



Hamas' Smart Response to Trump's Anti-Peace Plan

Death toll from Israel's war on Gaza tops 67,000

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Israel pressed on with its deadly bombardment of the Gaza Strip on Saturday, despite Hamas submitting its formal response to U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed Gaza ceasefire plan. The attacks also came even as Trump urged Israel to “immediately stop bombing Gaza.”

At least 20 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks across the enclave on Saturday. These latest fatalities, along with dozens more from earlier strikes, have pushed the overall death toll from Israel's two-year war on Gaza to over 67,000, according to Gaza's health authorities. More than 169,000 people have been wounded since the conflict began in October 2023, while thousands remain missing beneath the rubble of bombed-out neighborhoods. Rescue teams say the true number of the dead is likely much higher, given the scale of destruction and limited access to many areas.

Salam's cabinet: US dictates first, Lebanon's interests last

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Recent developments make it clear that Prime Minister Nawaf Salam's government has adopted policies closely aligned with American directives.

In the regional and domestic arenas, the government appears as an administrative branch of the U.S. embassy in Beirut and not an authority representing an independent state.

Four complementary milestones illustrate this trend: Trump's so-called “Eternal Peace” plan aimed at neutralizing the Resistance and Palestine; the Raouche Rock issue; the Minister of Justice's recent directive effectively treating notaries as employees of the U.S. Treasury; and the Starlink agreement that cedes Lebanon's digital sovereignty.

The central goal of Trump's so-called “peace” plan is not to stop the war or find a just settlement, but to establish the logic of “peace by force,” i.e. the Israeli-American dictate to the Palestinians and Arabs.

Hezbollah: Israel turns to politics after military failures in Gaza

Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem said on Saturday that U.S. President Donald Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan for Gaza is designed to “polish” Israel's image on the international stage.

Speaking during a memorial service for senior commanders Sheikh Nabil Qawouk and Sayyed Suhail Al-Husseini, broadcast on Al-Manar TV, Sheikh Qassem described the plan as essentially an Israeli initiative under U.S. cover. He noted that Israel seeks political gains that it could not achieve through military action, “aggression, genocide, and other atrocities.”

Referring to Israel's so-called “Greater Israel” vision, Sheikh Qassem warned that Israel is actively pursuing this agenda with full U.S. support.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has recently expressed public backing for this expansionist plan, which could extend Israeli borders to encompass parts of Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

In his remarks, Sheikh Qassem also called on Arab states not to pressure the Palestinian resistance and emphasized that Palestinian resilience remains strong.

► Page 5

Iran ready to operate solid-fuel launcher as part of natl. space program

TEHRAN – The Iranian Space Agency says phase one of the Chabahar Space Base is undergoing final completion.

Phase One of the project is specially designed for solid-fuel launchers and preparations are underway for the first launch, said head of the agency Hassan Salarieh.

“We hope to break ground for phase two of the base as well,” he added.

“Designs pertaining to the project have been done. Phase two of the base will be constructed to launch liquid-fuel satellite carriers,” he noted. ► Page 2

Iran among top 10 countries marking space week

TEHRAN – Iran is among the top ten countries in terms of the diversity of programs that are held to mark World Space Week, an official with the Iranian Space Agency has said.

“Last year, Iran was ranked third. This success was achieved in cooperation with research centers, institutes, and knowledge-based centers that helped record the events,” ISNA quoted Morteza Nik-khoo, as saying.

Observed from October 4 to 10, the week helps build up the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students; demonstrates visible public support for the space program; educates the public about space activities; and fosters international cooperation in space outreach and education. ► Page 7

When social media turns soldier: The Israeli hand behind TikTok's new rules

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The purchase of TikTok by individuals with ties to Israel opens a troubling chapter in the evolution of social networks and the political narratives that circulate in these digital spaces.

Beyond a mere change of ownership, the transfer of control over this platform—one of the most influential digital spaces worldwide, especially among young people—raises legitimate concerns about the possible censorship of content expressing solidarity with Palestine, in a context where Benjamin Netanyahu himself has identified the platform as a priority target in the fight against so-called “Palestinian propaganda.” ► Page 3

Quds Force commander declares Iran has mobilized all its capabilities in support of Resistance

TEHRAN – The Commander of the IRGC Quds Force, Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, said Iran has dedicated all its capabilities to supporting the Resistance Front, emphasizing that Hezbollah's recent battle once again proved the strength and cohesion of the axis of resistance across the region.

Speaking in an interview on IRIB on Friday, marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hassan Nasrallah, General Qaani elaborated on the role of Hezbollah, Hamas, and other resistance movements in the ongoing confrontation with the Zionist regime.

Nasrallah's leadership and the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation

Qaani revealed that the Al-Aqsa Storm operation, launched from Gaza on October 7, 2023, was so secretive that even top leaders of the Resistance were unaware of its timing. ► Page 3

Rarely-seen painting, commemorative stamp unveiled to honor late Iranian artist Mahmoud Farshchian

TEHRAN – A rarely-seen painting titled Splendor of Flight by the late Iranian painter Mahmoud Farshchian was unveiled on Thursday in Mashhad to mark the 40th day since his passing.

The ceremony was held at Astan Quds Razavi and attended by Hamidreza Soleimani, head of the Mostazafan Foundation's Dafineh Museums Group; Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Marvi, custodian of Astan Quds Razavi; members of Farshchian's family; and a number of cultural figures and officials. ► Page 6



Iran's Baziyar takes gold at 2025 New Delhi

TEHRAN – Ali Baziyar of Iran claimed a gold medal at the Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships on Saturday.

Baziyar came first at the Men's Javelin Throw F54 Final with a throw of 32.24 meters.

The silver medal went to Russian athlete Ivan Revenko with 31.68 meters.

Iran's Erfan Bondori seized the bronze medal with a throw of 31.23 meters.

Aliasghar Javanmardi at the Men's Discus Throw F11, Amirhossein Alipour at the Men's Shot Put F11, Elham Salehi at the Women's Javelin Throw F54, Saeid Afrooz at the Men's Javelin Throw F34, and Hassan Bajoulvand at the Men's Discus Throw F11 had previously won five gold medals.

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

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

Enemy error is synonymous with deadlier response

In an analysis, Siasat-e-Rooz addressed the IRGC's statement on the anniversary of Operation True Promise II and wrote: True Promise II was not only a severe punishment to the enemy's aggression and crimes in the silence of the world's indifferent assemblies, but also a clear message to the world and the evil Zionist regime that the era of costless threats has ended and any aggression will result in a regrettable response. This operation, aimed at hitting the enemy's strategic centers deep in the occupied territories, showed that Iran's missiles and drones, that are a source of national security and dignity, have penetrated every defensive shield—including the Zionist regime's multilayered defenses—and are striking targets with remarkable precision. On the occasion of the anniversary of this operation, the IRGC warned that any new error or aggression from the enemy camp will lead to a heavier, more precise, and more deadly response than True Promises; a response that will be able to bring the fake Zionist regime closer to the promised hell.

Shargh: Consensus of the East against the West

In a commentary, Shargh addressed Moscow's harsh reaction to the three European countries' action in restoring the sanctions resolutions adopted against Iran by the UN Security Council prior to the 2015 nuclear deal. The paper said: Maria Zakharova, spokesperson for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said this move lacks "legal validity." From Moscow's point of view, this European action has not only exacerbated the crisis of the legitimacy of the Security Council but also shown that the West is willing to ignore even its agreed-upon legal rules if they conflict with its political interests. Abbas Araghchi's explicit letter to the UN Secretary-General, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf's firm positions in the parliament, and the harsh statements of the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman all indicate an Eastern consensus against the West that emphasizes that the recent Security Council decision not only lacks international legitimacy but also faces fundamental procedural flaws. What we are witnessing today is not simply the return of sanctions, but rather the emergence of a deep gap in the legal reading of international obligations and responsibilities; a gap where the West stands with the rhetoric of pressure and sanctions, but Iran and its partners emphasize the principles of national sovereignty and the invalidity of unilateral decisions.

Memorial service held in Tehran for Ayatollah Sistani's wife



TEHRAN - A memorial service was held in Tehran on Friday for the late wife of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

The event was attended by a host of mourners, including senior officials, namely First Vice-President Mohammadreza Aref, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larjani and Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi.

She passed away last Sunday after enduring a period of illness.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Neighborhood policy, an opportunity or limitation?

In a note, Arman-e-Emrooz dealt with Iran's position in the region and its neighborhood policy. It wrote: Neighborhood policy can be both an opportunity and a limitation due to Iran's specific geopolitical and geostrategic location. In terms of opportunity, Iran can use the neighborhood strategy to expand regional trade to partially compensate for the problems resulting from international sanctions. From a political point of view, constructive interaction with neighbors can increase Iran's bargaining power in the international system. On the other hand, sanctions and foreign pressure on neighboring countries prevent them from easily entering into extensive cooperation with Iran. Neighborhood policy has always been challenging for Iran. If it is accompanied by active diplomacy, tension management, trust-building, and targeted economic cooperation, it can serve as Iran's springboard in times of sanctions and pressure. But if it merely pays attention to competition and disputes, it will become a limitation rather than an opportunity. If some neighbors distance themselves from Tehran or show commitments to great powers, regional cooperation will certainly come under maximum pressure.

