iran's crude sales, says oil official

TEHRAN – The spokesman of Iran's Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union said the reimposition of United Nations sanctions under the "snapback" mechanism would not have a decisive impact on the country's oil exports.

Hamid Hosseini told reporters on Monday that the reinstated sanctions would not broadly affect trade or daily life.

He noted that during the 2010-2011 sanctions period, Iran's oil exports even rose despite international restrictions.

Hosseini forecast that government oil revenues this year will reach about \$43 billion (5.3 quadrillion rials), though daily exports are unlikely to hit the ceiling of 1.8 million barrels. ► Page 4

From Tel Aviv to Eilat: How Yemen pierces Israeli illusions of security

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Yemen's Ansarullah declared on Monday that its forces had carried out a new operation against Israel, unveiling the use of a Palestine-2 hypersonic ballistic missile in a strike on "sensitive targets" in Tel Aviv.

In the same statement, the group announced its drones hit key sites in Eilat, underscoring its determination to sustain pressure "until the aggression against Gaza stops and the siege is lifted."

Israel said its air defenses were activated and that the incoming projectile had been intercepted — a familiar binary in this conflict: Ansarullah's vivid operational claims against Israeli assertions of successful interception. Those dueling narratives, however, obscure the operational reality: attacks are increasingly targeting economic and transport hubs in southern Israel.

Hezbollah upsets the enemy's calculations

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—The commemoration of the first anniversary of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's martyrdom served as a pivotal moment for the Resistance to recalibrate its internal dynamics, with the massive turnout underscoring Hezbollah's enduring popular support and organizational unity.

The anniversary came amid major regional shifts, as Washington remains committed to supporting Israel and views the ceasefire in the Gaza war as a temporary respite before a wider battle.

Meanwhile, it is clear that Tel Aviv has not yet achieved its goal of eliminating what it calls "Iran's proxies."

U.S. envoy Thomas Barrack has clearly revealed that Israel is prepared for military action against Hezbollah, and that the party is moving toward what has been described as a "new resurrection" by reorganizing its ranks and recovering its civilian environment, a concern for Washington and Tel Aviv.

Tony Blair "unwelcome" in Palestine

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – A senior Hamas political bureau member has declared that Tony Blair is considered an "unwelcome figure in Palestine."

Husam Badran warned that any initiative associated with the former British Prime Minister represents a "grim warning" for the Palestinian people.

Badran harshly criticized Blair's role in the Iraq War (2003-2011), stating that "Tony Blair has brought no benefit to Palestine or the Arab world. On the contrary, he should be held accountable in international courts for his crimes. He was complicit in atrocities against Muslims and has a destructive legacy."

In a statement published on Hamas's Telegram channel, he even described Blair as a "partner of the devil."

Badran emphasized that Hamas has not received any official ceasefire proposals through mediators. He dismissed reports circulating in Hebrew and Western media as mere speculation.

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Strategic balance: Ali Larijani reassesses the Iran-Lebanon alliance in face of US pressure

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Ali Larijani's recent visit to Beirut, in his capacity as secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, marks a significant moment in the Islamic Republic's diplomacy and its relations with a country that remains central to the political chessboard of West Asia.

Far from being a mere protocol visit, Larijani's trip carries deep symbolic and political weight at a time when the region is beset by instability, mounting international pressure, and the ever-present Israeli threat.

Larijani arrived in the Lebanese capital accompanied by senior officials and members of parliament. ► Page 2

Bridges, blossoms, and beyond: discovering Yunnan and Chongqing

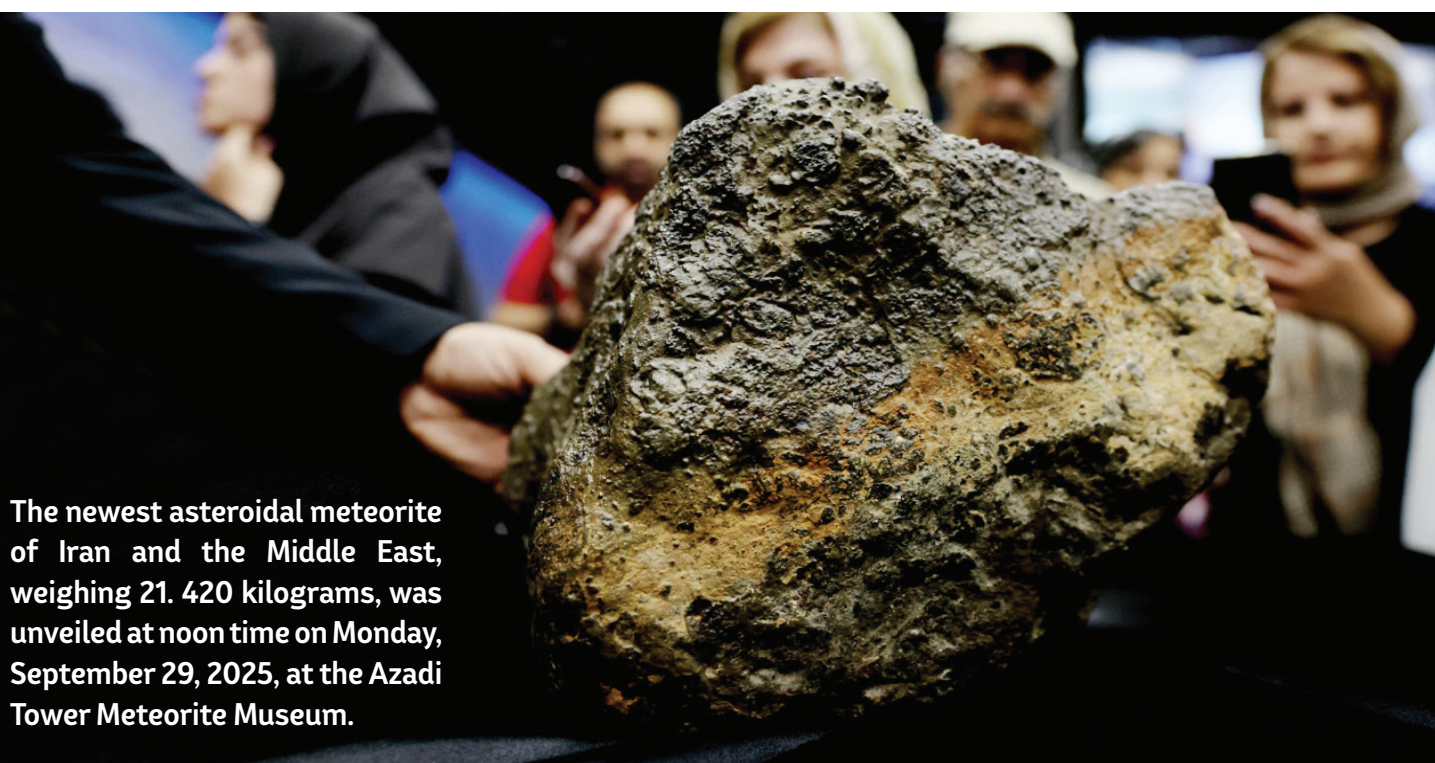
By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

TEHRAN – It was in September that I found myself once again boarding a plane to China — my third visit to this vast country. This time, the occasion was 2025 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road, held in Yunnan Province, a land that has stood at the crossroads of civilizations for more than 2,400 years. Once a vital stop on the Southern Silk Road, Yunnan seemed the perfect choice for such a gathering. The event was graciously hosted by People's Daily, whose warm hospitality deserves special recognition. ► Page 6

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The newest asteroidal meteorite of Iran and the Middle East, weighing 21. 420 kilograms, was unveiled at noon time on Monday, September 29, 2025, at the Azadi Tower Meteorite Museum.

Main driver of inflation

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN – Although inflation is a global issue but it is more severe in Iran than most countries mainly due to U.S. sanctions and now that E3 (France, Germany and UK) triggered snapback, UN sanctions came into effect from Saturday, three months after Israel and the U.S. bombed Iran. The snapback sanctions will make matters pertaining to commodity prices worse. The imposition of snapback sanctions essentially kills Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran nuclear deal). Iran has recalled its ambassadors from E3.

In fact, JCPOA became meaningless when U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the United States was withdrawing from the JCPOA and imposed "maximum pressure" sanctions during his first term in 2018. ► Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

“The death of JCPOA”: rejoicing, mourning, or adopting effective strategy?

Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed the activation of the snapback sanctions by the European troika of Britain, France and Germany and Iran's strategy and wrote: With the activation of the snapback, the JCPOA case has been effectively closed. Experts and analysts on foreign policy issues warn that focusing solely on mourning or rejoicing over the fate of the JCPOA not only will not benefit the country, but could also lead to an exacerbation of political and social divisions. According to these experts, the new conditions require the adoption of a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy in foreign policy to reduce the negative effects of the JCPOA death and create new opportunities to secure national interests. Based on this view, three main issues should be placed on Iran's foreign policy agenda. First, strengthening national resilience and resistance, especially in the areas of the economy and people's livelihoods. Second, increasing national power and cohesion in all areas so that the country can withstand external pressure. And, third is pursuing active, intelligent, and creative negotiations. The end of the JCPOA can be seen not as a failure of diplomacy, but as a turning point in the path of redefining Iran's foreign policy.

Jam-e-Jam: The destruction of diplomacy and global consequences

Jam-e-Jam, in a note, addressed the betrayal of the European troika and said: On a night when the UN Security Council was supposed to be a symbol of global commitment to multilateral diplomacy, it became a scene of verbal tensions and diplomatic failures, and ended with the rejection of the draft resolution proposed by Russia and China. This failure was not only a warning for the future of the JCPOA, but also a clear symbol of the betrayal by the European troika and America. According to President Pezeshkian, Europe is disloyal. He warned that activating the snapback (sanctions) would not only make diplomacy meaningless but would also cause irreparable damage to global trust. The West's actions are a symbol of the collapse of multilateral diplomacy. The President and Foreign Minister of our country are right in saying that the U.S. betrayed by withdrawing from the JCPOA, but Europe buried it by not confronting Washington. This betrayal destroyed Iran's trust in the West and pushed Tehran towards other measures. From a global point of view, this event is an alarm for international treaties. If the Security Council cannot preserve the JCPOA, what hope is there for future agreements?

Israel's oppressive conduct has fueled deep hatred across region: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Israel's “unjust and lawless behavior” has generated deep resentment among regional nations — a hostility he noted “will not be forgotten easily.”

His remarks came during an interview with Fox News in which he addressed Iran's nuclear program, U.S. accusations, and regional tensions.

Pezeshkian condemned Israel's actions as the root cause of instability and hostility in the region.

Speaking in response to the U.S. President Donald Trump's recent comments at the UN — where Trump called Iran “the world's top sponsor of terror” and insisted Tehran must never be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons — Pezeshkian rejected the accusations outright. “There is no place for nuclear weapons or any other type of weapons of mass destruction in our policy. The unfounded accusations they exaggerate are unacceptable. We have never sought nuclear weapons, and we never will,” he stressed.

The president explained that Washington used such claims as a pretext to justify at-

Shargh: Maximum pressure and the need to redefine strategy

With the official return of UN sanctions, the nuclear diplomacy has entered a new phase. The West is talking about continuing negotiations while by reviving all previous Security Council resolutions, it has imposed heavy political, economic, and psychological pressure on Tehran. It seems that the goal of this strategy is to force Iran to accept a comprehensive package of Western demands in all areas. Iran is now in a situation where it is facing economic pressure from Western powers, and the experience of the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and Europe's breach of its promises, as well as the experience of the 12-day war, have created a deep distrust of the real intentions of the Western parties. In such circumstances, Tehran must adopt a smart and multi-layered strategy; a strategy that, while maintaining deterrence and national interests, would allow it to utilize diplomatic capacities to reduce pressures and prevent further isolation. Although the return of sanctions makes the situation more difficult, it can also be an opportunity to reconsider foreign policy and define a more realistic mechanism for interacting with global powers.

