

# China, Russia Dismiss Iran UN Sanctions as Void



**Opposition from Beijing and Moscow, Iran's diplomatic maneuvers, and exhaustion of sanctions regime prevent the economic and social turmoil the West had hoped for** ▶ Page 3

Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin attend a welcome ceremony before talks at the Kremlin in Moscow.

## The West must accept that Iran's nuclear technology cannot be stopped

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – The sanctions that had been lifted against Iran under the 2015 nuclear deal, were snapped back against Iran at midnight on September 26. The sanctions are meant to apply strong pressure against the Islamic Republic.

These sanctions were activated by the European trio (E3) before the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was to expire on October 18, 2025. But since 2015, even stronger sanctions have been imposed. The U.S. has enforced a blockade on Iran and also on countries and companies that deal with Iran.

European countries like Britain, France, and Germany have less power than the U.S. when it comes to pressuring companies. Going back to snapback sanctions shows weakness. However, they will not affect Iran's nuclear program. ▶ Page 2

## Witkoff failed to appear in meeting: Iran

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for the Iranian government said Steve Witkoff, U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy, failed to appear in a meeting proposed by Iran after Tehran offered direct talks with him in the presence of the foreign ministers of the three European countries and the representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"Witkoff did not show up to the meeting," Fatemeh Mohajerani explained. Europe had told Iran it should agree to engage in direct talks with a U.S. representative if it wants extended relief from pre-JCPOA UN sanctions.

The spokesperson added that even Iran's offer of delaying the mechanism for 45 days was rejected through pressure by the Zionist lobby.

The United Nations has confirmed the reactivation of "snapback" sanctions against Iran after the UN Security Council failed to adopt a resolution to extend Resolution 2231 by six months.

It followed the formal invocation of the "snapback mechanism" last month by France, Britain, and Germany, the original signatories to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). ▶ Page 2

## Hunting West Asia: Who is next?

By Muhammad Akmal Khan

ISLAMABAD – When a hunter enters the woods, he is seldom alone. Behind him march the beaters, stirring the dust, hurling stones, forcing the prey from freedom into a single, fatal path. Exhausted and terrified, the prey stumbles before the hunter's feet, and one blow ends its life.

Today, across West Asia, that ancient drama is being staged once again, only this time with blood. The hunters are Israel and the United States. The beaters are regional rulers and world powers who whip up noise, fracture the terrain and drive peoples into traps from which there is no escape but death. As always, it is not the hunters or the beaters who pay the price, but the prey: ordinary men, women and children crushed beneath fire and fear.

This is no new game. Four decades ago the Iran-Iraq war began in just this way. Saddam Hussein was driven forward by the United States and its Western allies, Persian Gulf states poured in money, and the whole region went up in flames. Millions perished, Iran was left isolated under sanctions, and Iraq was reduced to rubble. A scar still runs through West Asian history. ▶ Page 3

## Lawmakers urge stronger coordination on nuclear issue in meeting with SNSC secretary

TEHRAN – Members of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee met with Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, on Tuesday to discuss a range of pressing issues, including the future of the nuclear program, regional dynamics, and the situation of Iran's strategic islands.

Committee spokesman Ebrahim Rezaei told reporters that during the meeting, lawmakers stressed the need for a firm response to Western non-compliance over the nuclear file and called for a redefinition of Iran's role in regional equations. ▶ Page 2

## Senator Lindsey Graham unsettled by Hezbollah's power

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — U.S. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham made a clear statement when he said, "It is not possible for the Middle East to be normalized until Hezbollah is taken off the table."

He added, "A Middle East with Hezbollah cannot be normal because Hezbollah is a fanatical, religious terrorist group with American blood on its hands and it is dedicated to the destruction of Israel."

In a pos on X on Sept. 30, Graham said, "If you want normalization, disarm Hezbollah one way or another." ▶ Page 5

## The arsonist as fire chief: Tony Blair must not govern Gaza

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Washington and Tel Aviv's latest idea for Gaza's "post-war transition" is as reckless as it is insulting: hand the reins to Tony Blair. Draft plans released by the White House name him as a member—and potential coordinator—of an international body supervising Gaza's transitional governance, under a board chaired by Donald Trump.

Palestinian voices have already rejected the notion outright. Hamas official Husam Badran described Blair as "a partner of the devil" and argued that the former British prime minister "has brought nothing good to Palestine, the Arabs, or to Muslims." ▶ Page 5

## IOF comes under fierce attack in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance forces intensify attacks against the occupying regime's military in the totally besieged Gaza Strip.

Al-Qassam and al-Quds Brigades have announced a wave of new operations against Israeli occupation forces (IOF), thwarting the regime's attempts to advance into both the northern and southern parts of Gaza City.

The Palestinian resistance movement, composed of various factions, continues to confront the IOF incursions into the Gaza Strip. This escalation comes as the occupying regime's military intensifies its genocidal assault on the civilian population in Gaza City with the aim of occupying it and imposing full military control.

Al-Qassam Brigades announced via their Telegram channel that they shelled a gathering of IOF soldiers near the Jordanian hospital in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood in southern Gaza City, using mortar shells.

The armed wing of Hamas further reported that their resistance fighters raided a group of IOF soldiers and military vehicles stationed inside the Rosary Sisters School in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood. ▶ Page 5

## 268 tourism projects worth \$130 million inaugurated across Iran

TEHRAN— A total of 268 tourism projects were inaugurated simultaneously via video conference by Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri on Wednesday.

They include 33 hotels and hotel apartments, 98 traditional and eco-tourism residences, 26 traditional dining halls, 12 tourism complexes, and 99 other tourism facilities, which, with a total investment of over 130 trillion rials (some \$130 million), will provide employment for 2,830 people.

Speaking at a ceremony which was held in a boutique hotel in downtown Tehran, Salehi-Amiri appreciated the efforts of investors in the tourism sector. ▶ Page 6



## Breaking the blockade: Global Sumud Flotilla's high-stakes journey to Gaza

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Concerns are growing over Israel's aggressive actions against the Global Sumud Flotilla, which is approaching Gaza in a bid to break the longstanding Israeli blockade on the Palestinian territory.

The flotilla, a civilian initiative, comprises over 40 boats carrying more than 500 people, including parliamentarians, lawyers, and activists. ▶ Page 5



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## It is essential to negotiate from a win-win standpoint

Jam-e-Jam discussed the hidden dynamics of the country's political structure in an interview with Mohammad Reza Bahonar, the secretary general of the Islamic Society of Engineers. He said: China and the United States are still negotiating with each other despite serious competition, or Russia and the United States despite the war in Ukraine, and this confirms the approach that negotiating with the United States is possible by observing certain conditions. We can negotiate with any country with which we share common interests, even countries that are hostile. We should not forget that we have a large Iranian lobby in the United States, and if common interests are defined, even American companies are willing to evade American sanctions. In this context, a principled view will help us. Before the imposed 12-day war, we were negotiating, but we were attacked. The task of this type of negotiation is clear. A negotiation in which one side says that you should not have any rights and you should not even be able to defend yourself is no longer a negotiation, but pure surrender. We must reach a point where we can negotiate in a win-win position by strengthening the country's deterrence and economic foundations, along with consolidating internal unity and cohesion. The negotiating field must guarantee our national interests.

### Vatan-e-Emrooz: Snapback and move towards new multipolar world order

Vatan-e-Emrooz wrote: At first glance European trio's action in invoking the snapback sanctions that restored the anti-Iran UN Security Council resolutions seemed to be a political and security challenge between Iran, Europe, and the United States. But Russia and China strongly opposed the veto-proof snapback mechanism. Questioning the snapback sanctions by the two world powers is highly significant. This is evidence that the Eastern powers are seriously challenging the existing world order and are accelerating their activities to establish a new order in the emerging multipolar world. In such a situation, Iran has great opportunities ahead. Iranian foreign policy decisionmakers must understand the new circumstances and define strategies so that we can increasingly receive the support of countries that are pushing for the establishment of a new world order.

### Iran: Prospects of Iran-China cooperation after snapback

The Iran newspaper spoke with Hamed Vafaei, a senior researcher on China affairs,

about the country's policy regarding the snapback mechanism. He said: From China's point of view, the legitimacy of snapback is still questionable and has not yet been accepted as a definitive measure within the framework of the Security Council and the international system. The relationship with China should not be limited to trade; this cooperation should expand to geopolitical, geoeconomic, and even geo-cultural domains. How the framework for Iran's cooperation with China is formed is a matter that depends on the decision and deliberation of the Islamic Republic. Iran has extensive capacities in cooperation with China, from energy and new technologies to civilizational areas and initiatives related to global governance. Therefore, a part of Beijing's foreign trade will always be allocated to Iran. But how much this share will be and what quality it will have depends on our strategic outlook and planning. The sooner we enter into common dialogue with China in operational and geopolitical areas, the greater the possibility of forming a sustainable and balanced cooperation.

### Khorasan: Plan for intervention

In a note, Khorasan addressed Trump's goal in saying that he thinks Iran could join Abraham Accords. (At a White House press conference in Washington beside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, Trump said, "Who knows, maybe even Iran can get in there... I think they're going to be open to it. I really believe that. But they could be a member.") Khorasan wrote: This scenario is exactly what the Zionist regime's intelligence services have been pursuing for years, namely activating political and security faults within Iran. The main goal is not for Iran to join the Abraham Accords, but rather to create suspicion, mental conflict, and incite internal division. Making such an impossible statement is itself part of a targeted maneuver with previous sinister intentions. He knows very well that the Islamic Republic will never give in to agreements that strengthen Israel and weaken Iran's national interests; therefore, it is logical to view this statement as a sign of an attempt to continue the sabotage project that has failed in previous stages, including during the 12-day War. This remark has a purpose beyond utterance, which is intended to create doubt, weaken cohesion, and provide intelligence and security grounds for future interventions. It must be carefully monitored and analyzed by the competent institutions.

## Deported nationals from US will receive full legal protection

### Judiciary says the returnees are entitled to the right as Iranian citizens

TEHRAN – Iran's Justice Ministry has pledged to defend the rights of 115 nationals recently deported from the United States, stressing that while the move falls under U.S. domestic law, the returnees remain entitled to full protection as Iranian citizens.

Askar Jalalian, Deputy Justice Minister for Human Rights and International Affairs, told Mizan News Agency that the flight carrying the deported Iranians landed in Tehran at 3 a.m. on Wednesday after transiting through Qatar. He emphasized that none of the returnees were convicts or had pending criminal cases.

"This return did not fall under the Ministry of Justice's formal mandate, which concerns the transfer of convicted nationals under judicial agreements," Jalalian explained. "Nonetheless, from a human rights and citizenship standpoint, the Ministry is following up on their situation and will intervene if any legal action is required."