Hamshahri: Strategic partnership between Iran and Russia

Hamshahri examined the Iran-Russia Strategic partnership in an article and said: A new chapter opens in relations between Tehran and Moscow as the Iranian-Russian Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership went into force on October 2, 2025. The partnership includes a wide range of cooperation in various fields. Both sides emphasize that the partnership will pave the way for closer interaction on the international stage, especially in the context of the emergence of a multipolar world, and is defined under two basic policy priorities: "countering Western sanctions" and "shaping a new and just global order." The strategic partnership articulates a willingness to cooperate, a security pact, a binding security commitment, and the development of multifaceted relations. Given the imposition of Western sanctions against Iran and Russia, the two countries have common goals in neutralizing the sanctions, which are pursued within the framework of developing economic, financial, and banking cooperation. Iran and Russia face common regional and international threats and challenges, and the "strategic treaty" is considered an appropriate framework for cooperation in this regard.

Her funeral was held on Monday and her body was buried at the Sheikh Tusi Mosque in the Iraqi city of Najaf.

Following her death, high-ranking political authorities from Iraq and other countries, including Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the Iranian president, parliament speaker, and seminary scholars issued separate statements expressing condolences to Ayatollah Sistani and his family over this loss.

Iran ready to operate solid-fuel launcher as part of natl. space program

From page 1 ► He underlined that liquid-fuel launchers are capable of carrying heavier loads and will be used to put heavier satellites into orbit and conduct "multiple launches."

Highlighting the progress in research and development, Salarieh said Iran has advanced the design of a new generation of reentry capsules and experimental research platforms, capable of conducting suborbital and orbital life science tests, including studies on radiation, temperature, and pressure effects on living organisms.

Solid fuel is ideal for launchers as well as military ballistic missiles due to its long-term storage capability, rapid preparation, and lack of need for complex refueling infrastructure.

Iran's space program is expected to include multiple domestic and international launches this year, covering remote-sensing, communications, and experimental satellites, with precise launch dates subject to technical readiness.

Following the successful launch of a 500-kilogram reentry capsule in 2023, new prototypes are now under development, with subsystem testing scheduled to begin soon.

Iran's space program, embodying national resilience and technological prowess, is poised for a landmark year



with the planned launches of its advanced Kowsar, Zafar, and Paya satellites.

Together, these spacecraft will form a sophisticated constellation designed to revolutionize the country's growing capabilities in earth observation, precision agriculture, and environmental monitoring.

Iran's space program bears testament to phenomenal scientific progress, having achieved remarkable technological breakthroughs despite decades of illegal Western-imposed sanctions.

The planned launches of the Kowsar 1.5, Zafar, and Paya satellites within the current Iranian calendar year mark a major milestone, demonstrating

the nation's growing self-reliance.

These satellites, developed by Iranian engineers associated with various knowledge-based companies in collaboration with the Iranian Space Agency, reflect a strategic push to establish an independent satellite constellation that will support agricultural, environmental, and surveillance needs.

This ambitious program highlights the country's efforts to deepen strategic space cooperation with international partners, cementing its position as an emerging leader in space technology.

The Kowsar 1.5 satellite is an advanced, upgraded version of its predecessor, representing a significant step forward in Iran's

space-based remote sensing capabilities.

This state-of-the-art satellite is designed for high-resolution imaging with a primary focus on precision agriculture. It will provide daily imagery of plant greenery every 24 hours, supporting agricultural monitoring, crop health assessment, and efficient resource management.

The Zafar satellite marks another significant landmark in Iran's space program. It is an advanced earth-observation satellite designed to provide high-resolution imaging for critical applications in agriculture, environmental monitoring, and disaster management.

Developed by the Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST) in partnership with the Iranian Space Agency, the project exemplifies the powerful collaboration between Iran's academic institutions and its governmental space bodies.

The Paya satellite completes this trio of advanced spacecraft, serving as an earth-observation satellite designed for sophisticated imaging and data collection.

It will complement the Kowsar and Zafar satellites in agricultural, environmental, and surveillance applications, strengthening Iran's integrated satellite constellation.

6 Israeli-linked terrorists executed in Iran



TEHRAN – The Iranian Judiciary has announced that 6 members of a secessionist terrorist group affiliated with the Israeli regime, who had confessed to masterminding and carrying out several bloody operations, namely the killing of four security forces and bombing in the city of Khorramshahr, have been executed.

The death sentences were carried out early Saturday, October 4, 2025 after the cases went

through all legal proceedings and the country's Supreme Court upheld the ruling.

The terrorists had conducted a series of armed operations and bombings, jeopardizing the security of Khuzestan Province.

They had confessed to having carried out and orchestrating acts of sabotage.

They had ties to the Tel Aviv regime and were backed by foreign adversary elements.

The Judiciary said that they directly participated in the assassination of police and security officers and confessed to planning and carrying out numerous sabotage operations, including manufacturing and planting bombs, bombing a Khorramshahr gas station, launching armed attacks on banks, lobbing grenades at a military center, and shooting at mosques.

Saman Mohammadi Khiyareh, a member of a Takfiri terrorist group convicted of assassinating Sunni cleric Mamosta Mohammad Sheikh-ol-Islam in 2009, was also executed on Friday.

According to the Judiciary, Khiyareh was found guilty of planning and leading the operation that resulted in the assassination of Sheikh-ol-Islam.

The cleric was shot dead on September 17, 2009, outside a Mosque in Sanandaj, immediately after leading the Maghrib and Isha evening prayers.

Khiyareh's conviction also included a terrorist attack on the Sanandaj Police Headquarters, an armed robbery of a gold shop in Hamedan, and a carjacking that resulted in the murder of the driver.

Further charges included shooting at civilians and leading an armed assault on a police station in Sanandaj, an attack which resulted in the death of a soldier.

According to reports, Khiyareh went into hiding following the collapse of his terrorist network, moving between several cities, including Baneh, Bukan, and Hashtgerd County in Alborz Province.

He was ultimately arrested on December 29, 2013, through a coordinated intelligence and operational effort by security forces.

US 'peace through power' means global submission, says Iran's defense minister

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, has denounced Washington's notion of "peace through power," saying it amounts to "submission to the United States rather than real peace."

"The world does not accept the American idea of peace through power," Nasirzadeh said, adding that freedom-seeking and developing nations have long rejected such coercive approaches.

The Iranian defense chief paid an official visit to Ankara last Wednesday at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart, Ya?ar Güler — a trip marking the first of its kind in years. The visit, which came amid rapid regional changes in recent months, underscored growing cooperation between the two neighbors on defense and security issues.

During his two-day trip, Nasirzadeh held talks with senior Turkish officials, including the Chief of the General Staff, on expanding defense relations, joint counterterrorism efforts, and strengthening border security.

"Turkey is one of our most important neighbors, and both countries play influential roles in the Islamic world and regional equations," he

said in an interview with IRIB News in Ankara. "Our coordination is essential for maintaining peace and stability in the region."

Nasirzadeh said the two sides discussed a wide range of regional issues, including developments in Syria, the Caucasus, and threats posed by the Israeli regime.

"The Zionist regime respects no international law and has no red lines," he stated. "Its actions have created a shared understanding among regional countries that it is a real threat, and cooperation is needed to counter it."

He noted that this convergence among regional states represents "a major achievement born from the Zionist regime's reckless behavior."

Nasirzadeh also invited Turkey's defense minister to visit Tehran and announced that both sides had agreed to maintain high-level exchanges between military delegations. "Our commonalities are far greater than our differences," he added.

Commenting on recent U.S. military deployments in the region, Nasirzadeh said Washington's claim of promoting "peace through power" is simply an attempt to impose its will

on others.

"This concept has existed since President George H.W. Bush declared a unipolar world order led by the U.S.," he said. "It's not new — but today they express it more openly. They say, 'We have power, and you must submit.' That is not peace; it's coercion. The world will never accept that."

Addressing concerns over increased U.S. military presence in the region, Nasirzadeh said such movements are not unprecedented and are part of long-standing psychological tactics.

"For decades, we've seen them move fleets in and out. As a military force, we must always be prepared to defend our country — that's a principle — but society should not be influenced by their psychological warfare," he said.

He described the current global situation as a "hybrid war" combining military and psychological fronts, with the cognitive dimension now playing a bigger role.

"When they repeatedly say 'an attack is imminent,' their goal is to disrupt society, increase inflation, and destabilize the economy," he warned. "People must be alert to this cog-

nitive war. If conflict is imposed on us, we are ready to defend, as we did during the 12-day war when we forced the enemy to accept a cease-fire."

Referring to the Zionist regime's attack on the Global Convoy of Steadfastness and seizure of aid ships bound for Gaza, the minister said the move once again revealed Israel's disregard for international law.

"Since World War II, numerous international regulations have been enacted under the UN system, but the Zionist regime has violated all of them in recent years, fully backed by the U.S.," he said. "Even after the International Court of Justice condemned Netanyahu, Washington went as far as to sanction the court itself."

He added that the convoy symbolized the international community's will to confront genocide and the starvation of Gaza's civilians, yet Israel attacked it without restraint.

"The world now clearly understands the threat posed by this regime," Nasirzadeh said. "People are increasingly aware, and we will continue to witness anti-Zionist movements across the globe."

Quds Force commander declares Iran has mobilized all its capabilities in support of Resistance

From Page 1 ▶ “When the operation began, Ismail Haniyeh was on his way to the airport for a trip to Iraq and only learned about it on his return,” he said.

According to the commander, Seyed Hassan Nasrallah immediately recognized his duty after the operation began. “Before I even spoke with him, he had already acted on his divine and religious obligation,” Qaani said. “He decided that Hezbollah’s operations would begin at night, when southern Lebanon was least populated — a sign of his prudence and humanity.”

Psychological warfare and the pager incident

Qaani described Nasrallah as a master of both military and psychological warfare. “During the tragic pager explosions that left thousands dead or wounded, Martyr Nasrallah stood firm and declared that if our society were not inspired by Imam Hussein, such tragedies could not be endured,” he said.