Iran: Strategies for dealing with consequences of sanctions

In an interview with the Iran newspaper, Rahman Ghahremanpour, a prominent expert on international affairs, suggest a three-dimensional strategy to neutralize the Western-planned isolation of Iran after the European activation of the snapback sanctions with Washington's help. Ghahremanpour said: To exit the isolation caused by UN sanctions and reduce its effects, we must pursue coherent strategies at three levels: domestic, regional, and international. At the domestic level, it is essential to carry out bureaucratic, administrative, and legal reforms to facilitate investment attraction, boost the industrial sector, reform trade laws, and reduce areas of administrative corruption so that business activists find more opportunities and create a promising environment for economic development. At the regional level, it is important to maintain a suitable environment for cooperation with neighboring countries, avoid tensions, and strengthen interaction and trade with them, given their willingness to cooperate with us. At the international level, expanding cooperation with China and, to a lesser extent, with Russia, along with focusing on strengthening relations with emerging powers. By implementing these strategies, we can gradually emerge from isolation and reduce the effects of sanctions.

tacks against Iran, despite a complete lack of evidence. “If Mr. Trump's goal was for us not to have nuclear weapons, that was already easily achievable, because we never pursued them,” he added.

When asked about Iran's enrichment of uranium up to 60 percent, Pezeshkian acknowledged that such levels may not be necessary for regular energy use, but emphasized that the enrichment took place under strict international monitoring before the U.S. unilaterally violated the 2015 nuclear deal.

“The JCPOA was a product of dialogue with Europeans and Americans. Under its framework, the International Atomic Energy Agency conducted the most intrusive inspections in history. They could appear anywhere, anytime. Iran was fully compliant. It was the United States that tore up the agreement, not Iran,” he said.

Pezeshkian noted that after Washington abandoned the deal, European companies and investors who had begun cooperating with Iran were forced to withdraw under U.S. pressure.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

‘What good has NPT done us?': Iranian MPs push for NPT exit at tensions with the West fester



TEHRAN – The Iranian parliament is intensifying its call for a withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), a move lawmakers describe as a legitimate and necessary response to a concerted campaign of “illegal” pressure by the United States and its European allies, which culminated this week in the return of all previous UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesperson for the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, confirmed that a significant number of legislators are pushing for the drastic step. “Following the illegal action of the three European countries in activating the snapback mechanism, many representatives have proposed bills to exit the NPT. So far, about 15 such plans have been submitted,” Rezaei stated. He added that the committee has consolidated these into a single bill, though it awaits a full parliamentary vote.

The current crisis stems from the dismantlement of the 2015 nuclear accord, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Iran fulfilled its obligations under the deal, which was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, and subjected its nuclear program

to the most robust inspection regime in history. In return, Iran was promised economic relief from sanctions.

The internationally-hailed diplomatic achievement was shattered in 2018 when the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA, violating international law and re-imposing a brutal “maximum pressure” campaign of sanctions—an act of economic war against the Iranian people. Despite Iran's patient compliance for a full year afterwards, the European signatories (France, Germany, and the UK, known as the E3) failed utterly to create a functional financial mechanism to offset the devastating impact of U.S. sanctions. They later came up with their own set of embargoes under unsubstantiated and refuted claims of Iranian involvement in the Ukraine war.

In late August, in a move described by Tehran as a gross act of bad faith and complete capitulation to U.S. bullying, the E3 triggered the JCPOA's dispute mechanism. This led to the so-called “snapback” of all UN sanctions that had been lifted under the 2015 deal.

The illegitimacy of this process was con-

demned at the UN Security Council on Friday. A resolution, put forward by Russia and China, to extend sanctions relief on Iran in line with Resolution 2231 was not passed. This procedural failure, driven by opposition from the United States, paved the way for the automatic return of the old UN sanctions regime this week, a move a significant part of the international community considers void.

In remarks he made to a group of Iranian journalists, Spokesperson Rezaei highlighted the widespread frustration in the country following the recent developments. “In the current situation, we must withdraw from the NPT. There is no reason for Iran's presence in this treaty,” he stated.

The lawmaker also detailed the failures of the international system: “According to the NPT and the IAEA statute, the Agency was supposed to help us develop our nuclear industry and technology, which it did not do. We accepted a mountain of surveillance and inspections to prove our program is peaceful. These inspections were carried out, but the Agency did not fulfill its commitments, and the result was an attack on our country,” he said, referring to the June U.S.-Israeli bombing campaign against Iran, which targeted Iranian nuclear, military and civilian infrastructure, and killed over 1,000 people, mostly civilians. “We have seen no benefit from being in the NPT and feel no need to continue cooperation with the Agency.”

While acknowledging that a final decision requires a “maximum national consensus,” Rezaei emphasized the independence of the parliament. The bill under review would legally obligate the government to formally submit a request to withdraw from the NPT to the IAEA Board of Governors if also approved by the Guardian Council.

“Iran will not remain in agreements where it bears all the obligations and receives none of the rights,” the MP added.

Strategic balance: Ali Larijani reassesses the Iran–Lebanon alliance in face of US pressure

From page 1 ► coinciding with the commemoration of figures emblematic to Hezbollah, such as Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine. Yet the broader context of this journey, as he made clear in his public statements, was the renewal of strategic ties between Tehran and Beirut, along with a reaffirmation of a regional axis committed to independence, sovereignty, and cooperation in the face of destabilization efforts and external hegemonic ambitions.

In his first remarks, cited by Lebanese media and Iranian agencies, Larijani stressed a central aspiration of Iran's foreign policy: “Our hope is that regional governments be independent and strong; today, faced with Israel's conspiracies, countries must come closer together and cooperate in good faith.” This message, beyond diplomatic rhetoric, evokes a principle that has guided the Islamic Republic since its inception: political autonomy and rejection of foreign tutelage or interference—whether by the West, external actors, or rival regional powers.

Iran–Lebanon relations have shaped the political agenda of both countries since the difficult 1980s. Ties have deepened not only through support for Hezbollah as a Resistance movement, but also via multifaceted cooperation encompassing technical advice, humanitarian aid, and economic exchanges. In a climate where pressure on the Resistance Axis constantly resurfaces, Larijani's visit may be read as an act of presence that sends an unmistakable signal to both allies and adversaries: Iran is not retreating but rather reinforcing its commitment to Lebanese sovereignty and stability.

During his trip, Larijani met with key Lebanese state figures, including parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri and prime minister Nawaf Salam, as well as Hezbollah leaders and representatives of other political forces. Beyond protocol, these meetings allowed

him to outline a vision of regional security centred on dialogue and cooperation—two pillars of Iran's current strategic thinking.

“Lebanon is a friendly country,” Larijani told reporters. “We consult on all matters, especially in moments of rapid change.” The timing of these words—during ceremonies commemorating great figures of the Lebanese Resistance—was deliberate. By attending a memorial for Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, whose leadership against Israeli incursions and occupations defined an era, Larijani underscored a dual message: honoring martyrdom while invoking shared memory as a binding element of transnational solidarity.

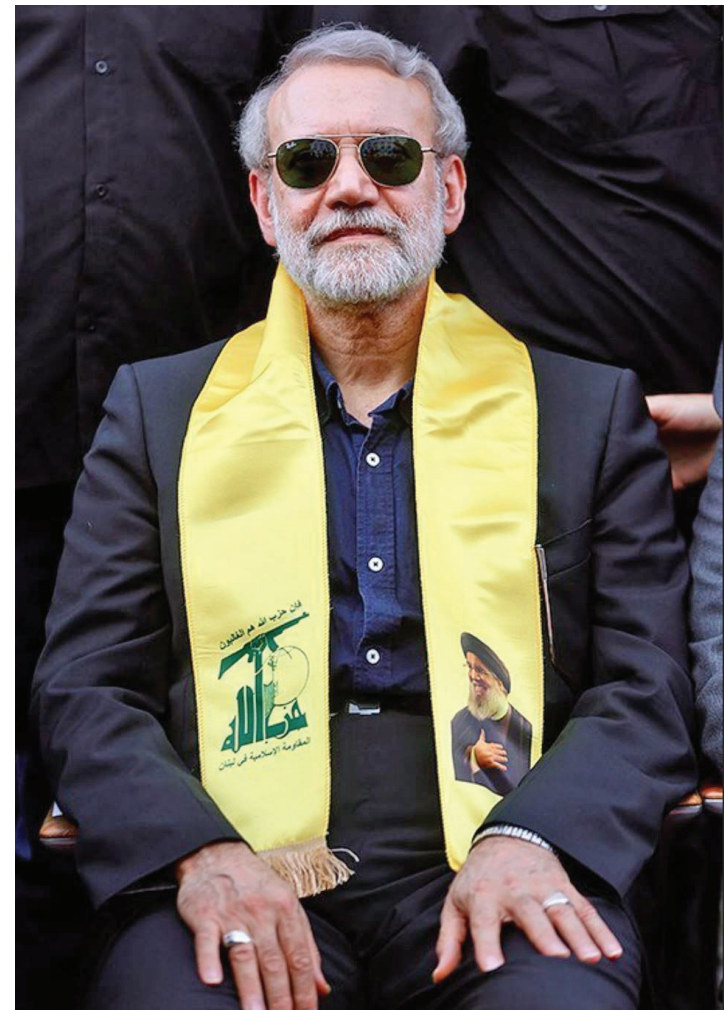
The visit took place amid Lebanon's multidimensional crisis—political, economic, and security-related—that keeps it under intense international scrutiny. True to the Islamic Republic's proactive stance, Larijani insisted that strengthening Arab state institutions is the best response to externally encouraged fragmentation.

Addressing immediate threats, he did not shy away from Israel: “Today, the region requires joint mechanisms of cooperation to overcome our common threat.” In this regard, he recalled the enduring legacy of leaders like Hassan Nasrallah, who foresaw the Israeli danger and helped forge the first generation of fighters who shifted the balance of power in southern Lebanon.

Resistance as a cornerstone of security policy

Larijani's presence at Hezbollah's memorial also reaffirmed the centrality of resistance as a pillar of the region's security architecture. While Iran has never denied its political and moral support for Hizbullah, this time the emphasis fell on the movement's nationalist dimension. “Lebanon may be small, but it is strong against Israel. Ultimately, this is thanks to the unyielding will of its youth,” Larijani stated.

The tribute to martyrs and recognition of the resistance is not



Ali Larijani, Iran's top security official, attended a memorial ceremony for Hezbollah's martyred leaders in Beirut last week

mere optics: it aims to consolidate internal unity and construct an alternative narrative to hegemonic accounts that reduce Hezbollah to a mere Iranian proxy. In Larijani's discourse, the party-militia appears above all as the legitimate shield of the Lebanese people—capable of maintaining an autonomous national line and cooperating with other forces for the sake of stability.

In his press briefings, Larijani referred to recent statements by Sheikh Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's secretary-general, regarding the possibility of normalizing relations with Saudi Arabia. “I welcome Sheikh Qassem's initiative,” Larijani said, “and value his call for opening a new chapter in intra-Islamic dialogue.”

He stressed that Saudi Arabia,

despite its differences with Iran, remains a brotherly state in the Muslim world. “History shows us that in critical situations, Muslim nations must set aside disputes and prioritize cooperation against common threats. The logic of internal enmities only weakens us all, while the real goal must be strengthening the Islamic front against the Israeli threat.”

Acknowledging recent Saudi-Lebanese contacts, he added: “Every step, every mediation that brings peace of mind to the Lebanese people deserves support.” In this way, Iranian policy reaffirms its preference for active, pragmatic diplomacy: open to political agreements and coordination rather than rigid dogmatism.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pezeshkian says ‘Iran will not kneel’

President appears less hopeful of diplomacy with the West after an all-out war and snapback of UN sanctions

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Iran will not bow to Western pressure and is prepared to defend itself against any threat, President Masoud Pezeshkian declared on Monday, signalling a hardening stance as the nation strengthens its military capabilities and regional alliances in response to renewed Western pressure and security threats.

Speaking at a ceremony honoring firefighters, Pezeshkian delivered his strongest public remarks since taking office, accusing Western powers of hypocrisy and vowing that Iran would never accept humiliation. “They want to sanction us because we refuse to bow our heads,” he said. “The dream of bringing Iran to its knees is nothing but an illusion.”

Pezeshkian entered office in 2024 promising his voters that he would try to mend ties with the West, which have been unprecedentedly contentious in recent years over the dismantlement of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (the JCPOA). But Western states have increasingly made it difficult for the Iranian President to trust them, after the U.S. attacked Iran in the middle of negotiations back in June, and the E3 (Germany, Britain, and France) began a process that brought back pre-JCPOA UN sanctions against Tehran this week.