The official underlined that all Iranians, regardless of where they reside or whether they hold dual nationality, are recognized as

citizens under Iran's single-nationality law. "They enjoy the full rights of Iranian citizens, and the homeland will always welcome them back," he said.

Jalalian noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant bodies coordinated the repatriation and are prepared to pursue any violations of the deportees' rights through legal channels.

Addressing Western media claims that some of the deportees faced "special circumstances," Jalalian stressed that unless a case is formally filed with the judiciary, "no one will be prosecuted, and we do not enter into such matters."

He concluded that while the deportations were a matter of U.S. domestic policy, Iran remains committed to supporting its nationals. "If any of these compatriots feel they have been wronged, they may bring their concerns forward. The Ministry of Justice, through its legal and consular commissions, is ready to hear and address their demands."

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

From page 1 ▶ Under the JCPOA, Iran accepted confidence-building limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of UN, US, and EU sanctions.

The agreement was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which also set a timeline for the permanent expiration of nuclear-related restrictions in October 2025.

However, Iran repeatedly complained that the United States, even under former President Barack Obama, was reluctant to allow Tehran to benefit economically from the deal.

In 2018, the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA and reimposed sweeping sanctions on Iran.

In response, and after waiting over a year for the European parties to compensate for the U.S. withdrawal, Tehran began gradually reducing its compliance with the nuclear limits in accordance with the JCPOA, while insisting it remained open to negotiations if sanctions were lifted.

The expiration of restrictions in October 2025 was meant to mark the conclusion of a decade-long nuclear dispute and the normalization of Iran's nuclear status.

But the E3 sought to prevent



Photo shows Steve Witkoff, U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy

this by invoking the deal's dispute resolution mechanism known as the snapback mechanism, which was originally formulated to allow the restoration of anti-Iran sanctions if Tehran were found in violation of its commitments.

Iran, however, maintains that its reduction of commitments was a legal and legitimate response to the U.S. and EU failure to fulfill their obligations, and therefore the E3 are in no position to trigger the

mechanism.

Russia, China, and some other countries have backed Iran's position, declaring that they do not recognize the restoration of anti-Iran sanctions.

Meanwhile, the secretary of Iran's Guardians Council has condemned the reinstatement of sanctions on the country as illegal.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said the move indicates

that hegemonic powers are unreliable and renege on their commitments.

Jannati added Iran's independence and might have always led the enemies to bear animosity toward the country since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The top cleric noted that Iranian people have always persisted in protecting their dignity and refused to succumb to the excessive demands of hegemonic powers.

## Lawmakers urge stronger coordination on nuclear issue in meeting with SNSC secretary

TEHRAN – Members of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee met with Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, on Tuesday to discuss a range of pressing issues, including the future of the nuclear program, regional dynamics, and the situation of Iran's strategic islands.

Committee spokesman Ebrahim Rezaei told reporters that during the meeting, lawmakers stressed the need for a firm response to Western non-compliance over the nuclear file and called for a redefinition of Iran's role in regional equations. He said parliamentarians also voiced concern over the weakening of certain national institutions and urged swift measures to address the hardships facing vulnerable social groups and deprived regions. Housing problems and the importance of Bumusa Island were also highlighted.

According to Rezaei, the meeting further addressed the situation in Afghanistan, the failure of past negotiations, the importance of national unity, and the need for guiding public opinion through responsible media engagement. He noted that the head of the parliamentary committee underlined the

necessity of continuous interaction and coordination between the Parliament and the Supreme National Security Council. Larijani, for his part, emphasized the importance of safeguarding national solidarity and strengthening social cohesion.

The discussions come amid growing calls in parliament for Iran to reconsider its membership in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Rezaei revealed on Monday that around 15 separate proposals have been submitted to the committee urging withdrawal in response to the European trio's (Britain, France, and Germany) decision to trigger the "snapback" mechanism. He said the committee has consolidated the proposals into a single draft, though it has not yet been placed on the Parliament agenda.

"The unlawful action of the three European countries has led many lawmakers to submit withdrawal proposals," Rezaei said, stressing that while the committee has reached a conclusion on one draft, no final parliamentary decision has been made.

The controversy stems from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in which Iran accepted limits on its



nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief under UN Security Council Resolution 2231. The resolution also set October 2025 as the deadline for the permanent lifting of nuclear-related restrictions.

Iran has long argued that the U.S. failed to honor its commitments, even before Washington withdrew from the agreement in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump and re-imposed sweeping sanctions. After waiting more than a year for Europe to offset the U.S. withdrawal, Tehran gradually reduced its compliance with JCPOA limits, insisting its actions were lawful under the deal and reversible if sanctions were lifted.

On September 19, the 15-member Security Council failed to adopt a resolution that would have prevented the re-imposition of UN sanctions on Iran after the E3 triggered the snapback mechanism and accused Tehran of failing to comply with the JCPOA.

A subsequent resolution, which sought to grant a six-month extension to both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231, also failed to pass at the Security Council on Friday.

Tehran has repeatedly dismissed the move as illegitimate, arguing that Washington forfeited any legal authority to invoke JCPOA mechanisms after walking away from the agreement.

## The West must accept that Iran's nuclear technology cannot be stopped



From page 1 ▶ The joint Israel-U.S. 12-day war against Iran in June did not lead to any changes in Iran's position. Iran has a legal right to a peaceful nuclear program, as guaranteed by international law and treaties, including the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iran was committed to the 2015 nuclear deal, but the West—especially the U.S.—broke it. The U.S. was the first to walk away from the JCPOA.

Iran is still part of the IAEA and is still negotiating. But these talks are now part of a long and tiring struggle that can't go on forever. The West, led by the U.S., makes the decisions. Europe only follows America's lead. If the U.S. is harsh, Europe is harsh. If the U.S. is flexible, Europe follows. Europe has no real independence in these matters.

The Iranian leadership has always had a clear vision: talks with the U.S. are pointless. They are not real negotiations as they are a means of subjugation, with their results predetermined. The goal is to impose these results and force Iran to give up its nuclear program. They also do not recognize the rights of the negotiating party, which is Iran. America, in particular, does not adhere to the results of agreements and can abandon them at any moment. Negotiations have also proven to be used as a deception, preparing for an attack.

What the West truly wants to stop is Iran's growing power, its missiles, and its influence

in the region. The U.S. wants to keep its control and power, especially in West Asia. Iran's resistance to this is based on its identity as an Islamic Republic. If Iran abandons this, that would mean it has abandoned the very foundation of its existence as an Islamic Republic, which embodies a comprehensive liberationist vision for itself, the region, and even for a new global system.

The West tried war for 12 days, but they saw that defeating or controlling Iran wasn't possible. They also realized that such a war would hurt U.S. interests, especially Israel. So, they are unlikely to try war again—unless they want to take the huge risk of using banned weapons like nuclear arms, hoping that would force Iran to give up.

If that doesn't happen, all current actions are just ways to apply pressure. Eventually, the West will have to accept that Iran's progress in nuclear technology cannot be stopped and Iran is an influential reality that must be acknowledged.



# China, Russia dismiss Iran UN sanctions as void

Opposition from Beijing and Moscow, Iran’s diplomatic maneuvers, and exhaustion of sanctions regime prevent the economic and social turmoil West had hoped for

**By Staff Writer**

TEHRAN – The reinstatement of United Nations sanctions against Iran, a process initiated by European powers and finalized last week, appears to have failed to achieve its intended political and economic impact.

The strategy, which analysts believe predicated on isolating Tehran and compelling a change in its posture, has been fundamentally undermined by robust opposition from Russia and China, coupled with Iran’s own demonstrated commitment to a diplomatic resolution.

From the outset, the legal foundation of the so-called “snapback” mechanism was forcefully challenged by two permanent members of the Security Council.

Repeating that opposition in a detailed formal letter delivered Wednesday, Russia’s Ambassador to the UN, Vasily Nebenzya, systematically dismantled the European troika’s case, declaring their actions “legally null and void.” He asserted that the United Kingdom, France, and Germany had bypassed established dispute resolution procedures and,



through their own violations of the nuclear accord, had forfeited the right to invoke its provisions. This position was firmly supported by China, whose foreign ministry spokesperson characterized the snapback as “not constructive” and a reversal of the diplomatic process, placing the root cause of the crisis on the United States’ initial withdrawal from the agreement.

China and Russia had previously declared in a joint statement with Iran that they would not abide by the pre-JCPOA UN

sanctions if they are re-imposed.

Iran, concurrently engaged in proactive diplomatic efforts in recent weeks that appears to have appeased the Iranian public. While Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was in New York, Tehran extended a direct offer for talks to U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff, proposing a meeting that would include European foreign ministers and the International Atomic Energy Agency. According to Iranian government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, this overture was met with either

rejection or a failure to appear, leaving Iran’s diplomatic efforts unanswered.

This sequence of events allowed the Iranian government to present a clear narrative to its people: it was pursuing every possible peaceful avenue, while the other side refused to engage.

Europeans had allegedly hoped that the move would trigger significant social unrest. But for many citizens, speaking to journalists in the days following the announcement, the return of sanctions was perceived not as a catastrophic new event, but as a continuation of a long-standing economic war. “Sanctions are not good. But they have been our reality for a long time,” said one middle-aged woman to the IRIB on a busy Tehran street. “To be honest, I no longer check to see if they have sanctioned us again.”

In the weeks preceding the UN decision, Iran’s currency markets experienced volatility and a sharp rise in rates, anticipating severe economic pressure. However, following the conclusion of the diplomatic saga and the reimposition of the contested sanctions, the panic notably subsided.

## Hunting West Asia: Who is next?

From Page 1 ▶ The pattern was repeated in Syria, Yemen and Lebanon. Sometimes militant groups were pushed to the front, at other times sectarian rifts were deliberately widened. Homes fell, generations were uprooted, while profits flowed to arms dealers and powerful states watching from afar.

Gaza is the latest stage. Air-strikes and ground assaults spared neither homes nor hospitals nor refugee camps. Thousands of children were buried beneath rubble, millions forced into the streets. Yet the global narrative was manipulated. Gaza was painted as the danger, Iran as the menace. Washington gave Israel a blank cheque, while some Muslim states offered diplomatic cover by signing President Trump’s so-called peace plan.

After Israel struck Qatar, the world briefly saw it for what it was, a rogue and aggressive state. For a moment Muslim nations seemed ready to rally, and public opinion tilted against Tel Aviv. Within days Trump and Netanyahu turned vulnerability into strength. With the backing of certain Muslim capitals, Israel was diplomatically shielded. It was no longer the oppressor. Suddenly those resisting it were

branded as criminals.