“By remaining silent for two weeks after the incident, he created panic within the Zionist regime. His composure and strategic restraint proved his depth of understanding,” Qaani added.

Nasrallah’s assassination and Israel’s war crimes

The Quds Force commander accused Israel of committing a war crime in assassinating Nasrallah. “In the bombing that martyred Seyed Hassan, chemical



The Commander of the IRGC Quds Force, Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, speaks during a televised interview released on October 3, 2025.

materials were used along with heavy explosives,” he said. “Despite all preventive measures, the nature of those materials led to his martyrdom.”

Calling Nasrallah “the unshakable mountain of Lebanon,” Qaani said his leadership and faith remain a source of strength for the Lebanese nation and the Resistance Front.

Qaani said the recent war between Hezbollah and the Zionist regime was “the most difficult in Israel’s history,” waged with U.S., NATO, and regional backing. Despite this, Hezbollah’s fighters maintained discipline and control on the battlefield.

“In the 2006 war, Israel needed about seven minutes to strike a

target after detecting it. In this war, that gap was reduced to less than seven seconds,” he said. “Yet Hezbollah’s decentralized structure — with autonomous field units operating independently — allowed it to survive and fight effectively under the heaviest bombardment.”

He said Israel’s deepest advance into Lebanese territory was about four kilometers and that Hezbollah’s resistance forced Tel Aviv to request a ceasefire. “If the Zionist regime had been capable of defeating Hezbollah, it would never have stopped the war,” Qaani asserted.

He added that just days before the ceasefire, Hezbollah fired over 350 missiles in a single day. “That volume of fire proved that

the Resistance was not weakened — it was growing stronger.”

International silence and resistance endurance

Qaani accused the United States and the international community of hypocrisy and inaction. “No new UN resolution was adopted after the war — only Resolution 1701 from the 33-day war remains in effect, and while Hezbollah has honored it, the other side continues to violate its commitments,” he said.

He stressed that Hezbollah’s patience and strategic restraint have prevented escalation. “This revolutionary patience will ultimately bear fruit,” he said.

The legacy of Soleimani and Nasrallah

In conclusion, Qaani highlighted the deep bond between Martyr Qassem Soleimani and Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, describing their friendship as “one of the most extraordinary of our time.”

“When we speak of the Resistance Front today, the mark of Martyr Soleimani is unmistakable,” he said. “Hezbollah’s strength and endurance are the fruits of Nasrallah’s leadership and Soleimani’s guidance.”

Qaani emphasized that Hezbollah remains central to Lebanon’s security and will continue to stand firm. “Hezbollah’s power endures — and those who stand with the Resistance will be the victors,” he concluded.

When social media turns soldier: The Israeli hand behind TikTok’s new rules

From Page 1 ▶ The company’s new doctrine not only signals a strategic shift in content management but also reflects a broader pattern in how certain Western media outlets represent Muslims in general. It perpetuates a dualist narrative that constructs the image of the “good Muslim,” one aligned with Western interests, and the “bad Muslim,” embodied, for example, by the Islamic Republic or by regional Islamic Resistance movements, who are portrayed as a danger to be contained and ultimately eliminated.

The acquisition and its political implications

Recently, the acquisition of TikTok by a consortium of individuals with political and economic ties to Israel has triggered alarms among analysts and human rights advocates. This purchase cannot be understood as a purely commercial or technological affair, but rather within a strategic-geopolitical framework where Israel seeks to increase its presence and control over digital platforms in order to influence global public opinion. TikTok, a short-video network with hundreds of millions of users, offers a powerful loudspeaker for cultural and political narratives, particularly among younger generations searching for alternatives to traditional media.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has explicitly identified TikTok as one of the most important fronts in the “battle against Palestinian propaganda.” For many experts, this signals a deliberate attempt to control, censor, or manipulate Palestinian and pro-Palestinian content on the platform. The purchase thus takes on far greater significance: Reddit, YouTube, Twitter—platforms already at the center of debates on moderation and censorship—now see TikTok added to this dynamic of strategic control in the hands of actors linked to Israel.

Legitimate concerns stem from the analysis of TikTok’s policy changes under this new administration. The platform has begun to implement increasingly restrictive systems regarding content

deemed “inappropriate” or “biased” against certain political figures or states allied with Israel. This can be read as a direct attempt to silence voices that denounce occupation, human rights violations, or express solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In July, TikTok hired Erica Mindel, a former instructor in the Israeli army, who has declared that her Zionist commitment was consolidated during the 2014 Operation Protective Edge. Since then, she has overseen the company’s hate speech policy with the backing of the influential ADL (Anti-Defamation League). Barely two months later, on September 13, TikTok updated its community guidelines to prohibit users from calling the IDF “terrorists” and introduced an automated moderation system that retroactively deletes posts. Numerous users report that comments with phrases like Free Palestine disappear in real time, while videos documenting Israeli war crimes are removed. Added to this is the acquisition of 80% of TikTok’s U.S. operations by Oracle, Silver Lake, and Andreessen Horowitz—a move pointing to a tightening of restrictions on pro-Palestinian content.

Although TikTok claims its policies aim to ensure fairness and protect its community, human rights organizations and users denounce systematic censorship, particularly through the practice known as “shadow banning,” which limits the visibility of posts critical of Israel without notifying creators. In this way, the platform ceases to be a neutral space and instead becomes an informational battlefield where Palestinian voices and their supporters are systematically erased.

The “good Muslim” and “bad Muslim” narrative

This context of censorship and media control is part of a much broader narrative, often analyzed as the construction of the “good Muslim” versus the “bad Muslim.” The “good Muslim” is the one deemed acceptable by the West, aligned with its values and geopolitical goals—often framed within



discourses of cultural integration, moderation, and strategic cooperation. This model is presented as an ideal that legitimizes certain Muslim groups or regimes aligned with Western powers.

In contrast, the “bad Muslim” is embodied by the Islamic Republic of Iran or by movements and communities that have chosen paths of resistance against imperial domination. This category implies stigmatization, delegitimization, and continuous discursive militarization, where Iran is portrayed as an existential threat that justifies policies of isolation, sanctions, and media warfare.

TikTok’s censorship reflects this dichotomy by more harshly targeting content associated with the “bad Muslim” and the resistance, while softening or even erasing narratives about Muslims that, in the dominant Western discourse, would qualify as “good.” This aligns with a covert editorial policy that reproduces a polarization advantageous to Western interests and their strategic allies.

The situation on TikTok is not an isolated phenomenon. It fits into a long-standing dynamic of Western media representation that constructs and reinforces negative images of Iran and of Muslims who are critical or resistant. These representations directly shape the moderation and censorship policies of digital platforms seeking to control global narratives.

The result is the consolidation of a global imaginary in which Iran and its allies are cast as the “dangerous other,” while critical agendas and voices are subject to monitoring, blocking, or silencing. This conditioning of information on ma-

jor social networks jeopardizes the democratic principles of free circulation of ideas and opinions, particularly in regions where democratic or oppositional voices already face severe state restrictions.

With TikTok, whose cultural and social penetration among youth worldwide is enormous, this media construction acquires a new dimension and danger. The control and censorship of content not only constitutes an information battle but also an ideological and cultural war where identities, legitimacy, and rights are at stake.

The representation of Muslim resistance and censorship on social networks

Beyond considering the economic or technological impact for Iran alone, it is necessary to probe the political and epistemic dimensions underlying censorship and content control on platforms like TikTok. Muslim resistance—whether represented by Palestine, Iran, or Hezbollah—suffers not only physical or media silencing but also an intentional construction within an orientalist framework that reinforces stereotypes and paradigms imposed from the West.

This orientalist process entails a unilateral and biased representation of the Muslim world as homogeneous, essentialized, and threatening. Within this framework, narratives of resistance are constructed as dangerous threats to be monitored and censored, while critical or emancipatory voices are marginalized, delegitimized, or erased from the digital public sphere.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran discover fate at 2025 IHF Men’s U17 World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran are drawn in Group C of the 2025 IHF Men’s Under-17 World Championship.

The young Persians are drawn in Pool C along with Argentina, Puerto Rico, and Germany.

The first edition of the Championship will take place in Casablanca, Morocco from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1, with 12 teams at the start.

The draw for the preliminary round of the competition took place on Thursday, 2 October, on the outskirts of the 2025 IHF Men’s Club World Championship, providing four well-balanced groups.

The competition will see three groups of four teams each in the preliminary round, with the winners of each group, plus the best second-placed side qualifying for the semi-finals.

Five continents – Africa, Asia, Europe, the North American and Caribbean and the South and Central America – will be represented at the start of the competition, with three teams from Africa and Asia each, plus two teams from Europe, the North American and Caribbean and the South and Central America taking part.

IHF Men’s Under-17 World Championship – preliminary round

Group A: Egypt, Morocco, Brazil, the U.S.

Group B: Spain, Tunisia, Republic of Korea, Qatar

Group C: Germany, Argentina, Iran, Puerto Rico

Greco-Roman wrestler Mohmadi undergoes foot injury

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Alireza Mohmadi underwent foot injury.

Mohmadi has undergone successful surgery on his right knee after sustaining an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) tear.

Mohmadi lost to Serbian wrestler Aleksandr Komarov 4-3 in the final bout of 87kg at the 2025 World Wrestling Championships in late September.

Sohrab Keyhani, who performed the surgery on Mohmadi’s knee, said that the wrestler had ACL tear and inner meniscus tear and has ample time to return to the wrestling mat for the World Championship next year.

Iran water polo beat China at 2025 Asian Aquatics Championships

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s water polo team defeated China 14-9 at the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships on Saturday.

Team Melli are drawn in Group A along with China, Uzbekistan, and Hong Kong.