While Europe and the U.S. now express a desire to negotiate with Iran, Tehran insists the West



President Masoud Pezeshkian talks to a crowd of firefighters on September 29, 2025.

has squandered every chance for a diplomatic solution over the past year. Russia and China—the other two signatories to the 2015 deal—share this view. They argue that the current deadlock began with Washington’s withdrawal from the JCPOA and was exacerbated by the June war and Europe’s unconstructive alignment with the U.S. and Israel.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian recalled that adversaries never expected Iranians to unite during the twelve days of the U.S.-Israel aggression in June. “They assumed Iran had weakened, but the people’s steadfastness upset all their calculations.”

He criticized the American and European politicians who speak of human rights and democracy, adding, “Take a look at what they’re doing in Gaza. A regime

that has sown chaos in the region has not once been sanctioned in the Security Council because the United States erases decisions with a veto.”

The notion of human rights, the United Nations and UNESCO are nothing but lies, the president said, “because innocents are being killed before their eyes and Israel attacks any country it wishes.”

Prior to Pezeshkian’s Monday remarks, The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, unequivocally stated that negotiations with the United States are a “dead end” and would only bring harm to the nation.

“The Americans have shown they cannot be trusted,” Ayatollah Khamenei told the Iranian nation in a live video address. “Our experience has proven that rely-

ing on our own capabilities and strengthening regional cooperation is the only way to guarantee our security.”

Meanwhile, Iran’s military establishment is publicly emphasizing its readiness to fend off new potential waves of aggression. Senior commanders have pointed to ongoing modernization efforts and exchanges with regional countries.

Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, senior military adviser to the Leader, recently expressed interest in the new defense pact between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, suggesting Iran might consider joining such regional security arrangements. “We should declare readiness as a regional power,” Safavi said in a television interview. “This falls under our military diplomacy to take an active role in regional defense treaties.”

In separate remarks, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of Staff of the Iranian military, praised what he called the “decisive achievements” of Iran’s forces during the 2025 conflict, and said the Army and Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) have significantly improved their coordination.

A member of Iran’s Air Defence Force also told the Tehran Times last week that the country has rapidly “addressed its weaknesses and consolidated its strengths” since the war halted on June 25.

Gharahgozlou wins WPBSA Q Tour Middle East

TEHRAN – Ali Gharahgozlou defeated Ali Jaleel 4-2 to win the second WPBSA Q Tour Middle East event of the season at the Emirates Billiard Sports Federation in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The Iranian player came through a field of 59 players from 11 countries to win the third Q Tour Middle East title of his career.

Gharahgozlou dropped just two frames in five matches to reach the title match – kicking off the four-day competition with victories over Rami Alhssoumi (3-0) and Mina Awad (3-1).

A last 16 clash with fellow countryman Ehsan Heydarinezhad followed and Gharahgozlou showed impressive scoring form in coming from 1-0 behind to win four consecutive frames with contributions of 80, 54, 54 and 104.

Gharahgozlou made a fast start by taking the opening two frames in the best-of-seven frame contest with a top break of 90, wpbsa.com reported.

His opponent from Iraq halved the deficit with success in the third frame on a resotted black but Gharahgozlou quickly moved to within one of glory with another visit of 90 in the next.

Jaleel kept his hopes of a maiden crown alive by winning frame five and had chances to force a decider, but it was the Iranian who held his nerve to take the decisive frame on the final pink to complete a 4-2 victory.

Iran advance to 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup final

TEHRAN – Iran edged past Italy 1-0 at the 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup on Monday courtesy of Morteza Karimi’s goal.

Team Melli started the campaign with a 4-0 win over Poland but were held to a goal-less draw against England. Iran also defeated India and South Korea 3-0.

Javad Felfeli’s team will play England in the final match on Wednesday.

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.

Esteghlal hope to use home advantage against Al Muharraq: ACL 2

TEHRAN – Iran’s Esteghlal are hopeful to use home ground advantage to good effect against Al Muharraq in Matchday 2 of the 2025/26 AFC Champions League Two.

Al Wasl FC and Al Muharraq SC set the early pace in Group A with impressive wins.

UAE’s Al Wasl produced a seven-star display as they silenced Iran’s Esteghlal FC with a 7-1 win and will expect another three points from Jordan’s Al Wehdah.

Al Wehdah succumbed 4-0 to Al Muharraq and will be desperate to revive their campaign and so will Esteghlal, and the Iranian side will hope to use home ground advantage to good effect against Al Muharraq.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant to approach CAS

TEHRAN – Indian Super League (ISL) champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant will approach

the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) for a resolution regarding its travel to Iran for the AFC Champions League Two (ACL 2) matches

“Mohun Bagan Super Giant prioritizes the safety and well-being of its players, officials, and support staff. Our players and their families have expressed concern over travel to Iran. The Club, after due consideration, is thoughtful of their request for safety,” the club said in a statement.

“After careful consideration of the government advisories and the potential uncovered risks involved, and upholding the players’ sentiments, the Club has approached the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to seek a fair resolution and safeguard its interests.”

Bagan was scheduled to play Iranian top division side Sepahan away, in the group stage of ACL 2 on September 30.

The Mariners, who secured a direct spot in the ACL 2 after winning the ISL, opened its continental campaign with a 0-1 loss to Ahal FK from Turkmenistan at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata September 16.

They now face two back-to-back away games against Sepahan on September 30 and Jordan’s Al Hussain on October 21.

Last season, The Asian Football Confederation announced that Mohun Bagan was “considered to have withdrawn from the AFC Champions League Two” tournament after the team did not travel to Iran for Group B match against Tractor.

Iran’s fixtures for the CAVA Volleyball Challenge Cup unveiled

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s volleyball team will face Kyrgyzstan in the opening match of the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Women’s Volleyball Challenge Cup.

Iran’s match schedule in the competition is as follows:

Wednesday: Iran vs Kyrgyzstan

Thursday: Iran vs Tajikistan

Friday: Iran vs Uzbekistan

The final and bronze medal matches will be held on Sunday.

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

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

Shahab Zahedi’s future in Avispa Fukuoka uncertain

TEHRAN – Shahab Zahdi scored nine goals in 31 appearances in the 2024 season in J-League and became one of the fans’ favorite players at Avispa Fukuoka. However, he has not scored a single goal since then.

Interestingly, you should know that Zahdi’s last goal in the J.League was scored 415 days ago.

This 187-cm tall striker, who also has one cap for the national team, scored on Aug. 10, 2024 in the 2-2 draw with Sapporo, and since then he hasn’t managed to score a goal in the League.

It has been 415 days since Zahdi last brought joy to Avispa Fukuoka’s fans with a goal in the J.League, and in that time the Iranian striker has been in the matchday squad 21 times but with no success. An odd situation for a player whose current condition is worrying and unusual.

This season, Zahdi has provided only one assist. That tally has turned him into a bench striker. Among Avispa fans, no one asks the coaching staff anymore why Zahdi isn’t in the starting XI and why he sits on the bench.

Who was Bahman Chubin Asl, Mossad’s main agent inside Iran?

TEHRAN – Iran’s Judiciary has announced the execution of Bahman Chubin Asl, identified as one of the most significant operatives of the Zionist regime’s Mossad spy agency inside the country.

Chubin Asl was executed on Monday after the Supreme Court upheld his conviction for “extensive and deliberate cooperation with Mossad in the field of vital national databases.”

A database specialist by profession, Chubin Asl had secured a managerial role in a knowledge-based company working on sensitive telecommunications projects. His expertise granted him access to the country’s sovereign and critical data systems, which Mossad sought to exploit.

According to judicial reports, Mossad first targeted him during a specialist course in a Persian Gulf country. A Mossad officer, operating under the guise of a front company called “ESMI”, made initial contact and arranged further meetings.

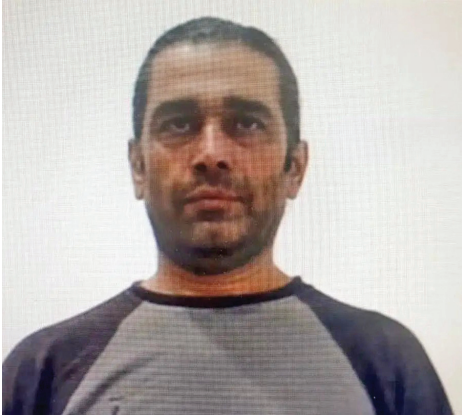
He was instructed to travel abroad with his work laptop, initially to Armenia and then to India. Mossad agents, disguised as executives, paid all expenses, offered cash bonus-

es, and registered him in technical courses to expand his skills.

This was followed by a 45-day intensive training program in Ireland, where a Persian-speaking handler debriefed him on Iran’s infrastructure projects and assigned him espionage tasks.

Judicial findings show Mossad’s central objective was to infiltrate Iran’s sovereign data centers and extract government information. Secondary tasks included monitoring the routes of electronic imports. To this end, Mossad operatives pushed him to persuade his CEO to source hardware through Israeli-linked suppliers—part of a well-known tactic to sabotage infrastructure by introducing compromised equipment, a method used previously against Iran’s nuclear program.

Evidence presented in court revealed that Chubin Asl deliberately cooperated with Mossad across 63 documented meetings during nine foreign trips. He met agents in countries including the UAE, Armenia, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Ireland, and Bulgaria, where he received spy equipment, financial incentives, and operational instructions.



He was charged with espionage, accepting payments from a hostile foreign power, and providing classified information to the Israeli regime’s intelligence service.

The execution of Chubin Asl comes amid a broader counterintelligence campaign against Mossad across Iran. In June, security agencies arrested more than 700 operatives linked to the Zionist regime, while several underground drone facilities run by Mossad in Tehran and other cities were also dismantled in recent months.

No legal basis for reimposing Security Council sanctions: Iran to world powers

From Page 1 ▶ Araghchi stressed that “no legitimate legal process has occurred that could revive the terminated resolutions. Suggesting otherwise is nothing more than an effort to mislead the international community and to impose unilateral political agendas under the cover of UN authority.”

He warned that such claims undermine the credibility of the Security Council and threaten the foundation of multilateral diplomacy. Citing Resolution 2231—which endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015—he noted that all prior UN sanctions were terminated and a clear timetable was set for their permanent expiration on October 18, 2025.

“No country has the unilateral right to reinterpret or extend the resolution’s provisions,” he wrote.

The letter further argued that the United States, having quit

the JCPOA in 2018, and the E3—accused of “substantial non-performance” of their obligations—are “entirely disqualified” from invoking Resolution 2231. Araghchi charged that Washington and the Europeans are effectively attempting a “unilateral rewriting of international law,” in violation of the resolution and to the detriment of global trust in binding UN decisions.

Reiterating Iran’s categorical rejection of the alleged reinstatement of sanctions, he underlined that neither Iran nor any UN member state is legally obliged to comply. Instead, he urged governments to dismiss such “unlawful claims,” refuse to implement them, and defend multilateralism against “narrow political manipulation.”

Araghchi concluded with a warning that allowing such assertions to stand would gravely damage both the authority of the Security Council and the sancti-

ty of international agreements. While affirming Iran’s readiness to engage in diplomacy, he pledged that Tehran would resolutely defend its sovereign rights and national interests.

The 2015 nuclear accord saw Iran accept restrictions on its nuclear program in return for the lifting of UN, US, and EU sanctions. Resolution 2231 enshrined the deal and set October 2025 as the final deadline for the expiration of nuclear-related measures.

Yet Tehran has long argued that even under former US President Barack Obama, Washington resisted allowing Iran to fully benefit economically from sanctions relief. In 2018, the US unilaterally abandoned the deal and reimposed sweeping sanctions.

Iran, after waiting more than a year for the European parties to compensate for the US withdrawal, began gradually reducing its compliance with the accord—

UN snapback sanctions will not derail Iran's crude sales, says oil official

From Page 1 ► He said last year marked a record for exports thanks to eased foreign currency rules, but customs data show a six percent drop in export value so far this year. Methanol, guar and oils saw declines in volume and value, while polymers registered a 24 percent rise in value.