That treaty was itself a deception. Promises of prisoner releases, ceasefires and humanitarian aid were floated, but the real issues were buried. What of Palestinian statehood? Why were Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa brushed aside? Why was no limit placed on settlement expansion?

Standing over the corpses of starving children, do the architects of this order see sixty-six thousand dead Palestinians as mere collateral damage? The plan was little more than theatre, casting Israel as a peacemaker while blotting Palestinian resistance from the political map.

The most chilling element is the trap set for Hamas. If it fights, Israel’s brutality is excused as self-defence. If it lays down arms, Palestinian resistance dies. By endorsing diplomatic cover, some Muslim states have turned their backs on history, forgetting how often such promises have led only to betrayal.

Israel’s true quarry, however, has always been Iran. One by one its opponents have been targeted. First Hezbollah, then Hamas, then the Houthis of Yemen, and Syria left in ruins. All part of



Netanyahu and Trump at the White House.

the same strategy, designed to weaken and isolate Tehran. Amid the noise, Israel struck Iran directly. Bombing raids on Tehran and other cities showed that the hunter no longer relied solely on beaters. It was ready to fire openly. Iran answered with missile strikes to assert its presence and resolve. Yet the grim truth remains: the game of fear and hunger goes on, replayed under new names and slogans, its victims always the innocent.

History teaches us, and history rarely lies, that the strength of nations lies in their thirst for justice. That thirst creates collective fairness, and fairness

brings stability and security. Today, however, justice is drowned in the clamour of power. The roar is so loud that the cries of the oppressed can scarcely be heard.

Once again the drum is beating across West Asia. The roar of might buries justice, while Gaza’s children sob unheard and Iran’s resistance is trapped in the storm. Yet history also shows that no clamour lasts forever. Every drumbeat ends. The hunter moves on in search of the next prey, and one day the beaters themselves may find they are the quarry, their own instruments of the hunt turned fatally against them.

## Iran to aggravate punishment for spies

TEHRAN – Iran is to intensify punishment for espionage and collusion with the Israeli regime.

The spokesperson for Iran’s Guardians Council says the council has approved a motion to “aggravate punishment for espionage and collusion with the Israeli regime as well as countries bearing hostility against national security and interests.”

Hadi Tahan added the motion adopted by MPs during the 12-day Israeli imposed war on Iran could be enforced once the president is notified by Parliament.

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

The United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt

on the terrorist assault.

During the war, drones and munitions were reportedly smuggled into Iran to be used to strike targets inside the country.

Meanwhile, Iran apprehended several infiltrators spying for the Israeli regime. The agents were said to be operating smuggled drones to hit targets. Several of the arrested spies were executed after being convicted.

In one case, three men convicted of collaborating with Israel’s Mossad spy agency and smuggling bombs and demolition charges into Iran to assassinate distinguished Iranian figures were executed.

According to a statement published by the public relations wing of the judiciary, the executions took place in the northwestern Iranian city of Urmia after the supreme court upheld their death sentences after extensive legal proceedings.

The three men were identified as Idris Aali, Azad Shojaei, and Rasoul Ahmad.

The convicts were hanged on charges of “corruption on earth” (fesaad fil arz) and “waging war against God” (moharebeh) through collaboration with hostile foreign agencies at the behest of the Israeli regime.

Judicial records indicate that the individu-

als contacted a key Mossad agent in a neighboring country and brought devices required for the targeted killings of Iranian dignitaries into the country.

They smuggled the remotely controlled assassination devices under the guise of a consignment of alcoholic beverages and accordingly could murder an Iranian personality.

Following the identification and apprehension by Iranian intelligence forces, the trio stood trial in the courts of law to have their case examined and decided. Some of the defendants even had two defense lawyers in court.

After examination of documents provided by judicial officials indicating a connection with a high-profile Mossad operative and collaboration with the Israeli regime’s spy service, the defendants were sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Court of Urmia.

The apex court later reviewed the initial rulings and upheld them. Following the conclusion of all legal procedures, the sentences were implemented in accordance with the court’s final verdicts.

According to reports, several of agents affiliated with Mossad were arrested across following the Israeli aggression against the country.

## Iran runners-up at 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup

TEHRAN – Iran suffered a last-gasp 1-0 loss against England at the 2025 IBSA Blind Football Nations Cup final on Wednesday.

Azeem Amir scored the winner in the last second of the match.

Team Melli started the campaign with a 4-0 win over Poland but were held to a goalless draw against England. Iran also defeated India (3-0) and South Korea (3-0) and Italy (1-0) on their way to the final.

The competition was held at the United Sports Centre, Kakkanad, Kochi, India from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1.

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

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

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

## 2025 World Para Athletics Championships: Salehi takes gold

TEHRAN – Iranian woman javelin thrower Elham Salehi won a gold medal at the New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships on Wednesday.

She finished in first place with a throw of 17.06 meters at the Women’s Javelin Throw F54 Final.

Mexican throwers Alondra Salazar and Rebeca Citlaly Cortes won a silver and bronze medal respectively with 16.83 and 15.48 meters.

Previously, Amirhossein Alipour and Mahdi Olad claimed a gold and silver medal at the Men’s Shot Put F11 with a throw of 14.59 meters.

Javelin thrower Amanolah Papi and shot putter Elham Salehi had previously won two bronze medals.

More than 2000 athletes from 104 countries compete in 186 medal events – 101 men’s, 84 women’s and one mixed.

## Iran’s Ghandipour joins Al Wahda

TEHRAN – Iran international winger Reza Ghandipour joined Emirati football club Al Wahda.

The 20-year-old rising star joined Shabab Al Ahli in July but was loaned to Al Wahda.

He had joined Shabab Al Ahli from Paykan.

Ghandipour had also been linked with a move to the Russian side Akhmat Grozny and French football club Le Havre.

He has joined his countrymen Mohammad Ghorbani and Mobin Dehghan in the Emirati side.

## Iran ease past Kyrgyzstan at CAVA Volleyball Challenge Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan in straight sets (25-12, 25-18, 25-13) at their opening match of the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Women’s Volleyball Challenge Cup on Wednesday.

Team Melli are scheduled to face Tajikistan on Thursday.

“We played after a long time, and since it was their first game, they were stressed. I expected them to perform as they did in practice in this game as well, but the stress prevented that. Nevertheless, the players fought until the very end and delivered a good performance, which I am satisfied with,” Iran head coach Lee Do-hee said.

“We will play Tajikistan tomorrow. Like Kyrgyzstan, this team are not particularly powerful. The CAVA tournament is a good opportunity for us to prepare ourselves for participating in the Islamic

Games,” she added.

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.

## FIBA WASL-West Asia League 2025/26 announced

TEHRAN – The FIBA Regional Office-Asia has confirmed the schedule of games for the West Asia League of the 2025/26 FIBA West Asia Super League (WASL) season.

Following the withdrawal of Iraqi Basketball League outfit Al Difaa Al Jawii, the Sub-Zone League has been reduced to five teams.

The 2025-26 WASL-West Asia League opens November 5 in Beirut, and Sagesse SC will play Iran’s Shardari Gorgan.

Al Riyadi will then open ‘four-peat’ bid the following night on November 6 at home as well when they host Al Wahda SC.

The Sub-Zone League’s Group Phase will run from November 5 to February 19, with the top four teams after the single round-robin, home-and-away Group Phase advancing to the Semi-Finals.

The no. 1 seed will face the fourth-ranked team, while the second and third-placed teams will comprise the other bracket.

The Semi-Finals will be a best-of-3. Winners will advance to the Final, which is also a best-of-3, with the losing sides playing in the knock-out Third-Place Game as the three best teams will advance to the Final 8.

The Final Phase will also be played in a home-and-away format.

The team finishing fourth, however, can still vie for a spot in the Final 8 as they will take on the fourth-placer of the WASL-Gulf League for the coveted ticket, according to the new qualification system, fiba.basketball reported.

Seven WASL teams plus the SABA champions will make up the 2025-26 Final 8.

## Iranian sprinter Safarzadeh seizes silver: 2025 New Delhi

TEHRAN – Iranian woman sprinter Hajar Safarzadeh won a silver medal at the New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships on Wednesday.

She narrowly lost to Russian Anna Kulinich-Sorokina in the Women’s 400m T12 Final.

Safarzadeh finished in second place with a time of 56.39 seconds. Kulinich-Sorokina took the gold with 56.38 seconds, while the bronze medal went to Venezuelan Alejandra Paola Pérez López with 56.66 seconds.

More than 2000 athletes from 104 countries compete in 186 medal events – 101 men’s, 84 women’s and one mixed.

## U.S. denies visas for Iran football officials

TEHRAN – The U.S. government has not issued visas for Mehdi Taj, president of the Iran Football Federation, and Amir Ghalenoei, head coach of the national team, along with seven other federation members, to attend the 2026 World Cup draw ceremony.

Taj, the Vice President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), who has a good relationship with Gianni Infantino, the FIFA president, has voiced his complaint to him. With Infantino’s involvement in this matter, visas for some individuals may be issued.

Infantino, in early September, assured the members of the Iran national football team that FIFA would do its utmost to resolve visa-related issues.



## RAI to expand capacity by prioritizing fast-track projects

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) is going to focus on short-term, high-yield projects to expand network capacity, the head of company said.

Jabbarali Zakari, also deputy minister of transport and urban development, said on Wednesday that the company's new strategy emphasizes efficiency-oriented projects capable of boosting capacity in the near term.

He said the board of directors reviewed the readiness of various sectors including rolling stock, infrastructure and operations.

“Deputies, departments and regional offices have been instructed to take necessary measures in light of the activation of the ‘trigger mechanism’ and ensure adequate preparedness,” Zakari said, without elaborating further on the mechanism.

Zakari announced approval of a framework for implementing short-term projects with high productivity, particularly in traffic management and infrastructure.



He said priority will be given to projects at critical entry and exit points such as Sarakhs on the Turkmenistan border and Shahid Rajaei Port on the Persian Gulf.

“These fast-track projects will pave the way for the implementation of longer-term plans,” he said.

The official added that financing for the projects will come from both development and operational budgets.

## ICCIMA head stresses mining as pillar of economic resilience

TEHRAN – Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said investment in mining and mineral industries is a cornerstone of strengthening economic resilience, adding that more than 75 percent of the country's mineral production is carried out by the private sector.

Speaking on Tuesday at the opening ceremony of the 14th International Exhibition on Investment Opportunities in Mining and Mineral Industries of Iran (MINEX 2025), held at Imam Khomeini Mosalla, Hassanzadeh said the event provides a platform to revisit the country's strategic goals for the sector and to foster dialogue between private investors, policymakers and government officials.