Iran will face Hong Kong and Uzbekistan on Sunday and Monday, respectively.

Japan, Kazakhstan, India, Thailand, and Singapore are in Group B.

The 11th Asian Aquatics Championships take place from Sept. 28 to Oct. 10 in Ahmedabad, India.

FIFA VP Victor Montagliani: Iran football will compete at 2026 World Cup

TEHRAN – FIFA vice-president and Concacaf President Victor Montagliani says that he is not concerned about the Iranian national team being able to play matches in the U.S. during next summer’s World Cup.

The report of a potential effort by the federal government to prevent the Iranian officials from attending the draw has naturally raised questions about whether the Iranian team, which have already qualified for the World Cup, will be able to participate in the competition itself next summer.

President Trump issued an executive order earlier this year banning travel to the U.S. from 12 countries, including Iran, but included a carve-out for “major sporting events,” with specific references to the World Cup and Olympics.

Montagliani said at Leaders Week London that he is not concerned about the Iranian national team being able to play in the U.S., despite the host country’s restrictions on travel from Iran.

The draw is scheduled for Dec. 5. The 2026 World Cup will be co-hosted by Mexico, Canada and the U.S.

He said that where Iran play their matches will be determined by December’s draw rather than any geopolitical considerations.

“We already have assurances from all three governments [the U.S., Canada and Mexico] ... that teams that qualify will be allowed to come in and participate,” Montagliani said.

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

Iran to play Uzbekistan in 2025 CAVA Challenge Cup final

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s volleyball team defeated Uzbekistan 3-0 (25-15, 25-14, 25-16) at the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Women’s Volleyball Challenge Cup on Friday.

Team Melli Banovan had previously defeated Kyrgyzstan 3-0 and Tajikistan 3-0 in its opening matches.

Iran will play Uzbekistan in the final match on Sunday.

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

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

Iran learn fate at AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026

TEHRAN – The teams aiming for glory at the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 learnt their challengers following the Official Draw at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

The 16-strong cast were divided into four groups for the seventh edition of the tournament that will kick off on January 6, 2026.

Hosts and 2022 champions Saudi Arabia will have 2018 runners-up Vietnam, Jordan and debutants Kyrgyzstan for company in Group A.

Two-time and defending champions Japan will have to contend with 2024 hosts Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Syria in Group B.

Hoping to deny Uzbekistan – who lifted the trophy in 2018 – progress from Group C will be 2020 champions Korea Republic, Iran and Lebanon, who will be making their first appearance at the Finals.

Group D top seeds and 2013 champions Iraq will have to overcome the challenge of Australia, Thailand and China PR.

The top two finishers of each group will progress to the Knockout Stage, with the Final showdown to be contested on January 24, 2026.

The 2026 AFC U-23 Asian Cup will be the seventh edition of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup, the biennial international age-restricted football championship organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the men’s under-23 national teams of Asia. The tournament will be held in Saudi Arabia between 7 and 25 January.

Japan are the defending champions, having won the 2024 edition.

Draw Result

Group A: Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan

Group B: Japan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Syria

Group C: Uzbekistan, Korea Republic, Iran, Lebanon

Group D: Iraq, Australia, Thailand, China

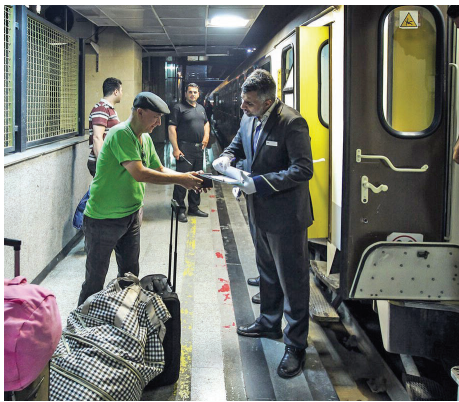
Rail passenger transportation up 3% in H1

TEHRAN – Iran's rail network carried 15.8 million intercity and suburban passengers in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–September 22), a three percent increase compared to the same period last year, official data showed.

According to the Railway Company's Directorate for Planning and Passenger Services Monitoring, passenger number stood at 15.4 million in the first six months of the previous year.

A total of 36,801 trainsets were operated during the period, representing a six percent rise year-on-year.

Passenger-kilometers reached 8.16 billion, up two percent from the same period last year.



The figures reflect steady growth in the rail sector as authorities pursue efficiency-oriented and fast-track infrastructure projects to boost capacity and modal share.

Iran–Afghanistan trade, investment exhibition to be held in October

TEHRAN – Iran and Afghanistan will hold a joint trade and investment exhibition in the eastern Iranian city of Birjand from October 18 to 21, aimed at expanding economic cooperation across multiple sectors.

The event will showcase opportunities in industries including agriculture and food, mining, construction, printing and packaging, oil and petrochemicals, renewable energy, information technology, detergents and hygiene products, and medical tourism.

Organized in South Khorasan Province, which borders Afghanistan, the exhibition seeks to promote cross-border partnerships and highlight investment prospects for businesses from both countries.

In mid-September, a high-ranking Iranian economic delegation led by Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak traveled to Kabul for talks on boosting trade and investment with Afghanistan.

Afghan Ministry of Industry and Commerce spokesman Abdul Salam Jawad Akhundzada said the visit aimed to identify obstacles hindering bilateral trade and to improve cooperation in transport and joint investment.

The delegation also met officials from the prime minister's economic office, as well as the ministries of industry and commerce, mines and petroleum, and public works, along with Afghan private sector representatives.

Atabak told reporters upon arrival that Iran and Afghanistan share deep historical and cultural ties. He said the Pezeshkian administration has prioritized stronger relations with all neighbors, with Afghanistan regarded as a particularly important partner.

The delegation, which includes Iranian lawmakers and private sector members, will also travel to Herat province to inspect the railway, mines and the Islam Qala border crossing.

On the second day of the visit, Atabak met Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, along with Afghan ministers of commerce, energy and water, mines, and public works. He welcomed Afghanistan's stance during Iran's recent 12-day conflict with Israel and said the upcoming seventh session of the Joint Economic Committee would be an opportunity to advance cooperation in rail, road and trade.

Talks also covered banking ties, greater use of Iran's Chabahar port, expansion of cargo movement via the Khaf–Herat railway, and joint work in the mining sector. Atabak is due to continue his trip with a visit to Herat's industrial city.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$510 million to Afghanistan during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21).

Foroud Asgari said that Afghanistan was Iran's fifth top non-oil export destination in the mentioned three-month period.

In early May, Payam Baqeri, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said that strengthening economic cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan will contribute to

regional stability and create a framework for sustainable partnerships.

He made the comments at a conference on Iran-Afghanistan trade opportunities, emphasizing the Chamber's commitment to laying the groundwork for enduring commercial ties between the two neighboring countries.

"Iran and Afghanistan can build a win-win partnership by leveraging their respective resources and capabilities," Baqeri said. "Iran's advanced industrial infrastructure and access to global markets, combined with Afghanistan's mineral wealth, fertile land, and young labor force, make them natural economic partners."

Baqeri highlighted the shared linguistic, cultural, and historical bonds between the two countries, describing them as a strong foundation for economic growth, trade expansion, and durable relations. He added that expanding bilateral trade would support stability in the region and benefit future generations.

"The outlook for Iran-Afghanistan trade is positive and promising," he said, noting that official data indicates a significant increase in trade volume between the two countries in 2024.

The ICCIMA deputy head described the Chamber's role as a proactive facilitator of trade relations and strategic partnerships. He said the Chamber is committed to resolving trade barriers through dialogue with governments and enhancing commercial interaction by expanding business networks and holding joint trade events.

He also voiced support for the creation of joint ventures across various economic sectors and said the Chamber was working with educational institutions to help train a skilled workforce in both countries.

"Iran's private sector, with a forward-looking perspective, is ready to participate in Afghanistan's infrastructure, mining, agriculture, energy, and engineering projects," Baqeri said.

He called for Iran-Afghanistan relations to serve as a model for regional cooperation: "A partnership grounded in shared history and a vision for a better future can become a lasting and constructive alliance."

In a meeting with officials from the Taliban-led government on April 30, Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh said Iran is ready to export technical and engineering services in agriculture to Afghanistan.

The minister told Afghanistan's deputy agriculture minister in the meeting that the necessary infrastructure and capacity exist to transfer agricultural expertise and know-how to Afghan professionals. He noted that Iran and Afghanistan share deep-rooted cultural and historical ties and continue to seek closer cooperation in various fields.

Nouri Ghezleh emphasized the need to establish a joint committee between Iran and Afghanistan, based in Kabul, to advance bilateral relations. "We must seriously pursue the expansion of ties between the two countries, particularly in agriculture," he said, adding that cooperation agreements should be drafted and signed within the framework of the joint committee.

Over 940 km of gas transmission pipelines to be commissioned by Mar. 2026

TEHRAN – Iran will bring 948 kilometers of gas transmission pipelines and three new compressor stations into operation in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2026), alongside expanding its Sarajeh gas storage facility, the head of the Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company said.

Behnam Mirzaei announced a major leap in the company's infrastructure development, saying more than 12,000 kilometers of pipelines, 216 turbocompressors and 24 operation centers have been commissioned since the company's establishment.

Under the current administra-



tion, 680 kilometers of pipelines and nine turbocompressors at

four compression stations have been completed with an invest-

ment of €150 million.

Mirzaei said the Sarajeh storage project will increase capacity from one billion cubic meters to 1.5 billion cubic meters.

He stressed that over 90 percent of the equipment needed for transmission lines, compressor stations and refineries is now domestically produced, highlighting a "major leap toward self-sufficiency" thanks to Iranian manufacturers and contractors.