The spokesman cited the 20-day Nowruz holidays, the Bandar Abbas explosion, and truckers' labor protests as factors behind weaker exports in early 2025, but voiced hope that losses would be offset in the second half of the year.

PMO says snapback sanctions fail to disrupt port and shipping operations

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said the activation of the "snapback" sanctions mechanism has not disrupted the country's maritime operations, with ports continuing to operate at full capacity.

Saeid Rasouli, the PMO's managing director, told state media that international pressures and the reactivation of sanctions have caused "no disruption" to Iran's logistics and port activities.

"Iran has been under unlawful sanctions for years, yet ports continue to fulfill their vital duties," Rasouli said, noting that unloading and loading of essential goods, oil, containers, and both export and import cargoes are proceeding without interruption.

He added that despite restrictions, Iran is pressing ahead with infrastructure development and investment in ports.

"This year, designated as the year of investment for production, has seen significant steps in this direction," he said, highlighting ongoing efforts to attract foreign capital.

According to Rasouli, foreign delegations have visited Iran to assess opportunities, including a recent high-level Azerbaijani delegation's tour of Shahid Rajaee Port, where constructive talks were held on expanding logistics cooperation along the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

TEDPIX gains 61,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 61,147 points to 2.7 million on Monday, which is the third day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IREN-EX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

On July 27, the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said that the capital market has entered a phase of stabilizing equilibrium.

"We were able to manage the market after the imposed 12-day war, Hojatollah Seyed noted, adding: "Now the stage of balancing the capital market has ended and we have entered the stage of stabilizing the balance."

"When the imposed war began, we were surprised at the stock market, but we didn't say what to do now, and we finalized our plan

E-commerce projected to hit \$180b with digital growth

TEHRAN – Iran's e-commerce is projected to reach 90 quadrillion rials (\$180 billion) in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2026), driven by infrastructure development and digital technologies, the head of the Iranian Information Technology Organization said.

Ali Hakim Javadi, chairman of the organization, told an industry forum that e-commerce transactions in the Iranian year 2022/23 totaled about 31.9 quadrillion rials (\$64 billion), marking 73 percent growth from the previ-

Hosseini called for unified messaging at home, strengthening domestic media, empowering the private sector, and expanding trade ties with regional countries such as Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, the United Arab Emirates and key oil buyer China.

He concluded that negotiations remain necessary to overcome sanctions, warning that restrictive measures block development and Iran should aim beyond merely maintaining the status quo.

Rasouli also cited Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, which mandates raising transit volumes to 55 million tons by the end of the program.

"With 17 million tons of cargo moved last year, the organization is determined to achieve this target, and high-level measures are in place to secure essential supplies and maintain trade flows," he said.

The loading and unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, increased by eight percent during the five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As reported by the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), over 8.28 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in Imam Khomeini port during the first five months of the present year.

According to the PMO's report, 7,112 million tons of basic commodities were unloaded in the port in the mentioned five months.

Also, 37,149 TEUs of container goods were loaded and unloaded in Imam Khomeini port during the first five months of the current year, indication seven percent growth as compared to the first five months of the previous year, the report added.

at the same day when the first attacks occurred", the official highlighted.

He recalled that in certain circumstances, the most important concern of stock exchanges in the world is to preserve shareholder assets, and stated: "During the days of war, shareholders were concerned about preserving their capital, and for this reason, stock trading was suspended; the next stage was liquidity because companies wanted to pay their employees."

The SEO head further emphasized that there is no place for the market to be 100 percent green, and that a market with 50 percent green and red is balanced, adding: "In the post-war situation, publishers helped, the Central Bank intervened, and investment funds contributed greatly to the market balance. Now, the fourth stage, which is stabilization, is underway, and we will soon enter the fifth stage of the market, which is the boom stage."

ous year.

The figure rose to more than 45 quadrillion rials (\$90 billion) in 2023/24, he said.

Hakim Javadi emphasized that adoption of new technologies is a key driver of growth.

"Digital tools accelerate the expansion of e-commerce. Beyond a few countries, activity in this area remains limited, so we see a major opportunity to promote digital adoption instead of traditional and physical methods," he said.

IRENEX trades rise 22% in H1

TEHRAN – The value of trades on Iran Energy Exchange (IREN-EX) rose 22 percent in the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), reaching more than 1.413 quadrillion rials (\$2.8 billion), the bourse's managing director said.

Mohammad Nazifi told state media that alongside the growth in transactions, the exchange is pursuing strategic goals for the second half of the year, including introducing new products, expanding financial instruments, developing the electricity market, and focusing on renewables.

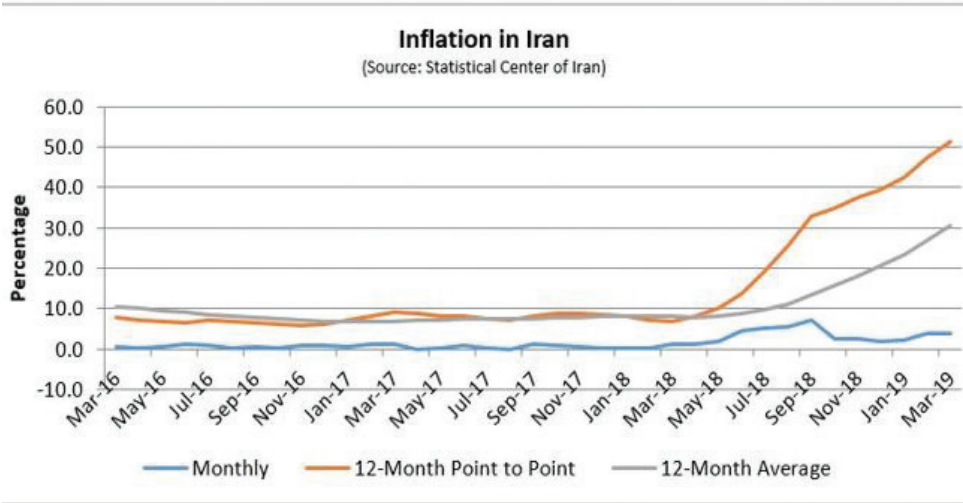


According to Nazifi, the value of rial-based competitive bidding exceeded 35 trillion rials (\$70 million) in the first half, a 224 percent increase from a year earlier.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) led this segment with over 20 trillion rials (\$40 million) in competitive bids.

He added that in the export ring, competition reached about \$48 million, up 116 percent year-on-year. LPG supplied by the National Iranian Gas Company topped the export board with \$12 million in competitive trades.

Main driver of inflation Can deleting zeros from local currency remedy inflation?



By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN - Although inflation is a global issue but it is more severe in Iran than most countries mainly due to U.S. sanctions and now that E3 (France, Germany and UK) triggered snapback, UN sanctions came into effect from Saturday, three months after Israel and the U.S. bombed Iran. The snapback sanctions will make matters pertaining to commodity prices worse. The imposition of snapback sanctions essentially kills Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran nuclear deal). Iran has recalled its ambassadors from E3.

In fact, JCPOA became meaningless when U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the United States was withdrawing from the JCPOA and imposed "maximum pressure" sanctions during his first term in 2018.

President Masoud Pezeshkian was in New York to attend the 80th session of UN General Assembly when UN Security Council on Friday rejected a last-ditch effort to delay reimposing sanctions on Iran over its peaceful nuclear program. Pezeshkian, a cardiovascular physician, called the act "unfair, unjust and illegal".

With an annual inflation rate of 34.5 percent in June, the Statistical Center of Iran reported the cost of essential items rises over 50 percent over the same period. News agencies reported that the price of rice rose more than 80 percent on average, hitting 100 percent for premium varieties. The imposed war drove chicken up 26 percent.

As Iran's economy braced Saturday for the reimposition of the UN snapback sanctions, it will be the ordinary people who will increasingly find themselves priced out of the basic commodities.

Iran's rial currency already sits at a record low, the snapback sanctions will increase pressure on food prices and making the daily life of the citizens even more challenging.

In today's challenging environment, expectations of a new round of fighting with Israel and U.S. is in the air. In this shadow of war and due to this uncertain situation people have been hoarding on basic goods increasing the prices further more and raising the inflation.

The aftermath of the June 12-day war drove up food prices putting the already expensive meat along with other basic necessities out of the reach of poor families.

On Saturday, during a conversation with the grocery store manager, Mohammed said the "country has never faced such a challenging situation, even during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war and the post 1979 Islamic Revolutionary era."

Today runaway inflation and soaring prices are the main topic that concern people and conversations in public arenas like the metro, taxis, buses, cafes, etc. Inflation has been a global issue after coronavirus pandemic which disrupted supply chains resulting in a largely unexpected surge in inflation, increasing global food prices like staples including vegetable oils, wheat, cheese and sugar and other basic commodities.

According the Statistical Center of Iran, the country's inflation rate stood at 34.5 percent in the twelve-month period ended at the end of third Iranian month of Khordad (May 22 – June 21, 2025). The Consumer Price Index for the month of Mordad (June 22 – July 23) stood at 36.3 percent a 40 percent jump compared to same period last year. The economic growth rate for last Iranian year (1403 that falls between March 2024-2025) stood at three percent.

With a month-on-month increase of 3.3 percent and an annual rate of 36.3 percent inflation reflects struggles of millions of Iranians. Pundits believe the real inflation rate is higher.

Rial redenomination

Rial redenomination has been in the cards for more than a decade. The debate for removing zeros from domestic currency was first proposed in 2016 and launched in 2021. One single Iranian toman is equivalent to 10 rials. The currency reform plan originated during the late President Ebrahim Raisi's tenure. His successor, Masoud Pezeshkian, revived the initiative last month. It aims to slash four zeros from the currency.

Majlis (Iran's parliament) is due to vote on a bill to renew the process in a bid to curb persistent runaway inflation. On August 3, the Economic Commission of the parliament approved a revised version of the bill but no final decisions and approvals have been made. The commission backed keeping the name rial instead of changing to toman.

The current bill will have to pass a parliamentary vote and gain the approval of the Guardian Council, a body empowered to vet legislation.

Head of the Economic Commission, Shamseddin Hosseini, has stated the bill required revision following the enactment of the new Central Bank law in 2023.

Hosseini told reporters that the "currency unit will be worth IRR10,000, effectively removing four zeros from current denomination. One new rial will be subdivided into 100 'qerans', reviving a historic unit as the fractional denomination."

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects inflation to reach 43.3 percent in 2025. The runaway inflation has eroded people's purchasing power significantly.

The "barbari" bread in Somaye area in central Tehran was 10 toman a few months ago has now doubled in price. Medium quality rice was 130 toman per kilogram six months ago has now more than doubled. The hike in the prices of these basic staples has been largely attributed to the drought which engulfed the whole country. Over the past three decades the temperature has risen by 1.8C and over the past five years there has been a 30 percent reduction in rainfall. Right now, we are in the fifth consecutive year of near drought.

The Seventh National Development Plan (2023-27) sets an ambitious target of eight percent annual economic growth. However, due to lack of domestic and foreign investment

and out of control inflation such economic trajectory is unattainable. IMF has projected 0.6 percent economic growth in Iran for 2025, up from its previous forecast of 0.3 percent. IMF attributed factors such as regional instability, the aftermath of the Iran-Israel conflict, and high inflation. Iran's economic growth in 2024 was 3.4 percent.

Conclusion

Will reducing zeros from the currency reduce inflation? While the move will not guarantee reduced inflation but it will make the transactions and trading simpler. To address inflation and currency depreciation, redenomination has to be followed along with structural changes in an environment of economic growth, stability and high productivity. The biggest obstacles for such environment are sanctions and war.

What other countries have removed zeros from their currencies due to hyperinflation? Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Turkey, and Zimbabwe have removed zeros from local currency. Currency redenomination is accompanied by economic reforms to be effective.

Brazil introduced new currency, the Real, in 1994. Argentina undergone multiple redenominations, including in 1983, 1985, and 1992. Bolivia removed zeros in 1963 and 1987 after periods of hyperinflation. Mexico introduced the new peso with three fewer zeros in 1990s. Turkey removed six zeros off the lira in 2005. Zimbabwe removed ten zeros turning 10 billion dollars into one after hyper-inflation, but it did not solve the underlying process.

Focusing on neighboring Turkey. In August the Turkish annual consumer price inflation dipped more than expected to 33.52 percent, according to the data from July. The Reuters poll showed the monthly inflation rate for July was 2.4 percent, with the annual rate seen at 34.05 percent for Turkey.