He recalled remarks made a decade ago by Iran's Supreme Leader that “one of the best alternatives to oil is the mining sector,” not-

ing that with the guidance of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and the efforts of private players, particularly the Iran Mine House under Bahraman's leadership, significant steps have been taken to promote the idea of “mining instead of oil.” Still, he added, large parts of the sector's potential remain untapped.

Hassanzadeh pointed out that Iran, with just one percent of the world's population, holds around seven percent of global mineral reserves. He emphasized that one key component of the country's “resistance economy” strategy is self-reliance and harnessing domestic capacities.

“Iran is endowed with abundant and diverse mineral wealth alongside skilled human resources,” he said. “Yet despite this national treasure, optimal exploitation of the country's mines has been neglected.”

## Iran sets target to restore 20m hectares of rangeland

TEHRAN – Iran has set a target of restoring 20 million hectares of rangeland under the country's Seventh National Development Plan, a senior official at the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization said.

Abolghasem Hosseinpour, director general of the organization's rangeland affairs office, said 7.6 million hectares have so far been rehabilitated.

He told a meeting of provincial deputies on Tuesday that rangelands serve as a pro-

TECTIVE layer for fragile ecosystems in arid regions.

“This biological belt plays a crucial role in preventing the spread of desertification,” Hosseinpour said, stressing that low-density and degraded rangelands require special programs for sustainable protection, rehabilitation and management.

Hosseinpour noted that climate change, reduced rainfall and shrinking snow cover are intensifying stress on the country's rangelands.

## Fruits have highest inflation rate among commodity groups in sixth month

TEHRAN- According to a report by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), the country's point-to-point inflation rate reached 45.3 percent in the sixth month of the current Iranian calendar year, Shahrivar (August 23-Septemehr 22), which shows a 2.9 percentage point increase compared to last month. This means that Iranian households, on average, spent 45.3 percent more than in Shahrivar of last year to purchase an identical basket of goods and services.

Among commodity groups, fruits and dried fruits with a monthly inflation of nine percent, and vegetables and legumes with 8.7 percent, had the highest inflation rates.

Seyed Reza Noorani, the head of the Iran National Agricultural Products Union, explained the main reasons for the price surge in the agricultural products sector as follows:

1. Labor Shortage and the Expulsion of Afghan Workers

One of the main reasons for the decrease in production and increase in prices is the ex-

pulsion of Afghan migrant workers, who previously played a significant role in harvesting agricultural products. According to Noorani, this issue has caused the cost of harvesting products to increase by up to two times.

2. Decreased Production Due to Weather Conditions

The unfavorable state of the country's water resources and frost damage to orchards in the provinces of Azarbaijan, Kordestan, and Ilam provinces are other factors that have led to a severe decrease in market supply.

3. Consequences of War and Regional Instability

Regional developments and recent wars have also had negative impacts on the supply chain and market for agricultural products.

4. Increase in Ancillary Production Costs

Power outages, and increased costs of packaging and transportation are other major challenges that have led to the surge in prices of fresh agricultural products.

# Tanker market sees limited impact from snapback mechanism

TEHRAN – The international tanker market views the activation of the so-called “snapback” mechanism by three European countries, under U.S. pressure, as having no significant effect beyond existing American sanctions, according to Lloyd's List.

The London-based shipping journal reported that a decade after the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, and the subsequent reimposition of some UN Security Council resolutions, the move has not created fresh concerns in the tanker industry.

Shipping sources said current pressures on oil transport are essentially the same as unilateral



measures previously imposed by

Washington, meaning no major

shift in crude flows is expected.

Analysts noted Iran may ex-

pand its floating storage capacity given sustained Chinese demand, though this trend is not directly tied to the snapback. They added that Chinese imports of Iranian oil are unlikely to be affected, as the trade has continued for years under similar restrictions.

The snapback, embedded in UN Security Council Resolution 2231, is a legal tool to reinstate all UN sanctions on Iran if it is deemed to have breached nuclear commitments. The United States first attempted to invoke it in 2020, but the move was rejected by other parties after Washington withdrew from the deal. With European backing and renewed U.S. support, the process has now been revived.

## NIDC digs, completes drilling of 67 oil, gas wells in H1

TEHRAN - National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed the digging operations of 67 oil and gas wells in the country's onshore and offshore oil-rich regions during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), Hamidreza Shafiei Makvandi, the deputy managing director of the company for operation, announced.

The drilling and completion of 67 oil and gas wells in the first half of this year was achieved through the efforts of the National Iranian Drilling Company staff, he reiterated.

He stated: “Of these wells, 16 were development/appraisal wells and 51 were workover/completion wells.”

He noted that the number of wells drilled in the first half of this year is 21 wells more than the same period last year, adding: “The total drilling footage during this period was recorded at 63,037 meters, which represents an increase of over 8,000 meters compared to the same period last year.”

Pointing out that 18 drilling rigs are currently being relocated to operational sites, the official said: “Currently, 64 out of the company's total fleet of 74 drilling rigs are stationed and operational in the oil-rich provinces of the country.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He stated: “In the drilling operations activity sector, the design and manufacturing of main diesel generators for drilling rigs, drilling mud pumps, drilling rig draw works, rotary tables, blowout control equipment, drilling jars, drilling fluid service centrifuges, and in the technical services activity sector, the design and manufacturing of cementing pump trucks, mobile wireline units, mobile wireline inspection units, and cementing service densitometers are underway.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



of self-sufficiency.”

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

Afshar has emphasized that with the development of technology, self-sufficiency in equipment, and the benefit of efficient human resources, the National Drilling Company is firmly on the path of sustainable development and is ready to play a more effective role in the regional arena.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



IOF comes under fierce attack in Gaza



From page 1 ► According to the statement, resistance fighters engaged IOF troops at point-blank range, causing casualties among the soldiers.

They also threw stun explosives into two IOF armored personnel carriers, killing or wounding the crews.

In addition, a Merkava tank was destroyed using what the resistance movement referred to as a “fedayeen explosive device,” and helicopter evacuations were observed at the site.

Meanwhile, Al-Quds Brigades announced via Telegram that they shelled IOF military

vehicles with mortars in northern Gaza City.

The armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad further stated that they detonated a GBU bomb, left behind by the IOF, targeting a group of occupation soldiers on Street 8 in southern Gaza City. Resistance fighters observed Israeli aircraft landing in the area to evacuate the dead and wounded.

These operations continue as Hamas and other Palestinian resistance groups are currently reviewing a ceasefire plan announced on Monday by U.S. President Donald Trump. Hamas has said it will study the offer “in good faith.”

Trump’s delusional statement on Bagram airfield is nightmarish for Americans

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN – On the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran held a meeting on Afghanistan and released a joint statement on September 25.

The joint statement stresses the principle that the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan must be respected and opposed reestablishment of any foreign military bases in or around Afghanistan.

The Afghan government issued a statement on September 21 saying it firmly rejects recent U.S. calls to reclaim the air base. It urged Washington to honor its pledge to the 2020 Doha Agreement that there would be no military interference.

The deputy spokesman of the Afghan administration, Hamdullah Fitrat, posted the statement on his X account, highlighting Afghanistan’s independence and territorial integrity remain paramount in all bilateral engagements, particularly with the U.S., China Daily reported.

According to the Pakistani Dawn newspaper, Fitrat welcomed the stance of the four countries and said that “Afghanistan will not allow its territory to be used against other countries, nor permit armed groups to operate from its soil.”

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun also told reporters on Sept. 26 that China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan have opposed any move to reestablish U.S. military bases in the war-torn Afghanistan.

Built by the Soviets in the 1950s, the air base became vital during the Cold War and the Soviet-Afghan War (1979–89). After 2001, it became the operational hub of U.S. forces during its invasion of Afghanistan following the September 11 attacks.

About 800 kilometers from China, Bagram, located in Parwan Province in northern Afghanistan, was the site of the largest military U.S. military base during its two-decade of war against the Taliban.

The dispute began after U.S. President Donald Trump announced on September 18 that Washington is “trying” to retake the Bagram airfield back from the Taliban government after abandoning it more than four years ago.

“We’re trying to get it back,” he said during a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Politico reported. Trump added that it’s “about an hour away from where China is developing its nuclear weapons.”

The wayward Trump has blamed Joe Biden

# Breaking the blockade: Global Sumud Flotilla’s high-stakes journey to Gaza

From page 1 ► According to Turkey’s Anadolu Agency, activists reported that Israeli naval forces harassed their vessels on Wednesday, flying drones and conducting a cyberattack that disabled GPS and internet systems on the Alma, one of the flotilla’s main ships. Israeli vessels approached within 5–10 meters of the boats. Activists described the maneuvers as “major intimidation” but reaffirmed their commitment to continue the mission.

Australia has expressed deep concern over the safety of its citizens aboard the flotilla. The assistant minister for foreign affairs, said, “I’m deeply concerned by the alleged drone attacks on the Global Sumud Flotilla and the risks to the safety of Australians and other passengers onboard.”

Matt Thistlethwaite added, “Australia calls on all parties to respect international law and international humanitarian law, and to refrain from any unlawful or violent act against the flotilla.” Six Australian citizens are reportedly part of the mission.

## Widespread support

Rima Hassan, a French-Palestinian member of the European Parliament on board the flotilla, stated that they expect to reach Gaza by Thursday despite Israeli efforts to intercept them. Hassan described each kilometer sailed as “an additional symbolic victory.”

Mathilde Panot, leader of the left-wing La France Insoumise party’s parliamentary group, emphasized the need to protect the flotilla, noting that more than 50 French participants and six parliamentarians from her party are aboard.

Meanwhile, Zehranur Aydemir, elected as Turkey’s youngest lawmaker for the ruling AK Party in 2023, expressed support on social media, stating that “the



Greta Thunberg and a crew member flash victory signs aboard their ship, part of the Global Sumud Flotilla seeking to reach Gaza and challenge Israel’s naval blockade, on September 25, 2025 (Reuters)

fear that the murderous Netanyahu government wants to spread through the media was not enough to stop them.” She added, “Our eyes, our ears, and our hearts are with the Sumud Flotilla sailing the Mediterranean to break down the walls of fear erected by the oppressors.”

In the United States, nearly 20 members of Congress signed a letter urging Secretary of State Marco Rubio to protect the flotilla. Led by Rashida Tlaib and endorsed by figures including Ilhan Omar, Greg Casar, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the letter described the flotilla’s civilians as being at serious risk. It added, “Any attack on the Global Sumud Flotilla or its civilian crew is a clear and blatant violation of international law. The United States has an obligation to protect its citizens from foreign attack.”

## Israel’s threats intensify

Israel has vowed to use all means necessary to prevent the flotilla from reaching Gaza, arguing that its blockade is legal within the context of its ongoing war against Hamas. Last week, flotilla vessels were targeted

by drones armed with stun grenades and irritants in international waters off Greece.