"The gas industry, once dependent on foreign technology, now plays a decisive role in ensuring stable energy supply both for domestic use and exports," he said.

ICCIMA calls for tariff reform to boost trade with Turkey

TEHRAN – Senior Iranian and Turkish trade officials held talks in Tehran on ways to deepen economic ties, with Iran's Chamber of Commerce calling for tariff reforms to unlock the two countries' trade potential.

Hamed Asgari, deputy for international affairs at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), told Turkish commercial attachés that the current level of trade is "not satisfactory" and urged a revision of tariff policies to strengthen bilateral economic relations.

He said Iran and Turkey have the capacity to expand trade to between \$15 billion and \$20 billion annually, but tariff barriers and restrictions have prevented Iranian goods from reaching their full potential in the Turkish market. Products such as cement and clinker were cited as key examples.

Asgari emphasized Iran's comparative advantages in energy and competitive goods and called for faster, less bureaucratic cooperation between Iranian and Turkish firms, especially in sectors such as steel and petrochemicals. He also stressed the need to leverage the Turkish embassy's support to facilitate tariff reform and boost bilateral exchanges.

The Turkish delegation, including commercial attachés Bilge Dinmez and Orhan, underlined the importance of removing trade barriers and clearing up commercial misunderstandings. They described Turkey as Iran's "gateway to Europe" and highlighted extensive ties, including a large Iranian community in Turkey.

They noted that preferential tariff negotiations between the two countries will resume soon and pointed to recent meetings of the joint commission and customs authorities.

Asgari said ICCIMA, as an advisor to the government, is committed to working with the Turkish embassy's economic section to address private sector concerns.

He promised follow-up meetings between business communities from both countries to craft practical solutions and advance cooperation, particularly in strategic industries such as steel.

The session concluded with plans to hold regular technical and expert meetings between ICCIMA and the Turkish embassy to drive trade development. Dinmez was introduced as the new commercial attaché at Turkey's embassy in Tehran.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) for planning and international affairs, Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$6.8 billion to Turkey in the past Iranian calendar year, which

ended on March 20, 2025.

Akbarpour said that Turkey was Iran's fourth top export destination in the previous year.

Exporting commodities valued at \$12.4 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third top source of import in that year, the official added.

On April 14, the secretary of Iran's Free Trade and Special Economic Zones High Council said that Iran is pursuing the creation of a joint free trade zone with Turkey, as part of broader efforts to resolve long-pending investment challenges and boost cooperation with neighboring countries.

Speaking to Tasnim News Agency, Reza Masrou said a special task force has been formed to resolve unresolved projects that have lingered in Iran's free zones for over 15 years. "We are actively following up on the establishment of a joint free trade zone with Turkey," he noted, adding that a joint working group between Iran and Turkey will take charge of advancing the plan.

Masrou stressed the need for a major shift in investment strategy across the country's free trade zones, stating, "We must move decisively beyond what was done in the past. Investment incentives should be swiftly approved and implemented by each zone's board of directors."

To facilitate bilateral cooperation, a joint forum is planned for July this year, bringing together Iranian and Turkish free zone officials and investors in one of Iran's free trade zones.

The official said that each zone must update its investment offerings and identify sector-specific priorities to attract investors based on its unique capacities. He added that investor satisfaction is critical, and new investment decisions are often influenced by the experiences of previous investors.

He criticized prolonged unresolved projects, noting that some have remained inactive for up to 15 years. "Creating task forces is necessary, but not enough. Problems must be addressed fundamentally. CEOs must be personally involved, and outcomes should be achieved within six months."

On March 11, Iran's ambassador to Turkey announced a significant rise in bilateral trade between Tehran and Ankara, stating that the trade volume between the two nations reached \$11.8 billion last year and has surpassed \$17.5 billion as of February this year. The figure is expected to hit \$19 billion by year-end.

According to IRNA, citing Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Mohammad-Hossein Habibollahzadeh made the remarks during a



virtual session of the Iran-Turkey Joint Transport Committee, emphasizing the importance of transit development. He noted that transit and transport volumes between the two countries have increased by \$7.0 billion this year, though further infrastructural improvements are required in rail, air, maritime, and port sectors.

Habibollahzadeh highlighted the significant traffic between Iran and Turkey, stating that six million passengers and approximately 330,000 trucks crossed the two countries' borders last year. In response to the growing trade volume, both countries have agreed to increase border crossings from three to five. Expanding rail connectivity and increasing flights are also part of the agenda.

The envoy welcomed the swift follow-up on recent meetings between the two countries' transport ministers, which reflects a strong commitment to expanding transport and logistics cooperation. He expressed hope that key decisions would be made to further advance transport ties between Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and Turkey's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Saeed Rasouli, emphasized the strategic importance of Iran and Turkey in the southern Caspian Sea corridor linking China to Europe. He said that transit would remain a key subject in upcoming ministerial talks between the two countries.

Turkey's Deputy Transport Minister, Durmush Enver reaffirmed Ankara's commitment to expanding transport and transit cooperation, underscoring the need for modern infrastructure and necessary investments. He also stressed the importance of completing the Iran-Turkey railway connection at the Cheshmeh Soraya border crossing.

The meeting focused on maximizing road, rail, maritime, and air transport cooperation, as well as resolving existing transit challenges. Other key issues included facilitating border crossings, addressing restrictions and tariffs on Iranian and Turkish fleets, and adjusting fuel pricing for Turkish trucks in Iran.

Discussions also covered the

recently launched Tehran-Van passenger train and the possibility of extending the route to Ankara and Istanbul. Both sides reviewed rail freight operations, plans to boost cargo transport, and the status of empty freight wagons in both countries.

Meanwhile, Iran's Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah and Samad Hasanzadeh, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), traveled to Turkey alongside a delegation of agricultural and food industry professionals in January.

As reported, the agriculture minister and his accompanying delegation attended an Iran-Turkey Agricultural Business Forum on January 10, in Ankara.

The events featured Nouri Qezeljah, Hasanzadeh, Hossein Pirmoazen, the deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, senior Agriculture Ministry officials, and private sector representatives.

Discussions focused on addressing trade barriers, fostering bilateral ties, and enhancing export potentials.

Speaking at a gathering of Iranian agricultural professionals in Ankara, Nouri Qezeljah stated that the government's resolve to support private sector growth, removing obstacles to agricultural and food exports remains a top priority.

He emphasized the need to modernize food packaging and facilitate export terminal licenses to expand export markets.

The minister also underscored the importance of resolving customs challenges faced by Iranian exporters in Turkey, advocating for stable policies to prevent ad-hoc regulations that undermine exporters' credibility. He added that the private sector, with its emphasis on efficiency and innovation, plays a vital role in overcoming economic challenges.

This high-profile delegation, including 180 Iranian agricultural exporters and producers, marked one of the largest economic missions between the two countries, showcasing the potential for enhanced trade and collaboration in agriculture and food industries.

Hamas’ smart response to Trump’s anti-peace plan

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance factions in Gaza say Hamas’s response to the U.S. proposal reflects a responsible national stance and came after thorough consultations.

They explained that the response was the result of extensive discussions aimed at reaching an agreement that aligns with the interests of the Palestinian people and ensures an end to the ongoing war of extermination. The factions called on all parties to take the necessary steps to move forward.

“Our people deserve that their resilience and heroism be crowned with outcomes that fulfill their national aspirations for freedom, independence, and the end of occupation,” the resistance movements stated.

They stressed the need for the Palestinian Authority to fulfill its duties and obligations immediately, including the urgent need to convene a national meeting.

In its reply to the U.S. offer, Hamas announced its agreement to release all Israeli captives, both living and deceased, under the appropriate field conditions for a prisoner exchange.

Hamas also confirmed its readiness to immediately enter negotiations, through mediators, to discuss further details. These include the prisoner exchange process, disarmament, and the occupation.

Additionally, the movement reiterated its willingness to hand over administration of the Gaza Strip to a nationally agreed-upon body of independent Palestinian technocrats, based on Palestinian consensus and supported by Arab and Islamic nations.

However, all Palestinian resistance factions emphasized that Hamas’s responsible stance, taken on behalf of the broader Palestinian political forces, is a message to the world: “the time has come for the occupation(regime)to leave our land.”

Whilst Trump’s offer to end the Gaza genocide has been framed as a step toward peace, in reality, it risks entrenching the very conditions that make peace impossible.

True peace cannot come from political deals crafted far from the rubble of Gaza; it can only emerge when the Israeli aggression and decades-long occupation end. Anything less merely pauses the cycle of violence, without addressing its root cause.

Palestinian factions accepted



the U.S. proposal not out of faith in Washington’s intentions, which have time and again proven to be sinister, but to ease the unbearable suffering of their people, a population enduring starvation, bombardment, and displacement amid the genocide.

In the hours leading up to Hamas’s announcement, the Israeli occupation regime intensified its bombardment of Gaza, striking displacement camps and killing civilians, an attempt to force acceptance through pressure. Such actions reveal the hollowness of any claim to “peace” built on coercion and collective punishment.

Gaza’s Ministry of Health stated on Saturday that “In the past 24 hours, 66 martyrs and 265 injuries have been recorded at hospitals in the Gaza Strip.” Israeli bombings continued in the enclave, killing more civilians.

On the other hand, Palestinian resistance operations have, over the past two years, thwarted the occupation regime’s attempts to achieve any of its officially stated war objectives via military means.

The Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper revealed on Saturday that “As part of the Gideon Vehicles 2 operation, the Israeli army has not yet reached Hamas’s strongholds and targets in Gaza City.”

If there is to be a genuine end to this genocidal war, it must begin with ending the Israeli occupation, dismantling its system of aggression, and recognizing Palestinian rights to freedom and dignity.