Inflation in the Persian Gulf Arab countries was expected to be 1.7 percent in 2024. The primary driver of inflation is the housing sector, which saw a 5.7 percent increase in 2024, with Saudi Arabia experiencing the highest rate of 8.8 percent. Dubai recorded a monthly inflation rate of 2.4 percent in June followed by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, both registering 2.3 percent in June.

According to the Statistical Center for the (P)GCC region's average inflation rate fell to 1.7 percent in 2024, down from 2.2 percent in 2023. Inflation in the oil exporting Persian Gulf states is moderated by subsidies, energy exports, stable currency regimes, and lower sensitivity to some fluctuations in global food or energy prices.

In August, Reuters reported that Syria will issue new banknotes, removing two zeros from its currency in order to restore public confidence in a severely devalued pound.

Taking a look at the U.S. inflationary pressures intensified in June, the annual U.S. inflation rate climbed to 2.7 percent, up from 2.4 percent in May. The upstick was primarily attributed to rising prices in core goods, which hit their highest level in two years. These increases are largely attributed to new tariffs which Trump introduced on what is referred to as the "Liberation Day" on April 2, 2025

Circling back to Iran, another reason for inflationary pressures is budget deficits financed by money creation. The government often covers shortfalls by borrowing from the central bank, leading to excess liquidity. Iran's money supply has grown much faster than GDP, fueling price increases.

If I list most of the above causes for inflation in Iran they can be listed as: sanctions and more sanctions; excess liquidity, shadow of war, hoarding, drought, restricted oil revenues due to sanctions on oil exports; higher cost of imports due to sanctions; non-performing loans; soaring real estate prices, low foreign and domestic investment, etc.

Tony Blair “unwelcome” in Palestine

Hamas describes Blair as a “partner of the devil”

From page 1 ▶ Reports have surfaced citing Arab and Western sources stating the U.S. is considering appointing Blair to head a temporary administration in Gaza.

Badran stressed that managing internal affairs in Gaza and the West Bank is strictly a Palestinian issue, and no regional or international party has the right to impose any administrative framework on the Palestinian people.

“The Palestinian people are fully capable of managing their own affairs... and possess both the experience and the necessary resources to do so,” he said,

He also revealed that since December 2023, Hamas has decided that the administration of the Gaza Strip should no longer remain solely in the hands of the resistance movement, and this position has been shared with other Palestinian groups and some friendly governments.

Addressing recent rumors about a potential ceasefire proposal, Badran reiterated that “to this day, we have not received any official plan through mediators. Everything being circulated is limited to media reports.”



He added that “This is not the first time the United States, in coordination with Israel, has floated ideas and proposals through the media. But unless they are formally presented via official mediation channels, such reports hold no credibility.”

On Sunday, Hamas issued a separate statement emphasizing that ceasefire negotiations were suspended after the Israel's assassination attempt on its political leadership in Doha, Qatar, on September 9.

This comes after U.S. President Donald Trump's “21-point plan” on

Gaza presented to several Arab and Muslim leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last Tuesday.

Hamis maintains the Israeli occupation regime has not only ignored mediator proposals but, under the regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's orders, has actively destroyed all potential opportunities for agreement.

On August 18, Hamas agreed to a partial ceasefire and prisoner exchange proposal mediated by intermediaries. However, the occupation regime never responded despite the plan matching an ear-

lier initiative by U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff, which was reportedly approved by Tel Aviv.

Israeli opposition figures and families of Israeli captives accuse Netanyahu of sabotaging any potential deal for political gain to remain in power, despite Hamas having repeatedly agreed to both partial and comprehensive proposals brokered by mediators.

Domestically, Netanyahu is also facing multiple corruption charges, which could result in prison if convicted.

Additionally, the International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in Gaza.

Since October 7, 2023, the Zionist regime, with full support from the United States, has waged a genocidal war on Gaza.

According to official Palestinian sources, the genocidal regime has so far butchered over 66,000 people, injured at least 168,000 others. The regime's behavior has also led to famine, starvation, and the spread of diseases.



city into reach. Their actions have reshaped regional risk calculations, complicated Israel's multi-front military posture, increased the political cost of continued Gaza operations, and bolstered recruitment and political standing in Sana'a.

For policymakers and publics alike, the lesson is stark: asymmetric attrition now pairs kinetic strikes with economic and psychological disruption, and Ansarullah's leaders make no secret of their objective — sustain pressure to force an end to Gaza's blockade.

From Tel Aviv to Eilat: How Yemen pierces Israeli illusions of security

From page 1 ▶ Tactically, Ansarullah has shifted from symbolic, long-range salvos to strikes aimed at producing tangible disruption. Ramon Airport, Eilat's commercial belt, and ports such as Ashdod and Eilat are now deliberate targets because damage there yields disproportionate economic and psychological effects and directly degrades Israel's ability to move goods, people, and military materiel.

These nodes are not merely economic fixtures; they are logistical arteries that, if used to intensify the displacement of Palestinians from Gaza, would deepen the humanitarian catastrophe.

By striking that infrastructure, Ansarullah's operations may act as a preemptive disruption of a renewed Nakba, tying tactical choices to a wider political defense of the Palestinian people.

This reorientation reflects Ansarullah's declared strategy: to scale the scope and intensity of operations in direct proportion to Israel's actions in Gaza.

Hitting southern ports and airports both degrades capacity and preserves the political resonance of deep strikes on central Israeli targets, weaving tactical disruption into a broader campaign of calibrated resistance.

Technically, Ansarullah has demonstrated undeniable breakthroughs. Its arsenal now in-

cludes longer-range solid-fuel ballistic missiles, precision-guided systems, and a new generation of UAVs such as advanced Samad variants and the stealthy “Jaffa” drones, which have repeatedly challenged Israeli air-defense layers.

Their use of the Palestine-2 hypersonic missile represents a qualitative leap — extended range, maneuverability, and multiple warheads — and signals Sanaa's capacity to shape the strategic agenda in ways that force Tel Aviv and its allies to reckon with new, harder-to-ignore threats.

The wider impact is concrete. Sustained naval interdiction and repeated strikes have devastated Eilat's trade and tourism: port activity has plunged, many ships reroute around Africa, and war-risk insurance and freight costs have surged, imposing multi-billion-dollar strains on Israeli commerce and supply chains.

Equally significant is the psychological toll: sirens, shelter runs, and chronic disruption erode daily life in the south, dent investor confidence, and force political calculations in Tel Aviv.

Strategically, Ansarullah's campaign is asymmetric by design — decentralized launches, maritime interdiction, and publicized operations that amplify solidarity with Gaza.

Hardened by a decade of conflict and blockade at home, Yemen's forces have turned scar-

Hezbollah upsets the enemy's calculations

From page 1 ▶ This concern was intensified after Prime Minister Nawaf Salam's government failed to implement the Washington-Tel Aviv demand to disarm the Resistance, prompting the West and Israelis to consider that Israel alone is capable of accomplishing the mission.

For his part, the leader of the Yemeni Ansarallah movement, Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, emphasized that Hezbollah's weapons and Gaza are the primary obstacles to the occupation, warning against being drawn into American-Israeli dictates demanding disarmament.

Sayyed al-Houthi emphasized that the Lebanese Resistance is not alone, but rather part of an integrated axis!

It is worth noting that Benjamin Netanyahu's speech at the United Nations reinforced Isra-

el's long-term strategy, which considers Hezbollah the central obstacle to its project of subjugating the region.

Netanyahu linked the achievement of the alleged “peace” to the dismantling of the Resistance, hinting at options that would lead to a civil war in Lebanon. He indicated that victory over Hezbollah and Hamas is a condition for expanding the Abraham Accords.

However, Netanyahu implicitly acknowledged that the results of the war did not achieve the aspirations, and that the Resistance remains the cornerstone obstructing Israeli hegemony.

Undoubtedly, Hezbollah, under the leadership of Sayyed Nasrallah, played a foundational role in reshaping an alternative geopolitical space in West Asia, especially after the May 2000 victory,

which ushered in a new era in the history of resistance movements against the Israeli occupation, restoring Lebanon's self-confidence and shattering the notion of the “invincible enemy”.

Martyr Sayyed Nasrallah not only provided military support, but also created a regional environment that brought the Palestinian cause back to the forefront.

After his martyrdom, the Resistance demonstrated flexibility in dealing with the election of Joseph Aoun as President and the appointment of Nawaf Salam as prime minister. However, it established strategic red lines and thwarted its opponents' attempts to drag Lebanon into an internal conflict.

It also cooperated flexibly with the Lebanese Army in implementing Resolution 1701, but

their communities and subordinating survivors to survival conditions that destroy communal identity and resilience.

The pressure has shifted from targeting individuals to organized collective extortion that places entire families before a horrific equation: join militias created by Israel or face persecution, mass killing, starvation and forced expulsion, a coordinated attempt to eliminate Palestinian society or reduce it to submission under occupation control.

Euro-Med Monitor received shocking testimonies from families who were forced to choose between remaining under siege and bombardment with no shelter, food or medicines, and forced displacement into unknown conditions lacking basic life necessities, all under explicit threats of death if they refused Israeli orders. These testimonies show a deliberate policy to break civilian will by using fear and destruction as instruments of subjugation.

Other testimonies indicate

that some Palestinian families were directly pressured to provide security cooperation to Israeli forces in exchange for being allowed to stay in certain areas or to receive basic assistance. This practice transforms humanitarian relief from an unconditional right into a tool of extortion and control, placing civilians' lives on coercive bargaining tables and stripping them of fundamental protections.

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Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

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Global Sumud Flotilla approaches Gaza to break Israeli blockade



An international aid flotilla is approaching the Gaza Strip in a bid to break an Israeli blockade on the Palestinian enclave, organizers said Monday, Anadolu reported.

“We are 570 kilometers (307.7 nautical miles) away from reaching Gaza,” the International Committee for Breaking the Siege on Gaza said on X.

Tony La Picciarella, an Italian activist from the Global Sumud Flotilla, said in a video statement that they will reach on Tuesday the point that Madleen and Handala aid ships had been intercepted by Israeli naval forces in previous attempts to lift the Israeli siege and deliver humanitarian aid.

On July 26, Israeli naval forces intercepted the Handala aid ship as it neared Gaza's shores and escorted it to Ashdod Port. The vessel had reached about 70 nautical miles from Gaza, surpassing the distance covered by the Madleen, which made it 110 miles before it had been stopped.

A group of activists joined the Global Sumud Flotilla from the Mediterranean on Monday, and two more boats are joining from the Greek Cypriot Administration and Turkey. The biggest ship of the flotilla will set sail on Tuesday with

100 on board, the activist said.

La Picciarella said in addition to Italian and Spanish navy vessels that provide protection for the flotilla, three more countries are considering sending more military vessels, without revealing the names of these countries.

“So, it's getting bigger. And it's not about us, about the Global Sumud Flotilla. It's like a movement with hundreds of people at sea and millions of people on land, and it's not stoppable until the siege is broken,” he said.

The Global Sumud Flotilla, made up of about 50 ships, set sail earlier this month to break Israel's blockade on Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid, particularly medical supplies, to the war-ravaged enclave.

Since March 2, Israel has fully closed Gaza's crossings, blocking food and aid convoys and deepening famine conditions in the enclave.

The Israeli army has killed over 66,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children, in Gaza since October 2023. The relentless bombardment has rendered the enclave uninhabitable and led to starvation and the spread of diseases.

The Ummah Union: A new path to Palestinian freedom

Why has the world failed Palestine for so long?

By Bobby Ciputra

JAKARTA - A simple question that shakes the conscience. Decades of UN resolutions have been issued, dozens of negotiations have been held, but the results have always been deadlocked. Palestine remains under occupation, its people's rights still violated. The world seems busy talking, but paralyzed by action.

From this failure, the need for a new path arises.

The absence of equal power

For decades, the dream of an independent Palestinian state has been shattered by conflict, broken promises, and global indifference.

To date, Muslim countries have relied solely on forums like the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation). Their voices are loud, but their actions are minimal. Conflict after conflict in the Middle East demonstrates the inability of the international security system to uphold justice. The UN is frequently criticized, even by many European and Latin American countries, for its failure to protect the Palestinian people.