Italy and Spain have deployed naval vessels to assist the flotilla but stressed they do not intend to engage militarily. Italy urged flotilla members to consider dropping aid at a Cypriot port to avoid confrontation. The flotilla rejected this proposal, asserting: “The humanitarian demand to break the blockade cannot be walked back to port.”

Despite official warnings from the Italian government, public sentiment appears supportive. A recent poll indicated that over 60 percent of Italians back the flotilla’s humanitarian mission to Gaza. Nevertheless, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has called for the flotilla to stop, while Defense Minister Guido Crosetto has warned that activists could face interception and arrest in international waters.

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese criticized Italy for abandoning the flotilla in a critical “danger zone” near Gaza’s coast, stating that the move “leaves Israel free to commit further violations, and carry on the

genocide undisturbed.”

## Global calls for protection

Colombian President Gustavo Petro has demanded “absolute respect for the lives and integrity” of the flotilla’s participants, warning that any attack would constitute a “flagrant violation of international law and a crime against humanity.” Amnesty International also called on states to guarantee safe passage, citing the “persistent inaction of states in the face of Israel’s genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip” as the reason activists were forced to take direct action.

## High-risk mission ahead

Reports from Israel’s Kan public broadcaster indicate that the Israeli military is preparing to seize the flotilla using naval commandos and warships. Sources suggest that Israel may be unable to tow all 50 vessels to shore and could sink some at sea. The military intends to detain hundreds of activists on naval ships for questioning before deporting them via Ashdod.

The flotilla has entered a high-risk zone, echoing past attempts in June and July that were blocked by Israel. Observers say the mission now tests the international community’s willingness to uphold humanitarian law and respond to the widespread famine and starvation in Gaza, which has been caused by Israel’s blockade following its war in October 2023—a conflict that has claimed more than 66,000 Palestinian lives, including hundreds from starvation.

More than a humanitarian mission, the Global Sumud Flotilla is a political statement, underscoring the urgent need for decisive international action to protect human rights and guarantee safe access to Gaza, especially as Western governments remain largely hesitant or divided.

vehicle for progress that never arrived.

But what did he accomplish? Not peace. Not statehood. Not an end to the siege or settlement.

He avoided Gaza for a full year after taking the post. Former Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath put it plainly: Blair “achieved so very little because of his gross efforts to please the Israelis.”

His most touted success was a deal to free radio frequencies for a Palestinian phone company — a move tainted by his ties to JP Morgan, which stood to benefit.

The pattern was already clear: Blair was more at ease cutting deals in Israeli boardrooms than listening to Palestinians under blockade.

## Blair Inc.: Crisis as business

Since leaving office, Blair has turned politics into profit with an ease that borders on the grotesque.

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

# The arsonist as fire chief: Tony Blair must not govern Gaza

From page 1 ► This is not mere hyperbole. It is history speaking. To place Blair in charge of Gaza would be to turn one of the darkest pages of the Middle East back onto itself. He is remembered not as a peacemaker but as an architect of war, failure, and profiteering.

## Iraq: The original sin

No dossier on Blair can begin anywhere but Iraq. In 2003, he dragged Britain into George W. Bush’s invasion based on lies.

Central to the deception was the so-called Dodgy Dossier — a propaganda file cooked up under MI6’s Operation Mass Appeal. Released in February 2003 as “Iraq: Its Infrastructure of Concealment, Deception and Intimidation,” it was touted as high-grade intelligence but turned out to be largely plagiarized from an academic article and internet sources. Despite this, it was brandished by Washington’s Colin Powell at the UN to help sell the war.

The Chilcot Inquiry confirmed what the

world already knew: Blair exaggerated Saddam Hussein’s weapons threat and deceived the British public. He sent troops before peaceful options were tried, and the planning for the aftermath was “wholly inadequate.”

The toll was catastrophic: hundreds of thousands dead, a region destabilized, ISIS rising from the ruins. To this day, he faces calls for prosecution. A million Britons even petitioned against his knighthood, branding him a war criminal.

The Iraq calamity was not an accident. It was a choice. And it is the shadow that will forever follow Blair into any room he enters — especially in the Islamic world.

## Quartet envoy: A record of nothing

Defenders point to his years as Middle East envoy for the Quartet (2007–2015). Formed in 2002 by the UN, US, EU, and Russia, the Quartet was meant to steer the Israeli–Palestinian peace process and lay the foundations for a two-state solution — a

defeated, the condition of disarming it would not have been considered the major obstacle to any “normal Middle East.”

On a practical level, Graham’s statement exposes America’s contradiction. On the one hand, Washington insists that the party has “lost” or “broken” in the recent confrontations, while on the other, it continually employs rhetoric that considers it the central obstacle to redrawing the map of the region.

In this sense, what Graham sees as an “obstacle” is in fact a sign of strength, an indication that the party’s role in political and military equations remains effective and influential across the entire region.

While Graham believes that the condition for “normalcy” in

the region is the disarmament of Hezbollah, facts on the ground prove that Washington itself is behaving abnormally through its direct intervention and continued violation of Lebanese sovereignty.

Between December 12, 2023, and September 28, 2025, American MQ–9 Reaper reconnaissance drones flew dozens of times over Lebanese territory, sometimes daily for up to 18 hours at a time.

These drones not only photographed, but also collected communications, intercepted messages, decrypted them, and could launch direct strikes with Hellfire 3 missiles.

On many occasions, three drones were recorded flying simultaneously over the South, the Bekaa, and Greater Beirut, in op-

erational coordination with Israeli and French aircraft. This constitutes a complete violation of Lebanese airspace sovereignty.

More seriously, these missions are classified and secret, and the Lebanese civil aviation authorities know nothing about their routes or altitudes.

This has exposed the country to three near-certain disasters that almost occurred as a result of cross-paths with civilian aircraft. Nevertheless, Washington sees no reason to justify its daily interference. It is simply engaging in a systematic violation of Lebanese airspace, while simultaneously providing direct intelligence support to Israel since the launch of Operation Protective Edge in 2023.

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

# Senator Lindsey Graham unsettled by Hezbollah’s power

When US rhetoric exposes false claim of Hezbollah defeat

From page 1 ► This statement is more than a temporary stance; it is a direct American recognition of a central truth: that Hezbollah remains the greatest obstacle to the “comprehensive normalization” project, and that talk of its “defeat” is nothing more than flimsy media propaganda.

It is noteworthy that Graham attempted to present his speech as a political wish linked to Trump’s recent plan for Gaza, but the essence of his words goes beyond that.

At a moment when some Western and Israeli media outlets are claiming that Hezbollah has lost many of its capabilities or is in a weak defensive position, the US senator’s words come to completely contradict this narrative: If Hezbollah were truly



## Mazandaran hotels receive Iran Green Hotel Award

TEHRAN – Two hotels in Mazandaran province have been awarded the Iran Green Hotel Award as part of the country's first national event recognizing environmentally sustainable accommodation, provincial officials said on Sunday.

The announcement coincided with World Tourism Day, when the results of the inaugural Green Hotel Award were made public.

Mehdi Es'haqi, deputy director of tourism at the Mazandaran Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said that 12 hotels across Iran received the award after evaluation.

"Out of about 60 hotels that met the criteria, 12 were finally selected by a panel of seven judges and verified by two national assessors. Mazandaran's share was two hotels: Araz Hotel in Nowshahr and Mizban Hotel in Babol-sar," Es'haqi said.

He added that the award was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the Iranian Hoteliers' Society, and the National Ecotourism Committee. The program aims to recognize and support hotels committed to environmental standards.

The official underlined that the initiative is intended to promote sustainable tourism, strengthen environmental awareness, and encourage hotels to meet ecological requirements.



*Mehdi Es'haqi, the deputy director of tourism at the Mazandaran Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts*

The picture-perfect province has long been a highly popular destination for domestic travelers. Its varied nature features the lush Hyrcanian forests, plains, prairies, and rainforests stretching from the sandy beaches of the Caspian Sea to the rugged and snow-capped Alborz sierra, including Mount Damavand and Alam-Kuh (Mount Alam). More than 800 registered historical and cultural sites, 338 km of shoreline, mineral springs in jungles and mountains, waterfalls, and caves are among the major tourist attractions in the province.

## Ahvaz hosts its first coffee festival

TEHRAN – The first coffee festival in Khuzestan province opened Tuesday evening in Ahvaz, drawing residents and visitors from across the country, provincial officials said.

Mohammad Jourvand, director-general of Khuzestan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said the festival was launched on the occasion of Tourism Week and coincided with the birth anniversary of Imam Hassan al-Askari (A.S.), the 11th Shia Imam.

Jourvand said the event highlights the coffee-drinking tradition of Khuzestan's Arab community, which was registered several years ago as part of Iran's intangible cultural heritage. "The process of preparing, brewing, serving and drinking coffee among the Arab people of Khuzestan differs from other provinces and carries specific customs," the official explained.

The festival, held over two days from Sep. 30 to Oct. 1, aims to promote culinary tourism and intangible cultural heritage, Jourvand said. The first night drew strong participation from residents, while the second evening included a panel discussion on the cultural significance of Arabic coffee rituals.

Other programs feature cultural performances by Arab and Bakhtiari groups, live music, handicraft exhibitions, children's competitions, traditional tents, and video screenings showcasing Khuzestan's tourist attractions.

According to sources, coffee, known locally as "qahveh," was introduced to Iran during the Safavid era in the 1600s after pilgrims encountered it in neighboring countries. Shah Abbas I later ordered its import and commissioned writings on its benefits and drawbacks.

## Volkswagen rally marks Tourism Week with Tehran-Nowshahr route

TEHRAN – Iran launched a two-day Volkswagen Beetle rally on Wednesday from Tehran to Nowshahr as one of many programs to mark Tourism Week, according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

The event, called "Glorious Iran," was organized by the Touring & Automobile Club of Iran in collaboration with the Historical Vehicles Association of Iran. It brought together 31 classic Volkswagen Beetles carrying more than 100 participants, including families, travel bloggers, tourism influencers and food content creators.

Each vehicle represented a different province, decorated with its name and images of cultural or historical symbols to showcase Iran's heritage and diversity, the ministry said in a statement.

The rally's route covered Tehran, Chalous, Nowshahr and Noor, with cultural and recreational programs scheduled along the way. Organizers said the event aimed to highlight the tourism potential of northern Iran and promote safe and responsible travel.

The rally was held in cooperation with a local hotel group as part of activities marking Tourism Week, which coincides with World Tourism Day on Sept. 27.

## Vintage car show held at Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex

TEHRAN – A show of vintage cars was staged at the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex in Tehran to showcase tourism potential and encourage cultural and social engagement, organizers said on Tuesday.