“We do not accept a foreign administration of the Gaza Strip, and an independent national body must be formed for this task,” Hamas leader Osama Hamdan said.

“There is a Palestinian national agreement that a national Palestinian body, linked to the Palestinian Authority, will manage the Gaza

Strip,” Hamdan noted, adding, “Attempts to exclude Hamas from the Palestinian political process will not succeed.”

Also, Israel Hayom, quoting an Israeli political source, said the “halt of attacks” in the Gaza Strip is not a ceasefire and not the beginning of a withdrawal.

This is why ceasefires imposed by force or diplomacy without justice and a full Israeli military withdrawal will only delay the next round of violence. Real peace will not be dictated from Washington or Tel Aviv. It will be born the day the occupation ends.

Hamas did not accept Trump’s offer; the movement responded to it positively through mediators, as it has done many times over the past two years when initiatives have been put on the table.

Hamas has been delicately balancing long-term peace for its people who have suffered unimaginable pain alongside daily resistance operations that have inflicted significant losses on Israeli occupation forces and added immense pressure on the Netanyahu government.

The Palestinian response has been met with positive international reactions.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres expressed satisfaction with Hamas’s response to the proposal and praised the diplomatic efforts of Qatar and Egypt for mediation.

Yemen’s Ansarallah said Hamas’s reply was responsible, realistic, and implementable, reflecting the desire of the movement and the factions to stop the aggression and spare civilian lives.

It described the reply as “open to solutions and highly flexible,” while warning that any new escalation in Gaza would aim to complete the genocide and further starve the

Palestinian people, a responsibility that would fall primarily on the United States and the Israeli regime.

Egypt’s Foreign Ministry said Hamas’s response “reflects the movement’s, and all Palestinian factions’ desire to spare Palestinian lives and protect civilians.”

Egypt affirmed its determination, in coordination with Arab and Islamic countries and the international community, to exert maximum efforts to secure a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and to launch a comprehensive political process that ensures regional stability.

An Egyptian source said preparations are underway for a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue to discuss Gaza’s future in light of recent developments and Hamas’s response to President Trump’s ceasefire proposal.

Qatar’s Foreign Ministry announced that Doha has begun coordinating with Egypt and the United States to continue talks aimed at ending the genocidal war.

Qatar welcomed Hamas’s reply to the U.S. plan and said it is ready to continue mediation efforts to achieve a just and durable end to the conflict.

Jordan’s Foreign Ministry said Hamas’s response to President Trump’s proposal is “an important step toward ending the war and its catastrophic consequences.”

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stressed that the Israeli occupation must immediately halt all attacks and commit to the plan without delay.

Erdogan added that urgent steps are needed to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and to stop “the genocide and the shameful scenes that deeply wound the world’s conscience,” adding that the outcome of ongoing talks must favor the Palestinian people.

Other global leaders also welcomed Hamas’s agreement to Trump’s plan, viewing it as an important step.

More crucially, it is the Israeli occupation that has consistently blocked peace efforts by refusing to withdraw from Palestinian lands and relentlessly targeting civilians, including women and children.

Given the devastation it has unleashed on Gaza, the likelihood of the occupying regime genuinely engaging in any peace process remains bleak.

Israel’s Sumud seizure reignites global campaign against Gaza blockade



Protesters hold a Catalan banner reading “Stop the genocide in Palestine, no more arms trade with Israel!” during a rally backing the Global Sumud Flotilla, Barcelona, Spain, October 4, 2025.

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – International fury erupted this week after Israeli naval commandos intercepted the Global Sumud Flotilla — a 42-vessel convoy carrying volunteers and small consignments of food and medicine — detaining roughly 400–450 activists in a sweep that organizers and rights groups call unlawful.

Images of boardings and officers taking activists to Ashdod were followed within hours by demonstrations from Barcelona and Rome to Buenos Aires and Sydney.

Italy provided the most dramatic response: trade unions called a one-day general strike on October 3 that they say drew over two million people across more than 100 cities, shutting down services, blocking ports, and snarling transport as protesters demanded a total arms embargo on Israel and recognition for Palestine.

The strike — a sign of deep public anger at Rome’s reluctance to condemn Tel Aviv — ranged from peaceful family marches in Rome to clashes with police in Milan and Bologna.

Diplomatic pressure rose alongside street fury. Turkey announced a special flight carrying 137 deported activists to Istanbul; dozens more nationals remain in custody or are being processed for deportation.

Several European governments, including Switzerland, have protested restricted consular access after diplomats said Israeli authorities cut short visits to detainees held at Ketziot.

Activists who were detained describe a pattern of mistreatment: people zip-tied and forced to kneel for hours, delays or denials of water, medication, and legal counsel, sleep deprivation, and humiliating searches.

Organizers and some detainees say many have begun hunger strikes in protest; human rights organizations warn that obstructing legal and medical access violates basic standards.

All this unfolds against a grim backdrop: nearly 67,000 Palestinians have been killed, UN agencies confirm famine in Gaza, and many observers now call Israel’s campaign genocide. The catastrophe gave urgency to the Sumud Flotilla’s attempt to break the siege.

For many demonstrators, the seizure of vessels carrying aid crystallized a larger charge — that the blockade amounts to collective punishment and that governments who do nothing are complicit.

The flotilla episode has re-ignited a global campaign for concrete measures — from arms embargos to targeted sanctions — and it has left Israel politically exposed.

Death toll from Israel’s war on Gaza tops 67,000

From page 1 ► Figures from the Government Media Office in Gaza highlight the heavy toll on children, reporting that at least 20,000 minors have been killed since Israel launched war on the enclave. The ongoing Israeli blockade has also triggered a humanitarian crisis, with starvation claiming more than 450 lives, including over 150 children.

Despite growing international concern, Israel’s military has reiterated warnings that northern Gaza—including the devastated Gaza City—remains an active “combat zone.” The army has urged residents to flee south, though southern Gaza is already overwhelmed by hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians crammed into overcrowded camps and shelters. Many have been uprooted multiple times, enduring dire shortages of food, water, and medicine.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 400,000 people have fled from northern to southern Gaza since mid-August, when Israeli forces launched a renewed assault on Gaza City. Most have sought refuge in Deir el-Balah and Khan Younis, areas already struggling to cope with the influx.

On Friday, Hamas announced that it had accepted several provisions of the White House’s 20-point ceasefire plan, including the release of all captives, while saying other points required further negotiation. President Trump and multiple world leaders welcomed the response, while some analysts voiced cautious optimism that the Gaza conflict, one of the deadliest in modern history, might finally be resolved.

Caracas warns US military buildup seeks to seize Venezuela’s oil and gold

Venezuela condemned a fresh U.S. military strike that killed four people aboard a vessel off its coast, calling the attack an illegal, extrajudicial killing and part of a pattern of coercion by Washington.

Critics note the action follows other strikes that U.S. officials say have killed dozens in recent weeks.

President Nicolás Maduro framed the buildup as a bid to seize Venezuela’s vast oil, gas, and gold reserves, accusing the U.S. of fabricating drug-trafficking narratives to justify intervention.

Analysts argue the concentration of warships, F-35s, Marines, and a submarine based near Puerto Rico could support seizure-style

operations, not just counter-narcotics patrols.

Venezuelan authorities said radars tracked five U.S. F-35s about 75 kilometers off the coast, while reports indicate F-35Bs in Puerto Rico are armed with air-to-air missiles — evidence Caracas cites as proof of hostile intent.

Reports also suggest senior U.S. aides, led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, have pushed more aggressive options to remove Maduro — a development that reinforces Caracas’s warnings.

Diplomats and rights groups are demanding transparent investigations and restraint, warning that continued strikes and military pressure risk spiraling into a wider conflict that would further harm Venezuelan civilians.

Salam’s cabinet: US dictates first, Lebanon’s interests last

From page 1 ► Both Trump and Netanyahu have agreed that achieving the strategic objectives of the war on Gaza did not always require bombing, but could be imposed through political, diplomatic, and economic pressure.

The plan thus forms part of the broader context involving Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran in a single category: either submit to the U.S.-Israeli agenda, or face more wars.

What matters to Lebanon is that international pressure on the Palestinian resistance is coupled with efforts to isolate Hezbollah and contain it within the country.

Herein lies the “required” role of the Salam government, which was created to be the local implementer of this strategy.

This role was evident in the Raouche Rock crisis, when Hezbollah’s Resalat Association lit up the rock with pictures of Secretaries General Sayyeds Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safiedine on their martyrdom anniversary.

The government and its prime minister went berserk, and instead of viewing the event as a symbolic artistic national event, they treated it as a threat to public security!

Salam asked the Ministries of Interior, Justice, and Defense to take “decisive” measures, including dissolving the association and judicial prosecution against the organizers.

From the government’s view raising the image of two Resistance symbols, who were assassinated for resisting Israel, is a crime that warrants punishment. However, relinquishing national wealth or sovereignty is not considered a violation.

In this sense, Raouche becomes a symbol of the broader battle: any cultural or popular activity that commemorates the Resistance is rejected because it contradicts Washington’s agenda.

The government’s other sin was Circular No. 1355 issued by Minister of Justice Adel Nassar.

The circular requires notaries to verify the identity of the “economic owner” of any sale, lease, or transfer of ownership transaction, and to review international and U.S. sanctions regulations before concluding any contract.

If any party’s name appears on these regulations, the transaction is prohibited from being notarized under penalty of prosecution.

This measure, from a legal standpoint, violates the principle of freedom of contract and property rights.

Legal capacity in Lebanon is determined by national laws and judicial rulings, not by the decisions of the U.S. Treasury Department.