At the UN General Assembly in September 2025, countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, and South Africa voiced strong support for Palestinian independence, while Qatar and Jordan criticized the UN's inability to act decisively.

The support of 142 countries at the UN for Palestine demonstrated unprecedented global solidarity. The official recognition of the state of Palestine by France, Belgium, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom at the 80th UN General Assembly was a powerful signal of geopolitical change.

However, diplomatic support alone is not enough. Palestine needs real protection. The escalating conflict in the Middle East and the failure of international institutions demonstrate one thing: Muslim countries must create their own power.

Born out of crisis

This injustice has sparked awareness of a new path, and Muslim countries can no longer wait for external mercy. Ideas once considered utopian are now an urgent necessity.

Muslim countries must be bold enough to learn from a modern alliance inspired by a re-

imagined European Union and NATO. This vision will not only liberate Palestine but also reshape the global order for the better. The Ummah Union offers a new paradigm. It's not just a military pact, but a multi-dimensional alliance combining defense, economic, technological, and humanitarian forces. Imagine the synergy of Saudi Arabia's financial might, Turkey's military technology, Pakistan's nuclear capabilities, and the massive human resources of Indonesia, Iran, and Egypt.

Numerically, the Ummah Union would surpass the combined might of NATO, with over 6 million active troops. However, its true advantage lies in its control of strategic global trade routes. The Suez Canal, the Bosphorus Strait, the Strait of Hormuz, and even the Strait of Malacca are all vital trade routes within the control of Muslim nations. Without these routes, the global economy would be completely paralyzed. Combined with its control of 65% of the world's oil reserves and 45% of its natural gas reserves, the Ummah Union would possess extraordinary economic bargaining power.

Solidarity from the sea

We recently witnessed the Global Sumud Flotilla, the largest international humanitarian civilian fleet attempting to break the Israeli blockade to bring aid to Gaza.

The Global Sumud Flotilla demonstrates that collective action at the civilian level can create unexpected geopolitical ripples. The flotilla, consisting of 50 to 70 ships, carries delegations from 44 countries across six continents.

From Spain, Italy, and Tunisia, dozens of ships carrying activists, doctors, humanitarian volunteers, and medical aid departed from Spanish ports on August 31st. They will join a second flotilla in Tunisia on September 4th, then sail together to Gaza, a distance of approximately 3,000 km.

The Global Sumud Flotilla has been sailing for approximately four weeks. As of September 28, 2025, Gaza media reported that the flotilla was still approximately 460 nautical miles from Gaza. Some ships encountered technical difficulties and bad weather. The flotilla continued its mission despite the obstacles.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian journalist honored as influential figure in tourism sector

TEHRAN – Fatemeh Karimi, a tourism reporter with Mehr News Agency, was honored on Monday as an influential woman in Iran’s tourism sector at a ceremony in Tehran marking Tourism Week.

Tourism Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri presented the award to Karimi at the Women Pioneers in Tourism meeting, held at the Mellat Hall of the Saadabad Historical Complex.

Speaking at the event, Karimi said female reporters have played a significant role in highlighting Iran’s tourism potential and portraying the country as a safe destination for women. “Most reporters in cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts are women. They have helped introduce society to tourism and Iran’s capabilities.”

Karimi added that many of these reporters are also travelers themselves and, through their observations and writing, “show Iran as a safe country to women tourists around the world.”

She had previously received similar recognition in 2017 on World Tourism Day in a ceremony attended by ambassadors, lawmakers, and tourism officials.

In December 2021, Karimi, was introduced as one of four pioneering women in Iran’s tourism sector in a book published by Australia’s University of Queensland focusing on women’s tourism activities in the country. The book states: “In



recent years, Iranian women have played various roles in the development of tourism, ranging from working as tour guides to becoming entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Women in Iran run and manage small or medium-sized businesses, including leading domestic and international tour groups, creating and selling handicrafts, providing tourism training and education, and managing different types of accommodation and related services in various cities.

In addition, the number of active Iranian women is increasing, and they are increasingly participating in projects related to sustainability and tourism, empowering women through tourism, and protecting the environment.

Sheikh Safi al-din Shrine: an intersection of Iranian history, mysticism, culture

TEHRAN – The UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble in Ardabil, northwest of Iran, were built between the beginning of the 16th century and the end of the 18th century. It is sometimes referred to as an intersection of Iranian history, mysticism, and culture.

This place of spiritual retreat in the Sufi tradition uses Iranian traditional architectural forms to maximize use of available space to accommodate a variety of functions (including a library, a mosque, a school, mausolea, a cistern, a hospital, kitchens, a bakery, and some offices).

Where chinaware donated from the Chinese Empire, a 700-hundred cloak, and the tombs of martyred generals of Chaldoran, each tell a living story of Iran’s identity and glory.

Sheikh Safi al-Din, a prominent mystic and a disciple of Sheikh Zahed Gilani, is the founder of a dynasty that shaped the fate of Iran for centuries: the Safavid dynasty. His tomb, along with a collection of historical halls, exquisite objects, and the tombs of the Chaldean warlords, has become one of the most important cultural and historical destinations in Iran.

One of the most fascinating parts of the complex is Chinikhaneh, a 400-year-old hall that houses more than 1,200 pieces of blue and white porcelain.

14 ancient Iranian foods and cuisines recreated

TEHRAN – Director-General of the Domestic Tourism Development Office of Cultural Heritage Ministry Mostafa Fatemi said that based on archaeological excavations, four traditional dishes from ancient Iran have been recreated in the burnt city of Sistan-Baluchestan province and more than 10 historical dishes from the book ‘Sheikh of Food’ have been recreated.

He told IRNA: “Based on a combined work between tourism and archaeology and using the contents of some historical books, we have recreated several examples of ancient and historical dishes such as ‘Wheat pilaf’ which was cooked using coriander and meat on several occasions. There have been various dishes in Iran whose taste and flavor have changed throughout history, we must be able to introduce the history of the dishes.”

Several festivals of ancient cuisines have been held in Shiraz and Zahedan for introducing the history of the foods and recreating them, he said, adding the first competition of ancient foods was held at one of the food academies in Tehran.

“Like other people in the world, Iranians have turned to European-style fast food and fast-cooked meals due to their lifestyle, while in our

Bridges, blossoms, and beyond: discovering Yunnan and Chongqing

From Page 1 ▶ I had previously traveled to Guangdong and Xinjiang, but Yunnan was different. It was raw, lush, and enchanting. At times, as I wandered its landscapes, I felt as though I had been transported into the depths of the Amazon rainforest.

Kunming: gateway to the plateau

The first two days of the forum — September 16 and 17 — were filled with meetings and events in Kunming, the provincial capital. But once the sessions ended, our real journey began: a whirlwind of visits, discoveries, and encounters.

We started with Dianchi Lake, the “Sparkling Pearl of the Plateau.” Spanning 300 square kilometers, it is where city dwellers come daily to escape the noise of modern life, to embrace nature, and to breathe in tranquility. Standing at its shores, one feels both small and renewed.

There, we met a young man named Toyama, who had left behind years of success in Paris to return with his wife to rural Yunnan. In a quiet village, he now runs a modest bakery — and as he shared his story, I couldn’t help but feel that this too was a kind of homecoming: a search for meaning in simplicity.

An ocean of flowers

Perhaps the most dazzling stop in Kunming was the Flower Market and Exchange, the beating heart of China’s floral trade. Ranked second in the world, it sells over 14 billion stems each year — nearly two for every person on the planet!

Inside, the air was perfumed, the colors overwhelming. I felt like a butterfly lost in an ocean of petals. Hundreds of young traders sat behind glowing monitors, selling flowers online in real time to clients across the globe. Here, prices bloom and fade in a matter of seconds, determined through a fast-paced digital auction.

Each flower, I thought, was destined for its own story: to bring a smile to a lover, reconcile old friends, celebrate a birth, mark an achievement, or perhaps rest solemnly on a grave. Like people, flowers too carry their destinies.

Smart your future

From blossoms to engines, our journey shifted to one of China’s great industrial giants: Changan Automobile. With its motto “Smart Your Future,” Changan stands among the country’s top four carmakers, exporting vehicles to nearly 100 nations.

At the Avatar production line, robotic arms swung tirelessly, assembling sleek frames with mechanical precision. Young workers moved steadily along the line, guiding the machines. This was the only place where cameras were forbidden, perhaps to keep trade secrets safe. Yet one wall revealed the human side: covered in small handwritten notes where workers shared their thoughts and hopes with managers.

Beyond the highlights: other visits

Throughout our journey, we also visit-



ed numerous other fascinating sites — too many to detail individually, but worth listing for their significance:

Chongqing High-tech Zone, Hydropower Culture Exhibition Hall, Western Science City, Chongqing High-Tech Industrial Development Zone, Yunnan Energy Investment Group, Liquid Metal Production Area, Tongquan Wind Farm, Avatar Smart Digital Factory, the world’s largest 5G automotive factory, Xuanwei Museum, Changan Automotive Global R&D Center and Tianshu Intelligent Lab, Shizitan Hydropower Plant, Fishing village of Nylia and etc.

New friends around the world

Beyond exploring the beauty and richness of China, this trip had another tremendous advantage: I met new, professional friends from across the globe. Journalists from Africa, Europe, and several Asian countries joined us, creating opportunities for exchanges, collaborations, and friendships that I will always cherish.

Chongqing: the city of rivers

Our journey then led us to Chongqing, where we spent two days in a city that never fails to impress. With a history stretching back 3,000 years, Chongqing is cradled between the mighty Yangtze and Jialing rivers. At night, the bridges glow with spectacular light shows, luring tourists to snap photos against the illuminated skyline.

During World War II, Chongqing served as China’s wartime capital, which added to its importance. Today, like Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin, Chongqing is directly administered by the central government, a mark of its strategic stature.

Modern skyscrapers soar beside centuries-old alleys; the city thrives on contrasts. Its vast inland port hums with activity, serving as a critical hub for the Belt and Road Initiative. At night, we made our way to Liziba Monorail Station, where, to the delight of onlookers, trains pass directly through a residential building — a surreal scene that has

made this station a world-famous attraction.

Persian poetry with the flavor of Chinese cuisine

Yet beyond the grand landmarks and modern marvels, what struck me most was the rhythm of everyday life. Each evening, despite exhaustion from long walks and countless visits, I ventured out. Street markets came alive at night, with groups gathering over steaming dishes and laughter echoing down the sidewalks.

In Xuanwei, I stumbled upon a wedding. The groom, smiling warmly, invited me into their photos — and to my amazement, I discovered that some of their wedding customs mirrored those in Iran.

In Kunming, a friend led me to a small halal eatery. Its owner, an elderly man named Ibrahim, spoke a little Persian and Arabic. He knew the verses of Saadi’s Gulistan and Bustan, and even Rumi’s Masnavi. There, over bowls of steaming noodles, Persian poetry mingled with Chinese hospitality.

Human connections at the heart of the Belt and Road

On September 25, my two fellow Iranians and I boarded a flight from Ürümqi, returning to Tehran with a treasure chest of memories. China, I realized, is a country that never stops surprising you.

As our plane soared above the snowcapped mountains of Xinjiang, I reflected on the Belt and Road Initiative. While its visible layers may be economic and developmental, its true foundation lies in human and cultural connections between nations. And in that mission, media has a central role — not just as a bridge of information, but as a thread weaving people and societies together.

This journey was more than a visit to China. It was a reminder that behind every city, every enterprise, and every initiative lies the essence of humanity: our shared stories, traditions, and dreams.

Minister appreciates role of women in tourism industry

TEHRAN--Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri appreciated the role of women in Iran’s tourism sector, adding that some half of the country’s tourism capacity is held by women.

Between 30 and 40 percent of management positions in hotels and 60 percent of ecotourism management are held by women, he said.

Speaking at the gathering of influential women in tourism, which was held in the presence of the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Zahra Behrouz-Azar, at the Sa’dabad Historical and Cultural Complex on Monday, he said that women have a powerful presence in the field of tourism and are responsible for 30 percent of the capacity of guides and 50 percent of the capacity of travel agencies.