According to IRIB, the event was held in conjunction with the celebration of Tourism Week, in cooperation and partnership with the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex and Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI).

This tourism tour was attended by TACI Head Mohammad-Hossein Soufi and Manager of Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex Shahroud Amir-Entekhabi with participation of

31 Volkswagen vintage cars.

Each of the cars had been decorated with the name of a province in Iran during the event.

As part of contemporary industrial and cultural heritage, classic cars are a reflection of the history of the automotive industry and lifestyle evolution in different periods.

In addition to their artistic and aesthetic aspects, the preservation and introduction of these cars provide an opportunity to preserve and transmit part of the historical and nostalgic identity of society to future generations.

# 268 tourism projects worth \$130 million inaugurated across Iran

From Page 1 ► Talking to officials of Ilam province, the minister said, "Ilam is one of the centers of Iranian civilization and a province with unparalleled tourism potential, warm and hospitable people, and valuable handicrafts. This province has a special status in the tourism industry not only due to its rich history and culture, but also as a host to millions of pilgrims to the holy shrines."

After inaugurating Qazvin tourism projects, he said that Qazvin is a province rooted in Iranian civilization, with magnificent historical monuments such as the Saad-ol-Saltaneh complex and beautiful handicrafts. It has extensive potential to become one of the country's most important tourism destinations, he pointed out. Its proximity to the capital is also a strategic advantage for further boosting Qazvin's tourism, he added.

The minister also inaugurated Khorasan Razavi projects and said Khorasan Razavi province is the major pilgrimage tourism hub of the country and along with it, other areas of tourism have also grown significantly.

"The appropriate infrastructure of this province has made Mashhad a reliable center for holding national and international events. We expect this province to be a model for other provinces in the country."

Following the inauguration of Bushehr tourism projects, he



*Iran's tourism minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri addresses a gathering of travel insiders and investors at the courtyard of a boutique hotel in downtown Tehran, October 1, 2025.*

emphasized the importance of marine tourism. "Bushehr is a vital point in Iran's geography. This province has a great potential in marine tourism and more investment should be made in this area. Fortunately, the private sector is also active in this field and a bright future awaits marine tourism in the south of the country."

He continued that Semnan is province with unique tourism potentials and is considered both economic and tourism destination.

"This province, with its special position in desert trekking and hosting Khorasan Razavi pilgrims,

can become one of the country's important tourism hubs. The role of the private sector in this direction is very decisive, and we consider the private sector to be the driving force behind tourism development."

Salehi-Amiri pointed out that the three northern provinces are the beautiful image of Iran in the minds of domestic and foreign tourists. With the launch of marine tourism projects in the north of the country, a significant boom will take place in the tourism industry of these provinces, especially Mazandaran, and new

horizons will be opened in the development of national tourism, he added.

Also, Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpei said that \$160 million was allocated for tourism and handicrafts sector in current Iranian year, while \$25 million was allocated in the last Iranian year.

He added: "Strategies to identify the status of tourism in the governance system were important to us. Iran, with a history of more than 60,000 years, has an active and talented private sector in all fields that can flourish those different sectors. Considering the capabilities to strengthen the place of tourism in the governance system, we witnessed changes in this sector."

Mohseni Bandpei also said: "By developing the ecotourism and empowering local communities, we can achieve reverse migration and tourism development. The Minister of Economy said that tourism can be the driving force of the country's economy, which is indeed the case."

Stating that Iran is one of the most attractive countries in the world, he added that despite Iranophobia, Iranian tourism is active in the fields of pilgrimage, health tourism, etc.

He continued: "Another of our strategies is to facilitate processes and use the private sector so that we can achieve sustainable tourism."

## 4,000-year-old Elamite relief found in southwest Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have identified a small Elamite relief in Izeh, Khuzestan province, depicting a king in prayer to a sun and justice deity, Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage said on Tuesday.

The ministry said the relief, estimated to be about 4,000 years old, offers new insights into the religious traditions of Elam and its cultural links with Mesopotamia.

According to Hossein Feizi, a lecturer at the Susa Faculty of Archaeology, and Ayyoub Soltani, director of the Masjed Soleyman's cultural heritage base, the discovery is considered the 13th Elamite bas-relief of Izeh, which can open a new horizon in finding the Elamite religious traditions and rock art.

Feizi, who is also an archaeologist, said that in the heart of the rocks of Izeh, a small but mighty work has emerged: the smallest Elamite relief

ever discovered.

He added: "The carving, which is about the size of a palm, shows an Elamite king seated on a simple throne, his right hand raised in prayer before a symbol of the sun. Above his head is a complete disc carved with the symbol of the sun god Nahhunte, and in front of the figure is a stepped platform that appears to have been a place for offerings and ritual offerings."

"The ancient Ayapir, was considered one of the important political centers in the Middle Elamite period (1500-1000 BC) due to its strategic location, water resources, and density of historical sites. Written sources from Susa also mention this region as a semi-independent city-state under Elamite rule."

He continued: "This bas-relief is about 26 centimeters in size and is considered the smallest known Elamite specimen. Despite its limited di-

mensions, its composition and iconography have clear connections with other Elamite works such as the Kul-e Farah, Khong Ajdar, and Shahsavari reliefs."

"Unlike most Elamite rock carvings, which are carved on uniform rocks, this work was conducted on a bed of heterogeneous conglomerate rock. This very characteristic, which distinguishes it, has also exposed it to severe erosion. Therefore, careful documentation, laser scanning, and photogrammetry are essential for the preservation and continuation of the work's life."

Analyzing the symbology value of the work, Faizi also said: "This rock carving not only introduces us to a manifestation of Elamite rock art and ritual traditions, but can also help to reconsider the history of Elamite art and its cultural relations with Mesopotamia."

First Announcement



شرکت صنعت فولاد شادگان  
Shadegan Steel Industry Co.

**E.S.2025/001 Tender SSICO.**

**Shadegan Steel Industry Company is pleased to announce the sale and export of 25,000 MT DIRECT REDUCTED IRON (DRI), under FCA(free carrier) delivery terms at the Shadegan Steel Industry Company warehouse.**

**Interested applicants are requested to visit the company's official website at ([www.ssico.ir](http://www.ssico.ir)) to download the TENDER documents.**

- All documentation will be provided electronically.
- All bids on conformity to TENDER instruction should be submitted no later for **14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2025**
- Esteemed TENDER Participant, you are hereby requested to submit your financial proposal to Shadgan Steel Industry Company after conducting a visit to the designated depot as indicated in the tender documents. Please note that failure to visit or to collect samples from the depot prior to submitting your proposal shall nullify any subsequent claims regarding the non-inspection of the stated items.

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**+989160977940 MR.Ameri**

**+986152227916 Ext.130 Mr. Khademi**



# 20 countries attend intl. nano-tech Olympiad for students

TEHRAN – Participants from 20 countries attended the first International Nanotechnology Olympiad (INO) for high-school students, held online on September 29.

The event attracted students (aged 16 to 19) from different countries like Germany, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, England, the United States, Venezuela, India, Australia, and Iran.

The results of the Olympiad will be announced in a week, Borna news agency quoted Afshin Ramzi, the secretary of the INO, as saying.

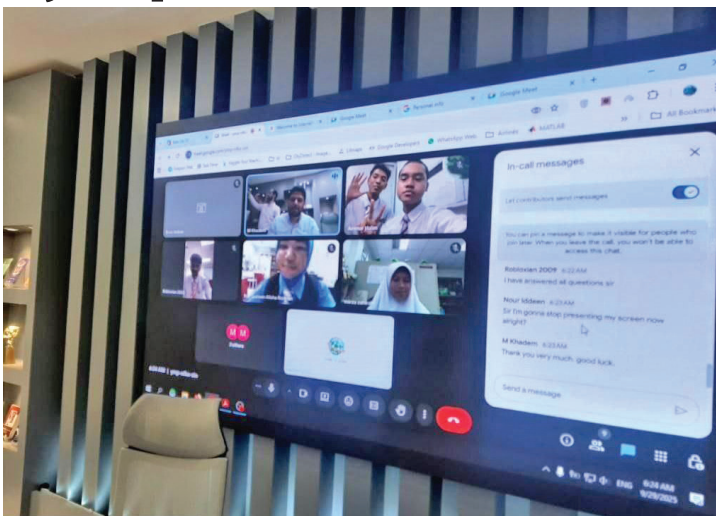
Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council (INIC) launched the first National Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Student Olympiad in the Iranian year 1389 (March 2010–2011). This initiative followed a series of successful nano-education programs held in schools across the country and combined a theoretical exam with a hands-on laboratory project.

Following the 16th national event, which attracted 113,667 high school students from across the country, INIC decided to hold the event at a global level.

The initiative aims to promote global scientific engagement in cutting-edge technologies among youth to challenge their knowledge, creativity, and talent in an international scientific arena.

As a unique scientific competition, it also aims to identify and nurture scientific elites in the field of nanotechnology.

The INO 2025 presented a unique opportunity for participants to delve into the world of nanotechnology and its potential to address pressing environmental challenges. The competition was structured into two



main parts.

The Initial phase evaluated participants' grasp of fundamental concepts in nanotechnology and its environmental applications. To support their preparation, participants could access nine educational films and a comprehensive booklet available on the official website, which covered essential topics and relevant applications. Additionally, they would receive four specialized educational films and a targeted booklet that focuses particularly on nanotechnology's applications in the environment. This constituted 70 percent of the overall score.

Idea Generation and Film Submission was the second phase of the competition. In this creative segment, participants were challenged to devise innovative solutions to global issues that can be tackled through nanotechnology. They had to create a short film that effectively conveys their ideas and proposed solutions. This part accounted for the rest 30 percent of the total score.

Overall, the Olympiad emphasized a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical creativity. By combining rigorous assessment with creative project work, the competition aimed to cultivate a deeper understanding

of the transformative potential of nanotechnology in addressing global challenges.

## Nanotechnology takes a leap forward

Iran has made significant progress in nanotechnology over a year (August 2024 –August 2025), with more than a 100 percent increase in nanotech products exports, indexing 10,860 articles in the Web of Science (WoS), and being ranked sixth in publishing nanotech articles.

Iran's activities in nanotechnology began in 2001. Two years later, the headquarters for nanotechnology was established to promote knowledge in the field. The first national strategic plan, titled 'future strategic document', was developed in 2005, aimed to place Iran among the top 15 countries in the field, focusing on ongoing improvement of the country's position to generate wealth and improve people's quality of life.

Later, the name of the organization changed to 'nano and micro technology headquarters' to follow up on its missions and tasks in both fields.