The circular changed notaries’ role from neutral witnesses to agents enforcing foreign financial directives, making any Lebanese person on an international sanctions list effectively unable to exercise legal capacity at home.

This is not merely an “administrative error,” but rather an official acknowledgment of foreign guardianship.

Another sin is the Starlink licensing deal; the contract signed between the Ministry of Telecommunications and the American company did not pass through Parliament, as required by Law 431/2002, nor was it subject to the Audit Bureau or a public tender.

The most serious aspect of it is that it allowed Lebanese data to be stored on servers in Qatar, violating Article 72 of the Electronic Transactions Law, which requires that data be stored within Lebanon for at least three years.

Thus, by government decision, the state relinquished its digital sovereignty to an American company directly linked to Washington’s security apparatus.

Lebanese information became exposed abroad, without any guarantees of privacy or cybersecurity.

The irony is that all of this was done under the guise of an “international license,” while in reality, it amounted to an illegal concession to a foreign company that controls the Lebanese digital space.

Taken together—the Trump plan, Arab states’ alignment with it, the Raouche incidents, the Justice Minister’s circular, and the Starlink deal—these developments indicate that deference to Washington has shifted from a side issue to a core element of Lebanese politics.

Salam’s government sees itself not as accountable to its people and their laws, but rather to Washington and its orders. It thus paves the way for Lebanon to fall into the same “peace by force” trap imposed by the U.S. psychopathic president on the region.

It’s a single path: from forcing Hamas and the Palestinians to surrender, to suppressing any symbol of Resistance in Beirut, to transforming the judiciary and administration into tools for U.S. sanctions, to handing over the digital space to an American company.

‘Tourism is key to sustainable development’

TEHRAN– Seyyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, head of the Planning and Budget Organization, emphasized tourism’s strategic role as a driver of sustainable transformation during a visit to the historic Sa’d al-Saltaneh complex in Qazvin on Friday.

Pourmohammadi said more than 300 million people worldwide are employed in the tourism industry, underlining the sector’s economic, cultural, and civilizational significance. He then highlighted the country’s tourism sector to reclaim its rightful share in this global market.

Tourism, he noted, is one of the fundamental pillars of sustainable development. “By leveraging new technologies and smartly showcasing our historical heritage, we can create rich and unique experiences that attract visitors from near and far,” he said.

Pourmohammadi highlighted Iran’s historical and civilizational capacities, stating the goal is not only to showcase historical sites but also to familiarize visitors with past commercial practices. He compared Iran’s museum collections from the Qajar, Sassanid, and Achaemenid eras to those held by major museums in Paris and Istanbul in terms of glob-



al significance.

He added the need to create a cultural, civilizational, and culinary environment that surprises tourists and engages them in a distinctive experience.

Regarding unfinished projects and limited financial resources, Pourmohammadi acknowledged the country’s budget constraints amid widespread provincial needs.

He concluded by emphasizing that through cooperation and coordination, Iran can accelerate improvements in the tourism sector.

Rarely-seen painting, commemorative stamp unveiled to honor late Iranian artist Mahmoud Farshchian



TEHRAN – A rarely-seen painting titled *Splendor of Flight* by the late Iranian painter Mahmoud Farshchian was unveiled on Thursday in Mashhad to mark the 40th day since his passing.

The ceremony was held at Astan Quds Razavi and attended by Hamidreza Soleimani, head of the Mostazafan Foundation’s Dafineh Museums Group; Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Marvi, custodian of Astan Quds Razavi; members of Farshchian’s family; and a number of cultural figures and officials.

Soleimani said the painting, preserved in the Foundation’s collection, depicts 14 golden birds in motion, representing a conceptual work open to artistic study. “This valuable piece reflects the depth of Master Farshchian’s vision and creativity,” he said.

During the event, a joint commemorative stamp was also unveiled by the Mostazafan Foundation and Astan Quds Razavi. The stamp features two artworks from each institution’s museum collections.

The painting, unveiled publicly for the first time, is set to be returned to the Foundation’s museum treasury.

Mahmoud Farshchian (1930–2025) was a renowned Iranian painter and educator known for revitalizing Persian miniature art. His works are displayed in museums and collections around the world. Farshchian developed a distinctive school of Iranian painting that blended classical aesthetics with innovative techniques, granting the traditional art form renewed independence and international recognition.

‘Mother and Child’ tourism tour held in Zanjan

TEHRAN—A special ‘Mother and Child’ tourism tour was held in Zanjan on the occasion of Tourism Week, focusing on familiarizing children with the history and culture of the province.

According to IRIB, Deputy Head of Zanjan Tourism Department Davoud Abian said that this cultural-tourism event was implemented in cooperation with Zanjan Tourism Department and the Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies of Zanjan province.

He said the main goal of this program was to create an educational and recreational experience both for mothers and their kids so that the kids could become familiar with rich history, pure culture and tourism attractions of Zanjan province.

The tour was held to strengthen family bonds in the context of cultural tourism. Using places like Rakhthshooy Khaneh (washing house) helps children understand that history is not just in books, but also in the structures and spaces of everyday life, he added.

Abian continued that this visit was more than a simple show; visitors were able to gain a good understanding of social developments through hearing stories and seeing old tools.

He said: “Our goal is not just a day of fun. We are investing in the future generation. If our children are alienated from the historical

and cultural attractions of their province today, they will have no motivation to protect them in the future.”

Abian added that developing sustainable tourism requires active education from an early age, and this mother-child tour was a successful example of combining education, family and tourism.

These tours with different focuses (such as food tourism or family eco-tourism) will continue in the coming months so that tourism in Zanjan becomes a comprehensive and continuous activity, he concluded.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180–242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

In January 2020, Zanjan was designated as a ‘world city of filigree’ by the World Crafts Council after the WCC assessors visited various craft workshops, stores, exhibits, and bazaars of the city in a two-day itinerary in December 2019.

Filigree consists of curling, twisting, or plaiting fine, pliable metal threads and soldering them at their points of contact with each other with a metal groundwork.

Hundreds observe ancient Qalishuyan ritual in central Iran

TEHRAN – Hundreds of locals gathered on Friday in Mashhad-e Ardehal, central Iran, to perform Qalishuyan, an annual religious ritual recognized by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The ceremony, deeply rooted in local tradition, involves sprinkling rosewater on a special carpet at the mausoleum of Soltan Ali, a revered holy figure in Kashan, Fin, and surrounding villages. After wrapping the carpet, participants hand it over to residents of Fin, who wash it in a running stream and decorate it with rosewater using wooden sticks.

The ritual honors the memory of Soltan Ali, whose body, according to legend, was carried in a carpet to a nearby stream for washing and burial. The practice



has been passed down through

generations, blending oral tra-

dition with evolving festive ele-

ments.

Kashan, a city near the Dasht-e Kavir desert, is known for its historical architecture, including the UNESCO-listed Fin Garden and traditional bazaars. The region also attracts visitors for its rosewater distillation ceremonies, which produce fragrant rosewater used both in cooking and religious practices.

Iran, rich in spiritual tourism, hosts numerous religious sites, including shrines, mausoleums, churches, and fire temples, reflecting its diverse cultural heritage.

Located on a key route between Tehran and major cities such as Isfahan and Shiraz, Kashan serves as a gateway to many cultural and archaeological attractions, including the ancient Tepe Sialk site, which dates back to the 4th millennium BC.

Foreign ambassadors tour historic sites in downtown Tehran

TEHRAN — In celebration of Tehran Week, several foreign ambassadors and diplomats visited prominent historical landmarks across District 12 in downtown Tehran.

Representatives and their families from the embassies of Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Kyrgyzstan, Japan, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Chile, Cuba, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, and the Philippines participated in the event, Mehr reported on Saturday.

They first paid a visit to Abgineh Museum (museum of glass and ceramics of Iran). Saint Mary Church was the second place visited by the diplomatic delegation. This church was

built in 1938, at the same time as the Armenian population of the capital increased, and was consecrated in 1945 under the name of Saint Mary Church. The museum of Archbishop Ardak Manukian is also located there.

On their third visit, the diplomatic delegation visited the Adrian Temple (a Zoroastrian fire temple) in Tehran. This building was opened in December 1917 with the help of Zoroastrians from Tehran, Yazd, Kerman, Shiraz and Kashan.

The delegation then visited the Haim Synagogue, which is the National Museum of the Jews and the first museum of the Jews in Iran. The building of this museum was built

in 1913 as the Museum of the Prayer of the Jews of Iran.

Speaking on the sidelines of the visits, Amir Qasemi, head of the Tehran Municipality’s tourism office, said that today’s visit is the 12th tour of diplomats from embassies located in Iran since 2023, which has received good feedback in introducing Tehran’s tourist attractions to the world.

He added: “By conducting these tours, the diplomats become ambassadors of Tehran to their countries, and during these visits they become familiar with the historical and cultural identity and antiquity of the city of Tehran.”

17 buildings registered in list of monuments of historical and cultural value in Mazandaran

TEHRAN -A total of 17 historical monuments were registered on the list of valuable historical and cultural monuments of Mazandaran province, director-general of Mazandaran Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department has said.

Hossein Izadi explained that they include a municipality building and a bathhouse in Amol, a research garden and Armenian cemetery in Ramsar, a mosque in Alasht, a cinema in Savadkuh, a canning factory in Qaem Shahr, and a local palace in Noor.

Izadi explained that the aforementioned monuments are under the protection and supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, and any interference, seizure, or action that leads to their destruction or change of identity is considered a crime in accordance with Articles 558 to 569 of Book V of the Islamic Penal Code, and the perpetrator will be subject to legal penalties.