He said that women have the right to assume half of the government’s capacities, adding: “Our approach is to entrust the work to women. We must move beyond the approach of petrification and inaction and accept that anyone who is worthy can be the standard-bearer. The fact is that wherever we entrusted work to the women, we were successful.”

Salehi-Amiri said that Iranian women are motivated to prove their abilities and professional competence. It should be believed that the development will not be possible without half of the population of the society, he added.

The minister continued that Iranian women

need equal status. “We must believe that in a society, humanity has an identity. The Iranian government believes in the presence of women in power. In a moral and humane society, gender has no place and all humans enjoy equal and fair rights.”

He added: “The worst form of view is the instrumental view towards women. We must get out of this contemptuous view. No one has the right to use this capacity instrumentally, it is the right of women to occupy half of the management positions. Whenever we trusted women and girls, we received a positive response. We are trying to follow this rational path quickly.”

“This week is a week of celebration and joy for the Iranian tourism community, and we will hold programs with the presence of women and men active in this industry.”

Another speaker at the event, Behrouz-Azar said that families spend more time with each other during travel, adding: “We should introduce Iran to the future generation.”

She said: “In some Achaemenid tablets, we see how much attention is paid to women. Today, we pursue maternal privileges in the government, but at the same time, women’s demands were pursued. The issue we are talking about today is not something that did not exist before. In the contemporary era, we witnessed the strong presence of women, so much so that the late Imam Khomeini (may Allah have mercy on him) would discuss it in his speeches. We had more than 17,000 women martyrs, war veterans, and freed prisoners of war in the Sacred Defense.”



Behrouz-Azar said, “All programs should be for the formation and advancement of the family system. Article 10 of the Constitution stipulates that all people are under the equal protection of the law. Article 21 is also specific to women. The President emphasizes in all meetings that the potential of women be utilized. Currently, more than 20 management positions have been given to women by the President and four women are working at the deputy level. Our effort is to ensure that the families achieve what they deserve.”

Pointing to family trips with children, she said: “A child feels safe in an environment that is less familiar only with the family. The feeling of seeing new places and new experiences with the family is very important to him. This happens during travel. In today’s family, more than anything, we need family members to spend time together.”

She added: “When we talk about Iran, we should know Iran because our country has four seasons. These are things that our children and the future generation should know.”

Iranian House of Innovation and Technology inaugurated in Indonesia

TEHRAN –An Iranian House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) has been established in Jakarta, Indonesia, to boost economic ties between the two countries and expand the export of knowledge-based products.

Supported by the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, and the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, the center was launched in the presence of Iran's ambassador to Jakarta, Mohammad Boroujerdi, concurrent with the 37th Indonesia Hospital Expo, held from September 25 to 28, ISNA reported.

During the opening ceremony, the official expressed hope that the inauguration of the center would be a turning point in the expansion of the economic relations between the two countries, paving the way for a stronger presence of Iranian companies in Southeast Asian markets.

It will also contribute to strengthening joint efforts between Tehran and Jakarta, he added.

The center aims to facilitate the entry of Iranian firms into Indonesia's markets and lay the ground for extensive cooperation in the fields of health and technology.

Iranian knowledge-based companies participated in business-to-business meetings and held negotiations with representatives of Indonesian organizations like the Ministry of Sport and Youth, the Association of Indonesian Private Hospitals (AR-SSI), major medical equipment distributors, and local manufacturers.

These meetings were primarily



aimed at exploring the potential for cooperation in production, distribution, and market development of medical equipment.

Indonesia Hospital Expo featured medical, pharmaceutical, clinical, and laboratory equipment alongside medicine, offering industry participants an opportunity to display innovations and network for potential profitable investments.

The event served as a great opportunity for Iranian knowledge-based firms and manufacturers to showcase their capabilities and products in the field.

Boosting tech ties

On the sidelines of the second Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-15) Dialogue Platform, May 18 to 20, an Indonesian delegation led by Brian Yulianto, the Indonesian Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Technology, paid a visit to the technology park

in University of Tehran to become more familiar with the achievements of knowledge-based companies in different sectors like engineering, medicine, biotechnology, and industry.

Yuliarto held a meeting with Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarrafi. The officials conferred on ways to foster scientific and technological relations.

During the meeting, Yuliarto voiced Indonesia's readiness to emulate Iran's achievements in technology parks and implement the successful experiences of the Ministry of Science in Indonesia.

The official also announced his willingness to benefit from collaborative partnerships to conduct joint research projects in the fields of industry, medical equipment, vaccines, artificial intelligence (AI), and biotechnology.

Referring to Indonesia's population of more than 280 million

and the country's accomplishments in the agricultural sector, including the large-scale production of rice in the new year, the official emphasized Indonesia's readiness to share these experiences with Iran.

Exchanging professors and post-graduate students, and paying a visit to scientific centers were among other issues discussed by the two sides.

For his part, Simaei-Sarrafi highlighted the capacities of the two countries in AI and proposed utilizing available data to develop a joint network for the promotion of the two countries' technological advancement.

The official expressed readiness to expand scientific ties between the two nations, inviting Indonesia to invest in the science and technology sectors. Establishing joint technology parks as well as providing required technical consultations were also discussed.

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

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

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

Earthquakes down by 4.2% in a month yr/yr

TEHRAN – A total of 553 earthquakes hit Iran over the past calendar month that ended on September 22, indicating a 4.2 percent drop in the number of earthquakes compared to the same period last year.

In comparison to a month earlier, July 23 – August 22, the number of earthquakes has decreased by 1.5 percent, IRNA reported.

The figure has dropped by 4.3 percent in comparison with the monthly average frequency of earthquakes over the past Iranian year (March 2024–March 2025), IRNA reported.

From August 23 to September 22, statistically, 474 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3; 69 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4; and 10 earthquakes with a magnitude between 4 and 5 have occurred

in the country.

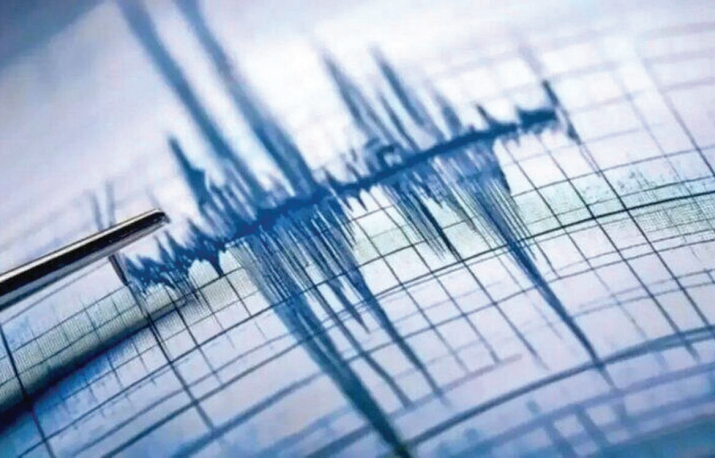
Of the total quakes, two had a magnitude of 4.7 on the Richter scale, which occurred on September 13 and 14 in Fars province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kerman, with 65, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by Khorasan Razavi and Yazd provinces, with 63 and 42 earthquakes, respectively.

During the same period, two earthquakes hit Tehran province.

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

Out of registered earthquakes, 150 were more than 4 on the



Richter scale; at least five earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 4.5 occurred monthly in the country.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the di-

sasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

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

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Hospital beds capacity rises to improve medical system

Health Minister Saeed Namaki inaugurated 23 health centers, including 201 hospital beds, in Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Khuzestan provinces on Tuesday.

Built on 26,935 square meters area, the centers were constructed with a budget of 2.9 trillion rials (nearly \$70 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The Ministry of Health is scheduled to add 10,600 hospital beds to the capacity of the country's medical system within the next 7 months.

Two years ago, there were a total of 140,859 beds in the country, which means 1.7 hospital beds per 1,000 population.

افزایش ظرفیت تخت های بیمارستانی با هدف بهبود نظام درمانی

سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت امروز به صورت مجازی ۲۳ مرکز بهداشتی و درمانی را شامل ۲۰۱ تخت بیمارستانی در استان های لرستان، کرمانشاه و خوزستان افتتاح کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، این مراکز در زیربنای ۲۶ هزار و ۹۳۵ مترمربع و با اعتباری بالغ بر ۲۹۸۰ میلیارد ریال ساخته شده است. وزارت بهداشت قرار است تا ۱۲ فروردین سال ۱۴۰۰، ۱۰ هزار و ۶۰۰ تخت بیمارستانی به ظرفیت بیمارستان های کشور اضافه کند.

در انتهای سال ۱۳۹۷ مجموعاً ۱۴۰ هزار و ۸۵۹ تخت فعال در کشور فعال بود که اگر این میزان را به ازای جمعیت محاسبه کنیم، ضریب تعداد جمعیت به تخت مان، ۱.۷ تخت به ازای هر ۱۰۰۰ نفر است.

Some 4,600 prisoners of involuntary crimes freed in six months

TEHRAN – In the first six months of the current Iranian year (which began on March 21), a total of 4,597 prisoners of unintentional crimes were released from prison.

The debt of the released prisoners was 180 trillion rials (about 163 million dollars), IRNA reported.

Of the total prisoners released, 4,330 were male and 267 were female.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, allocated 40 billion rials (some \$36 million) for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes.

Currently, there are 17,747 individuals imprisoned for unintentional crimes. These include 16,859 men and 888 women, with a total debt of 750 trillion rials (about 681 million dollars).

Over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024–March 2025), benefactors contributed to releasing 11,380 prisoners of unintentional crimes in the country. Also, 2,441 prisoners were pardoned during the same period, ISNA reported.

World Heart Day: Persian medicine sheds light on cardiac health

TEHRAN – Regular physical activity, healthy nutrition, and sufficient sleep are key factors to heart health, Nafiseh Hosseini-Yekta, the director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office, has said.

Exercise strengthens the heart, but it should be done moderately and modified according to each individual's situation. For healthy people, moderate, gradual, and consistent exercises such as walking, light cycling, and swimming are the best choices, as they help improve blood circulation and increase vitality.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Heart Day, which is marked on September 29 every year.

Aerobic exercise, such as gentle walking and, in cases approved by the person's doctor, light resistance training, can improve heart function. The key is to start gradually and avoid a sudden increase in intensity.

Quality sleep also supports heart health. Creating a dark, quiet, and restful environment ensures cardiac health, she added.

Highlighting the role of healthy nutrition, the official said a heart-healthy diet involves a balanced and varied intake of fresh, natural foods. Avoiding overeating and reducing intake of heavy, fatty, and processed foods are essential to prevent heart disease.

Referring to herbal medicines, Hosseini-Yekta said these medicines have to be prescribed by Persian medicine experts to avoid possible side effects and drug interactions.

It is worth noticing that Persian medicine aims to strengthen health and prevent diseases. However, if symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, or abnormal heart-beat occur, it is essential to promptly seek medical attention and consult a cardiologist to receive specialized treatments, she further noted.

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels and include coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease, and other conditions.

Over three-quarters of CVD deaths take place in low- and middle-income countries.

Most cardiovascular diseases can be prevented by addressing behavioural and environmental risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet (including excess salt, sugar, and fats), obesity, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol, and air pollution.

CVDs, mainly heart attacks, account for 40 percent of annual deaths in Iran. According to the latest statistics released by the World Health Organization (WHO), over the past 35 years, the cases of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in Iran have increased by 180 percent; however, the current prevalence and incidence rate of the diseases have decreased by 30 percent, and death rates from cardiovascular diseases have fallen by 40 percent.

The number of released prisoners has increased by 22 percent compared to the Iranian year 1402 (March 2023 –March 2024). Of the total released prisoners, 682 were female and 10,698 were male, who were incarcerated due to their inability to pay financial debts. The total debt of the released prisoners was over 270 trillion rials (about 270 million dollars).

Tehran, Fars, and Khorasan Razavi provinces ranked first to third with the release of 1,088, 878, and 829 prisoners of involuntary crimes, respectively. Currently, there are 14,591 inmates of unintentional crimes nationwide. Tehran (with 2,536), Fars (with 1,331), and Isfahan (with 1,183) provinces have the highest number of prisoners of involuntary crimes.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave, and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison. The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

Moreover, disability-adjusted life years have dropped by 45 percent.