Over the past year, from August 22, 2024, to August 23, 2025, significant measures were taken to improve existing indus-

tries, expand and manage sustainable exports and nano-product markets at national, regional, and global levels, promote Iranian made products in regional markets, foster innovation from novel technologies with significant economic and social impacts, maintain the country's scientific status and improve its authority in nanoscience.

Iran's nanotechnology products in various industries are classified into 13 main categories including Civil engineering and construction; Optics, electronics, and photonics; Petroleum and petrochemicals; Pharmaceuticals, health, and well-being; home appliances; Power and energy; Raw materials; Chemicals; Textiles and clothing; Equipment; Automotive industry and transportation; Industrial machinery; Agriculture, animal husbandry, and Water, according to data published by the vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Some 89.6 percent of Iranian nanotechnology products are exported to Asian countries, according to data released by the national headquarters for the development of nanotechnology.

Europe, Africa, America, and Australia are the next destinations with 6.8 percent, 2.5 percent, and 1 percent of imports, respectively.

The data, whichh are related to the Iranian calendar year 1402 (March 2023–March 2024), also show that neighboring countries are the main export destinations of Iran's nanotechnology products.

Iraq, Turkey, and Afghanistan are the top three importers, holding 23.1 percent, 6.9 percent, and 6.5 percent shares of the imports.

Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, China, and India rank next.

## Over 90 earthquakes shake Iran in a week

TEHRAN – A total of 94 earthquakes were recorded across the country in a week from September 20 to 26, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Statistically, 83 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3; 11 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4; and no earthquake with a magnitude between 4 and 5 or more have occurred in the country, IRNA reported.

Of the total quakes, two had a magnitude of 3.7 on the Richter scale, which occurred on September 25 in Fars province.

Among the provinces of the country, Kerman, with 17, experienced the highest number of earthquakes, followed by South Khorasan and Isfahan provinces, both with 13 and 9 earthquakes, respectively.

During the same period, an earthquake hit

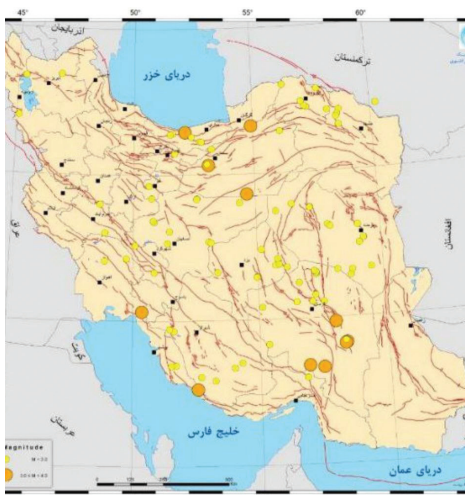
Tehran province. No earthquakes were recorded in Ardabil, Alborz, Ilam, Zanjan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Qazvin, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Golestan, Gilan, and Hamedan provinces.

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

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

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

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the



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

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran capable of manufacturing any medicine in two years

Iranian pharmaceutical industry and scientists are capable of producing any kind of medicine over a two-year period, Mohammad Reza Shanesaz, head of Food and Drug Administration, has said.

Some medicines are not currently manufactured domestically as their production is not economically justifiable because of low consumption, he added, IRNA reported.

In some cases, medicines are new pharmaceutical molecules that have recently been produced worldwide, he noted.

"The U.S. has sanctioned medicine as far as possible, but we have been able to provide patients with the required medicine, and currently there is no shortages," he explained.

## ایران می تواند هر دارویی را ظرف دو سال تولید کند

رئیس سازمان غذا و دارو گفت هر دارویی را می توانیم طی ۲ سال در داخل کشور تولید کنیم.

به گزارش ایرنا، محمدرضا شانه ساز روز دوشنبه گفت این یک بلوف نیست و صنعت داروسازی و دانشمندان کشور توان تولید همه داروها را دارند.

به گفته شانه ساز، برخی اقلام دارویی که اکنون در داخل تولید نمی شود به علت کم مصرفی است زیرا توجیه اقتصادی ندارد یا مولکول های دارویی جدیدی هستند که به تازگی در دنیا تولید شده اند. او ادامه داد: آمریکا هر دارویی را که توانسته تحریم کرده اما ما توانسته ایم از راههایی که می دانیم داروهای مورد نیاز بیماران را تامین کنیم و اکنون دارو به میزان کافی در سراسر کشور وجود دارد.

## Iranian delegation to participate in China Hi-Tech Fair

TEHRAN – Supported by the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, knowledge-based companies will set up their pavilions in the 27th China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF).

The CHTF 2025 is scheduled to be held from November 14–16 at the Shenzhen World Exhibition and Convention Center.

The exhibition will showcase the latest achievements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics, Information Technology, 5G, High-End Equipment and Manufacturing, Aerospace and Low-Altitude Economy, Biotechnology and Health, New Energy and Green Technology, Digital Economy, as well as Smart Living and others.

The Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy will also support the firm to benefit from the event and become familiar with the latest developments in the mentioned fields, and display their accomplishments and products, Borna news agency reported.

### Boosting sci-tech

In August, the head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Hossein Roozbeh, and Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu explored the avenues for the expansion of scientific and technological collaborations between the two countries.

The officials met on August 24 following Peiwu's visit to the Tehran branch of Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT), Mehr news agency reported.

Having visited the iHiT in Tehran, the Chinese official said, "Iran possesses a magnificent civilization and is home to intelligent people who have made great achievements. The country's history of technology development is glorious. Today, we are proud to witness Iran's rapid technological advances in the modern era. China and Iran are two great civilizations with long histories, and the two countries have great potential for fostering scientific cooperation."

## Some 500 cases of dengue reported in six months

TEHRAN – From the beginning of the current Iranian year, March 21, till September 27, a total of 497 cases of dengue fever have been diagnosed in the country, according to the health ministry.

Chabahar, with 445 infected individuals, has the highest number of cases, of which 25 were travel-associated cases; patients had been infected in Pakistan. Some 43 other cases were detected in Bandar Abbas, of which two had been infected in Pakistan, Borna news agency reported.

Moreover, two cases were reported in Zahedan and two others in Iranshahr. In Tehran and Birjand, one case was reported.

Dengue is a viral infection transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. The disease is transmitted through the bite of Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes. These mosquitoes also transmit the Zika and Chikungunya viruses.

Mosquitoes only need a small amount of water to lay eggs. Bowls, cups, fountains, tires, barrels, vases, and any other container storing

water make a great nursery.

Dengue disease has different infectious phases, including the fever phase, critical phase, and recovery phase.

Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus have been recorded in the country.

Aedes aegypti is a more invasive mosquito that is more common in Iran. Due to the physiology of this mosquito, people in contaminated areas are told to wear clothes that cover most parts of their bodies for the first two hours of the morning and two hours before the evening.

Transmission occurs two days before showing symptoms and two days after the fever.

The disease can spread from mosquitoes to humans, from humans to mosquitoes, and from humans to humans through blood transfusion, organ transplant, and mother to child in pregnancy.

The lifespan of Aedes is between one and 4 weeks; they take blood meals every 1 – 2 hours, accounting for 40 to 50 meals throughout their lifespan.

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

## Activities of Association of Iranian Elites and Knowledge-Based Companies

TEHRAN – The Association of Iranian Elites and Knowledge-Based Companies, certified by the Ministry of Interior, is an NGO that was established to facilitate the presence of knowledge-based companies in the country's economic system.

"The association's financial resources are completely provided by the private sector, and we do not have any government support. This is a winning card for us, because the independence of the association allows us to better serve the government and society," Abuzar Shahpari, the head of the association, said in a press conference in Tehran on Wednesday.

Referring to the activities of the association, Shahpari said: "Organizing knowledge-based

companies and gathering elites is one of the most important goals of the association. The output of the activities will ultimately benefit the people. In the past two years, we have tried to provide a basis for synergy among activists from different sectors by holding conferences and specialized meetings."

The area of activities of the association includes assessing the abilities of knowledge-based companies and institutions by providing specific definitions and explaining the necessary conditions in cooperation with competent authorities, and strengthening support structures such as the ranking system.

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





OCTOBER 2, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them.*  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:54 Evening: 18:05 Dawn: 4:37 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:01 (tomorrow)

## Iranian documentary “Hollein in Iran” wins in Spain

TEHRAN – The Iranian documentary “Hollein in Iran” directed by Hadi Afarideh won the Screen Tourism Award at the International Travel Film Awards Festival, which was held from September 26 to 29 in Barcelona, Spain.

In addition to receiving the Screen Tourism Award, “Hollein in Iran” was also honored with the festival’s Golden Plaque, Mehr reported.

Furthermore, the Spanish Tourism Film Congress invited Afarideh to participate in the Spain Film and Tourism Congress 2026, a prestigious event in the field of cinema and sustainable tourism.

Produced by Iran’s Documentary, Experimental, and Animation Film Center, the documentary focuses on the prominent Austrian architect Hans Hollein’s journey to Iran in the 1970s, exploring Iranian architectural heritage, especially his artistic vision in the design of the Abgineh Museum in Tehran, also known as the Tehran Museum of Glass and Ceramics.

The museum is known not only for the beautiful artifacts it displays within, but also for the beautiful architectural artifact that the building itself is.

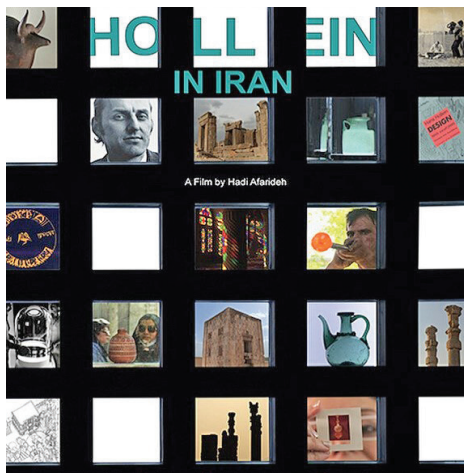
This more than a century-old building was converted to a museum by the Pritzker Prize-winning architect Hans Hollein (1934-2014). A well-known individual, known for his compelling and unique work in architecture as well as other diverse arrays of designs.

The original structure of the Abgineh Museum has traditional Persian architectural elements as well as elements of European and Russian architecture influence during that time. The building is octagonal-shaped with two stories and a basement.

The façade of the building is decorated with brick reliefs, indicating the Seljuk era. The wooden door windows ornamented with intricate designs around them adorn the façade. The Qajar era-style porch and pillar mark the entrance.

The two stories are connected with a horse-shoe-shaped staircase. The design of the staircase was inspired by 18th to 19th-century Russian architecture.