In addition to high blood pressure, low physical activity, unhealthy diet, smoking, and drinking alcohol are four risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

Those aged 30 and older are advised to go to health centers to be checked for probable high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease.

A three-month, six-month, and one-year care plan will be arranged for those who visit health centers based on their age, family history, and weight. This program helps to detect the disease earlier or control the risk factors in people.

One in five people will die early from cardiovascular disease (CVD), which claims more lives than cancer and chronic respiratory diseases combined. Yet, up to 80 percent of heart disease and stroke cases are preventable through affordable access to care, early screening, and more opportunities to make healthy choices in nutrition and stay active.

That's why every September 29, World Heart Day is celebrated to raise awareness of CVD and the importance of taking care of your heart.

The theme for World Heart Day 2025 is 'Don't Miss a Beat'. Loved ones around the world are missing out on time they should still have to spend together due to early deaths from CVD. Which is why this 29 September tells the world: Don't Miss a Beat.

Persian medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda'). The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

Surveys show that more than 80 percent of people in the country intend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine.

Their interest in traditional medicine has never faded. Traditional medicine is being taught in universities.

Traditional medicine has its roots in the culture, customs, and traditions of Iranians and has always been of interest to them.

With over five hundred graduates in the field and numerous research articles that have been published, the country has been able to improve its position by being ranked fourth in the production of science in the field of traditional medicine in the world, following China, India, and the United States.

Traditional medicine (and conventional medicine are complementary. Each of these medicines has unique capabilities that can be used together.



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SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The greatest Jihad is to battle your own soul. To fight the evil within yourself.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:54 Evening: 18:08 Dawn: 4:36 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:59 (tomorrow)

Madrid museum partners with UNRWA for Gaza photojournalism show

One of Spain's best-known art institutions has launched an exhibition featuring photographs taken by photojournalists in war-torn Gaza, aiming to awaken "sleeping consciences" in a country that has already been at the forefront of highlighting the humanitarian calamity in the Palestinian territory.

Visitors to the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid can have an opportunity to see Gaza through the eyes of the journalists who, since October 7, 2023, have documented the conflict in the Strip.

Titled "Gaza Through Their Eyes," the new exhibition is presented in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO), and brings together 27 photographs by UNRWA members. The show is on view through October 19, ARTnews reported.

The scenes depicted in the images may be familiar from social media: the night sky over Gaza blazing red and filled with smoke, or the bodily chaos of a food distribution site. But the perspective is harrowingly personal.

Earlier this year, the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs' Costs of War project reported that at least 220 journalists have been killed in the Gaza Strip in nearly two years, more than in conflicts waged in Vietnam, Yugoslavia, and Afghanistan, and the two World Wars, combined. Consequently, professional ground reports from Gaza have dwindled, leaving viewers worldwide largely in the dark.

To protect the safety of the participating photojournalists, the 27 photographs on display are unsigned. Israel has barred foreign reporters from Gaza, forcing international media to rely solely on local journalists and photographers.

UNRWA is an organization mandated by the UN General Assembly to serve "Palestine

refugees," per its official description. Those services, since October 7, 2023, have largely shifted to emergency response in the form of establishing shelters, and providing basic life necessities such as water, sanitation, and medical aid.

"UNRWA photojournalists document life under siege," the museum said in a statement. "They are people who risk their lives to bear witness to what is happening in Gaza. However, you will not see their names on these photographs, as it would pose a risk to their protection. This exhibition is their lens. It is Gaza's voice. It is a call not to look away."

Spain has been one of the most vocal critics in Europe of the offensive in Gaza. Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has called for Israel to be barred from international sporting events, and has approved an arms embargo on the country, in response to the conflict.

Irene Khan, the U.N.'s special rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, has accused Israel of targeting journalists in Gaza in an effort to cover up what she calls "genocide."

"These are not distant images. They are human gazes that compel us to recognize the dignity of a people who are suffering," Culture Minister Ernest Urtasun said at the exhibition's opening.

"These photos document the bombings and devastation in the Gaza Strip, the forced displacement of the population, and the targeting of civilian infrastructure," said Raquel Martí, head of the Spanish branch of UNRWA.

Guillermo Solana, the museum's artistic director, added that the organizers hoped the images would serve "as a wake-up call for those who still refuse to see and turn away from what is happening."

The exhibition will remain on display until October 19.

Cartoon of Day



Netanyahu's speech at the United Nations

Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

Qeshm Island will host 1st Avaye Solh International Film Festival

TEHRAN – The first edition of Avaye Solh International Film Festival will be organized in Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf in November.

Avaye Solh (literally meaning Voice of Peace) festival is being organized with the participation of the Qeshm Free Zone Organization, the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free Zones, and under the auspices of the Cultural and Artistic Department of the House of Iran's Peace Corps.

With Laleh Eskandari serving as festival director, the event will take place in November, featuring national and international works in the categories of short film, feature film, documentary, and animation.

So far, more than 500 works from Iran and 11 other countries, including the United States, France, Spain, Italy, Russia, China, and Australia, have been submitted to the festival's secretariat, with short fiction films making up the largest share of entries.

To provide filmmakers with broader opportunities for participation, the festival's website will reopen for submissions tomorrow and remain accessible for 10 days.



The Avaye Solh International Film Festival was founded by the Cultural and Artistic Department of the Iranian Peace Soldier House, rooted in the belief that art is a universal language for promoting peace, empathy, and human dignity.

This festival serves as a platform for artists and audiences who believe in the transformative power of sound, image, and storytelling to create a kinder, more compassionate world.

The event seeks to showcase films and artistic works that not only reflect themes of hope, friendship, and awareness, but also have the power to move hearts and minds.

By bridging the worlds of art and peace, the festival aims to create a space for dialogue, listening, and visibility—especially for those voices often drowned out in the noise of our times.

The festival aspires to become a catalyst in the cultural landscape of Iran and the region, building a bridge between hearts that long for a better life for all humankind.

The Avaye Solh Festival is organized with the goal of promoting global peace. The first edition of the festival is dedicated to cinema, with future editions set to expand into other artistic disciplines. This initiative strives to amplify the message of peace through the universal language of art, bringing the voice of peace to the world.

IAF to show Hitchcock's "Psycho"

TEHRAN – Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 horror film "Psycho" will be screened at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Thursday.

The screening is set for 5 p.m. and the 109-minute movie will be shown at the Nasser Hall of the IAF with Persian subtitles, ILNA reported.

The film stars Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh, Vera Miles, John Gavin, and Martin Balsam. The plot centers on an encounter between on-the-run embezzler Marion Crane (Leigh), shy motel proprietor Norman Bates (Perkins) and his disturbed mother. A private investigator (Balsam), Marion's lover Sam Loomis (Gavin) and her sister Lila (Miles) investigate her disappearance.

Psycho was seen as a departure from Hitchcock's previous film, "North by Northwest"

(1959), as it was filmed on a small budget in black-and-white by the crew of his television series "Alfred Hitchcock Presents".

Initially, the film divided critics due to its controversial subject matter, but audience interest and outstanding box-office returns prompted a major critical re-evaluation. "Psycho" was a massive commercial success; from a budget of \$806,947 (\$6.2 million with 2025 inflation), the film gained \$50 million (\$384.5 million with 2025 inflation) at the box office, worldwide, not including the money made with rentals.

"Psycho" was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Director for Hitchcock and Best Supporting Actress for Leigh.

"Psycho" is now considered one of Hitchcock's best films, and is arguably his most famous and influential work. It has been hailed as a major work of cinematic art by international film critics and scholars who praise its slick direction, tense atmosphere, impressive camerawork, memorable score and iconic performances.

It is regarded as "the most heavily analyzed film in the long career of the most investigated director in the history of American film" and often ranked among the greatest films of all time. It set a new level of acceptability for violence and has been considered to be one of the earliest examples of the slasher film genre.

In 1992, the Library of Congress deemed the film "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" and selected it for preservation in the United States National Film Registry.

Iranian director restages Schmitt's "Frederick" in Tehran

TEHRAN- Iranian director Hamidreza Naimi is restaging an adaptation of the play "Frederick" by Belgian playwright Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt at Vahdat Hall in Tehran.

A cast composed of prominent actors Hamed Komeili, Atefeh Razavi, Behnam Sharafi and Bahar Noughian is performing the play translated into Persian by Shahla Haeri.

Naimi staged "Frederick" earlier at Vahdat Hall in May and at City Theater Complex in 2023.

Schmitt's play "Frederick," originally titled "Frederick or the Crime Boulevard," intricately weaves the complexities of theater and life, exploring the fascinating world of performance, ambition, and human connection. At its center is Frederick Lemaitre, a flamboyant

19th-century actor whose charisma captivates Paris.

Renowned for his theatrical prowess and passionate portrayals of love on stage, Frederick revels in his eccentricities while shunning genuine emotional ties in his personal life.

The play delves into the intrigues surrounding the theater, highlighting the often-tumultuous relationships between actors, the ineptitude of an avaricious playwright, and the manipulative nature of a greedy manager. Within this lively backdrop, themes of happiness and the burdens that accompany the acting profession emerge, ultimately emphasizing the paradox of seeking authenticity in a world driven by illusion.

Frederick's life takes a turn

when he encounters Bérénice, a mysterious woman untouched by the theatrical realm. Her presence challenges Frederick's long-held beliefs about love, prompting him to confront a pivotal choice: should he embrace the authentic feelings that Bérénice evokes, or continue the façade of fleeting romances and theatrical allure? This encounter poses profound questions about the nature of love—whether it is a constructed performance or a genuine experience—and highlights the dichotomy between the stage and reality.

As Frederick navigates these emotional complexities, the audience is invited to reflect on their own perceptions of love and the often blurry lines between truth and performance. Ultimately, "Frederick" is a poignant exploration of the intricacies of love, ambition, and the human condition within the vibrant yet precarious world of the theater.

Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt is a renowned Franco-Belgian playwright, short story writer, novelist, and film director whose works have been staged in over fifty countries.

In the 1990s, Schmitt gained rapid acclaim through plays like "Don Juan on Trial" and "The Visitor," the latter winning several prestigious awards. He has also authored notable novels, including "The Gospel According to Pilate" and "The Alternative Hypothesis."

Schmitt's diverse works explore philosophical themes and humanitarian issues, reflecting his wide-ranging literary talent.

"I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki" appears at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of Korean author Baek Se-hee's 2018 book "I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki" has recently been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Arezou Shantiaei.

"I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki" chronicles Baek's candid conversations with her psychiatrist about her ongoing struggle with depression, specifically dysthymia, while also exploring broader themes related to mental health, womanhood, trauma, and self-identity.

Since its initial self-publishing, the memoir has achieved remarkable success, becoming a bestseller across South Korea and being translated into 25 languages, with over a million copies sold worldwide. In 2022, an English edition translated by Anton Hur was published, further expanding its global reach.

The memoir is structured around Baek's re-

corded conversations with her psychiatrist, providing an intimate look at her diagnosis and personal experiences with depression. Alongside these dialogues, Baek includes reflective essays on mental health, romantic relationships, societal expectations of women, and personal trauma, offering a blend of narrative and analysis aimed at normalizing discussions around mental illness.

Critics responded to the book with mixed reviews; Kirkus Reviews noted its universality, despite cultural specifics, while Publishers Weekly criticized some parts as somewhat stilted and lacking engagement with serious issues. Nevertheless, many praised Baek's honesty and openness, with The Kathmandu Post emphasizing the compelling nature of her real-life experiences.

Internationally, the book was seen as groundbreaking for a South Korean work addressing mental health with such poignancy, challenge-

ing stereotypes and prejudices. The success of the memoir was further amplified by endorsements from notable figures like BTS leader RM, which helped propel its global popularity.

Recognized by outlets like The New York Times, Foyles, and Book Riot, the memoir has been listed among must-reads in various literary circles. Its impact extends beyond literature, contributing to ongoing conversations about mental health awareness in South Korea and around the world.

In 2019, Baek published a sequel, "I Want to Die but I Still Want to Eat Tteokbokki 2," which continues her dialogues with her psychiatrist. The sequel, also translated into English by Hur in 2024, maintains the candid tone of the original and deepens the exploration of Baek's mental health journey. The success of her memoirs underscores the power of honest storytelling in destigmatizing mental health issues and fostering broader societal understanding.