Many of such old structures were destroyed under the pretext of modern architecture. This



structure is one of the few that survived. The building itself, similar to the objects displayed within it, has significant cultural and historical value. It has served as a house to Ahmad Qavam, an Iranian prime minister and Politician during the Qajar period. Later, it was also used as an Egyptian embassy and for various other purposes until it was turned into a Glass and Ceramics Museum in 1980 by Hollein.

Converting this structure to use it for displaying history and knowledge to the public has played a crucial role in preserving the structure. In 1998, it was registered in the list of Iran’s National Heritage.

During one of his lectures, Hollein explained the concept behind the Abgineh Museum as follows: “The concept behind the Tehran Museum of Glass and Ceramics was a harmonious relationship between the old, which was to be preserved, and the new, which was being introduced. The new, while having an identity and character of its own, would embody the presence of tradition in its contents and in their Qajar setting.”

“Hollein in Iran” creates a dialogue between past and present and seeks to build a bridge between Iranian culture and international audiences.

The International Travel Film Awards Festival, held under the theme “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation”, hosted films from around the world addressing topics of travel, human experiences, and connection with nature.

## Shahram Mokri’s “Black Rabbit, White Rabbit” submitted by Tajikistan to Oscars

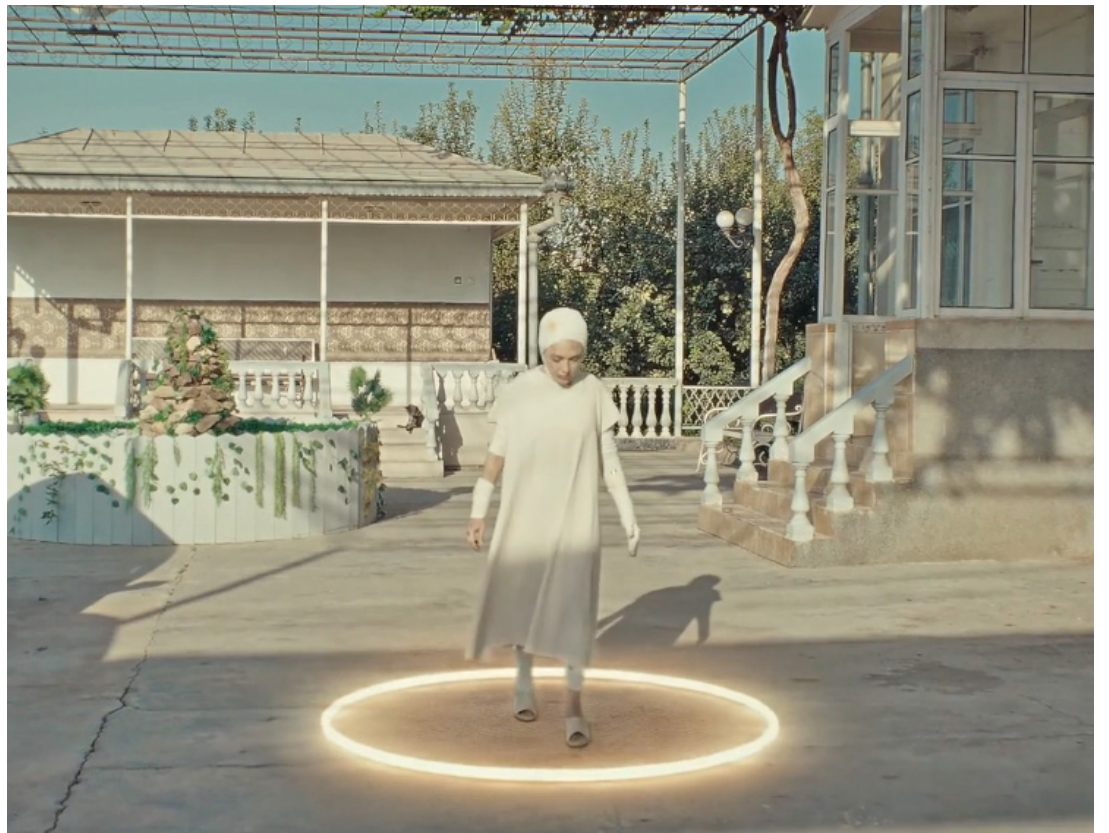
TEHRAN – Tajikistan has selected “Black Rabbit, White Rabbit,” the latest film by the well-known Iranian filmmaker Shahram Mokri, to represent the country in the best international feature film category at the Oscars 2026.

A mystery drama, the film is a co-production between Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates. It was made with the support of Tajikfilm in Tajikistan and produced in Tajik and Persian, Honaronline reported.

The cast includes a group of prominent Tajik actors, namely Hasti Mohammai, Kibriyo Dilyobova, and Bezhan Davlyatov, as well as the Iranian actor Babak Karimi. Mokri wrote the screenplay with Nasim Ahmadvour. The producer is Negar Eskandarfar.

The film recently won the International Film Festival of India – Vision Asian Award at the Busan International Film Festival. The movie next screens at the BFI London Film Festival and Chicago International Film Festival.

“A suspicious film prop, a mysterious audition, a conspiratorial road incident, and multiple rabbits are woven together in this bold and beguiling drama from Tajikistan,” reads a synopsis of the movie. “A film armorer suspects a fake firearm is real. An actor arrives on set demanding a role. A car crash victim fears her accident was deliberate. Three seemingly disparate stories weave into an enigmatic whole, with flowing, expertly choreographed takes, no small amount of droll humor, and flashes of magic realism punctuating Mokri’s playful, subtly provocative meta-mystery.”



A scene from “Black Rabbit, White Rabbit”

The DreamLab Films production is the fourth movie that Tajikistan has submitted for the international Oscar race. The Central Asian country has never been nominated.

“Black Rabbit, White Rabbit” is Mokri’s fifth feature film. His

second film “Fish & Cat” (2013) won a special award in the Orizonti (Horizons) section at the Venice Film Festival. The director went on to direct “Invasion” (2017), which screened at the Berlin International Film Festival, followed by “Careless Crime” (2020), which screened at Venice and won the jury prize at the Chicago International Film Festival.

Mokri is a founding member of the ISFA Cinema House Short Film Association. He has also

served on the association’s board of directors for three terms. In 2003, he was selected as the best young man in the country in the field of art by the National Youth Organization.

There have been 86 submissions to the 98th Academy Awards. The 15-film shortlist will be released on December 16 and the final five nominees will be announced on January 22, 2026. The Oscars will take place on March 15, 2026.

## Iranian play “Hamlet the Killer” to premiere at Turkish theater festival



TEHRAN- Iranian director Masoud Tayyebi will stage an adaptation of English playwright and poet William Shakespeare’s most popular play “Hamlet” at the 17th edition of the Ethos Ankara International Theater Festival in Turkey.

Written by Tayyebi and Yeganeh Mohammadi, the play has been renamed “Hamlet the Killer,” Mehr reported on Wednesday.

The main theme of this edition of the festival, which will run from October 16 to 26, is “Theater and the City.”

“Hamlet the Killer” is a production by the Mise-en-scène Theater Academy that previously premiered in the spring at Tehran’s City Theater Complex. This marks the play’s first international appearance.

The contemporary and condensed adaptation of Shakespeare’s tragedy explores power relations, symbolic violence, and individual responsibility within the urban fabric of today. Featuring minimalist stage design and emphasizing actor performance alongside musical and acoustic effects, the production offers an intense and intimate experience for audiences.

Tayyebi, the director of the work, expressed his enthusiasm for staging “Hamlet the Killer” in Turkey, stating: “Ankara and the ETHOS festival provide an opportunity to engage with a new and international audience. Instead of recreating Shakespeare’s classical universe, I have aimed to present a post-dramatic framing, illustrating today’s perception of violence.”

“‘Hamlet the Killer’ serves as a practice in confronting endless questions of justice and a call for audience participation in moral judgment,” he added.

“My goal in my works is to prevent judgment—deliberately avoiding issuing final verdicts. We craft scenarios that allow the audience to interpret characters’ behaviors within their contexts and decide on the relationship between justice and revenge. The aim is not to impose answers but to stimulate reflection and entrust the final judgment to the viewer,” Tayyebi emphasized.

“Hamlet” is a tragedy that follows the story of Prince Hamlet of Denmark as he seeks revenge for the murder of his father, King Hamlet. The play begins with the ghost of King Hamlet appearing to his son and revealing that he was murdered by his own brother, King Claudius, who has since married Queen Gertrude and taken the throne. Hamlet is torn between his desire for revenge and his inner turmoil, struggling with his own mortality and the consequences of his actions.

As Hamlet plots his revenge, he becomes increasingly isolated and paranoid, leading to a series of tragic events. He puts on a play reenacting his father’s murder in an attempt to confirm Claudius’s guilt, which ultimately leads to the exposure of his own madness. Hamlet’s relationships with those around him, including his love interest Ophelia and his friends Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, become strained as he becomes more consumed by his quest for vengeance.

As the play progresses, the tension between Hamlet and Claudius reaches its peak, leading to a dramatic confrontation that results in several deaths. Hamlet ultimately fulfills his quest for revenge but at a great cost, as he too succumbs to his wounds. The play ends with the deaths of Hamlet, Claudius, Gertrude, and Laertes, highlighting the destructive nature of revenge and the tragic consequences of acting on impulse.

Through complex characters and poetic language, Shakespeare explores themes of revenge, madness, and mortality in “Hamlet.” The play delves into the inner workings of the human psyche, portraying the struggles of a young prince caught in a web of deceit and treachery. Ultimately, “Hamlet” serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of succumbing to one’s darkest impulses and the tragic outcome of seeking vengeance at any cost.

“Hamlet” has been adapted into various forms of media, including film, television, and stage productions. One notable adaptation is Kenneth Branagh’s 1996 film version of “Hamlet,” which remains faithful to the original text and features an ensemble cast of acclaimed actors. Branagh’s adaptation captures the essence of Shakespeare’s tragic tale while incorporating cinematic techniques to enhance the narrative, making it accessible to a wider audience.

In addition to traditional adaptations, “Hamlet” has also been reimagined in modern settings and contexts, offering new interpretations of the classic play. Examples include films like “The Lion King,” which draws inspiration from “Hamlet” with its story of a young prince seeking revenge for his father’s death, and stage productions that place the characters in contemporary settings to explore relevant social and political themes.

William Shakespeare, widely regarded as the greatest playwright in English literature, was born in 1564. Throughout his career, Shakespeare wrote an impressive body of work that includes over 36 plays, 154 sonnets, and several poems. His plays span across various genres, including tragedies like “Hamlet” and “Macbeth,” comedies such as “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “Twelfth Night,” and histories like “Henry V” and “Richard III.” Shakespeare’s works are renowned for their intricate plots, memorable characters, and profound insights into the human condition, making them timeless pieces of literature that continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

## Cartoon of Day



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Cartoonist: Guffo from Mexico