He stated that the restoration and reconstruction of the monument is possible only with the

approval and supervision of the Cultural Heritage Ministry, adding that the registration of historical monuments is carried out in order to identify, document and protect the cultural heritage of a country.

This process will lead to preserving the national identity, transferring culture to the future generations and attracting the tourists, he said, adding that the registered monuments will be protected from destruction or uncoordinated changes and acquire legal significance.

Mazandaran, a major tourism hub on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea, is known for its natural beauty and hospitality infrastructure. The picture-perfect province has long been a highly popular destination for domestic holidaymakers. Its varied nature features plains, prairies, forests, and rainforests stretching from the sandy beaches of the sea to the rugged and snowcapped Alborz sierra, including Mount Damavand, one of the highest peaks and volcanos in Asia.

Weaving Iran’s sustainable growth through handicrafts

TEHRAN--Iran’s handicrafts sector, deeply rooted in millennia of cultural heritage, remains a vital yet often overlooked part of the country’s economy.

While the nation’s vast oil reserves have long dominated headlines and national priorities, the artisanal crafts industry quietly sustains millions, drawing on a rich tradition that spans more than 150 distinct crafts, Presstv wrote.

From Persian carpets renowned worldwide to the intricate enamelwork, turquoise inlays, delicate woodwork, and varied textile arts, this sector offers more than aesthetic value. It presents a crucial opportunity for economic resilience, social inclusion, and sustainable development.

Despite the weight of decades marked by economic sanctions and geopolitical tension, Iran’s handicrafts industry endures as a bedrock of local economic activity.

Its labor-intensive and decentralized nature makes it an important source of employment, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas where industrialization remains limited.

Approximately 70 percent of artisans in this sector are women, highlighting the role the industry plays in fostering female economic empowerment.


Economically, the sector’s appeal lies in its low capital requirements and heavy reliance on indigenous raw materials.

Unlike capital-intensive industries dependent on imported machinery and foreign inputs, Iranian handicrafts often use local agricultural products, minerals, and natural fibers widely available throughout the country.

This insulates the sector from supply chain disruptions and currency fluctuations, challenges that have dogged Iran’s broader economy in recent years.

Second Announcement

2012342
1



National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OIL FIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0340019

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders’ proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING 3-1/2 IN., 9.2 PPF, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS VAM FLUSH JOINT THREAD, RANGE 2	3,000LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their “Intention To Participate” letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 33,756/04 EURO or 27,394,851,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN
PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC’S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS

www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir> www.setadiran.ir

Tehran, Islamabad highlight boosting ties to combat drug trafficking

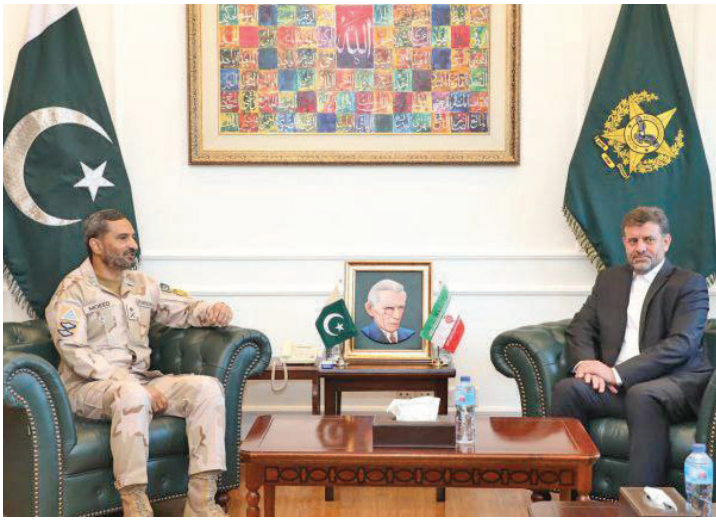
TEHRAN – During a meeting held in Rawalpindi, Iranian and Pakistani anti-narcotics police have explored the potential for the expansion of ties between the two countries to curb the drug trade.

An Iranian delegation led by Iran's anti-narcotics police chief, Iraj Kakavand, met Major General Abdul Moeed, Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military), Director General of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in ANF Headquarters in Rawalpindi, on September 30.

During the meeting, the officials underlined the importance of enhancing joint efforts to fight against narcotics, IRIB reported.

During bilateral talks, both sides engaged in detailed discussions on matters of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in the fight against narcotics, the Daily Independent reported.

Discussions mainly centered around enhancing intelligence sharing to identify and dismantle narcotics smuggling networks, implementing joint operational measures to combat cross-border drug trafficking, and addressing joint border challenges to prevent drug smuggling along the Pakistan-Iran



border.

As part of the three-day trip, the Iranian delegation paid a visit to the Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control, ANF Academy Islamabad, Model Addiction Treatment, Rehabilitation and Integration Center Karachi, and Port Control Unit Karachi to gain insights into Pakistan's professional training, drug prevention initiatives, and rehabilitation of affected individuals.

The two sides lauded each other's efforts and initiatives in combating narcotics and drug-related crimes, reaffirming their joint commitment to create a safe, drug-free region.

Iran's substantial efforts in fight against drug trafficking

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has lauded the Iranian government for its substantial efforts and steadfast commitment to tackling drug trafficking.

On December 8, 2024, Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, attended a high-level meeting which was held at the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) on the occasion of the successful seizure of 2,400 kilograms of methamphetamine in Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

During the meeting, Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi, Commander of the Iranian Border Guard, shared details of a major drug seizure in Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

On September 10, 2024, Iranian forces successfully seized 2,400 kilograms of methamphetamine. This operation underscored the relentless commitment of Iran's border forces, who are at the forefront of combating the production and trafficking of drugs, particularly those originating in Afghanistan.

Brigadier General Goudarzi emphasized that the seizure not only reflects the escalating challenges posed by methamphetamine production in the region but also the dedication of Iran's border guards, law enforcement, and customs officials in addressing this issue.

Fedulov, for his part, expressed his gratitude to Iranian authorities for their invaluable contributions to this global challenge.

Fedulov stressed the importance of strengthened regional cooperation and emphasized the need for further international support to bolster collective efforts in combating drug trafficking across West Asia.

‘Path to women’s health begins with awareness, self-care’

TEHRAN – Highlighting the fact that the path to women's health begins with awareness and self-care, the deputy health minister underscored that breast cancer prevention begins at home and continues at medical centers.

Breast cancer is not just an account of the death toll caused by the disease; it is the story of the heavy burden borne by the women, families, and society, the health ministry quoted Alireza Raeisi as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is observed annually from October 1 to 31.

Women's awareness and self-care, distinguishing body changes, and regular screenings can save thousands of lives, he noted.

Self-care does not just mean self-examination or paying attention to symptoms; it means awareness, informed decision-making, and the appropriate use of the health system at the proper time. It is an asset; once instilled in society, self-awareness will make each individual their own primary physician, and the family physician can lead and complement this asset. In fact, family physicians and referral systems are the loops that transform individual awareness into collective action, without which even the highest levels of health literacy may be ineffective, the official further noted.

Family physicians and the referral system are the main pillars of prevention and diagnosis in the country, so that Iranian women do not wander in hospitals and clinics for a simple concern.

Family physician teams do not merely provide medical services; they are permanent companions of the families, they pursue the family's health from daily life problems to the most specialized cases, and the referral system is a bridge to ensure no symptom is ignored, and no late-stage

diagnosis of a health concern, Raeisi said.

Breast cancer prevention is not just a prescription for women; it is a message for the whole society. A society that values prevention will have a healthier, more equitable, and less costly future, the official stressed.

The official went on to stress the social and economic factors influencing the health, saying that access to quality services and health endurance, as well as socioeconomic support, will make health recommendations more effective.

Breast cancer is the most common silent cancer among women, and the way patients are treated plays a significant role in the treatment process.

According to Nahid Nafissi, every 40 minutes, a woman in Iran is diagnosed with breast cancer, and this number is expected to double by 2030. Women need to undergo periodic screenings until the age of 40 to detect the disease in its early stages, Mehr news agency reported.

Genetic factors may account for 15 percent of breast cancers in women, but unhealthy lifestyle, fast food consumption, physical inactivity, and late childbearing are among other main factors contributing to the development of the disease.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to create awareness, honour the millions of lives affected by breast cancer, and reaffirm our global commitment to equitable access to care and improved survival for all. This year, it is observed with the theme of 'Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters'.

Every breast cancer diagnosis is personal. Behind every diagnosis is a story of courage, resilience, and hope. This theme reminds us that breast cancer touches the lives of women and their families around the world differently, and that every

journey deserves compassion, dignity, and support. This year's theme recognizes the diversity of experiences and reinforces the need for compassionate, timely, and quality care for all—regardless of geography, income, or background.

The goal of Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2025 is to highlight the importance of health promotion, early detection, and timely diagnosis linked to comprehensive treatment.

It also aims to foster multisectoral partnerships by engaging stakeholders to co-create and amplify impact, and promote equitable access to quality care.

Breast cancer in Iran

Based on the surveys conducted in the last 30 years, breast cancer has the highest prevalence, 12 percent, among women in Iran, constituting 26 percent of women's cancers.

In Iran, breast cancer is the second-leading cause of death in women, as around 30 percent of patients die each year, nearly as much as the world average.

With the support of the World Health Organization, the national cancer control program has been developed, which sets out the Ministry of Health's roadmap up to the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

The purpose of the program is to reduce cancer prevalence and mortality while improving the quality of patients' lives, which can serve as a model for other countries, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The program includes two important documents, namely, "development of national cancer care network" and "development of cancer human resources", which resulted in the establishment of the early diagnostic centers.

Iran to open more houses of innovation and technology in regional countries

TEHRAN – The Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy plans to establish new branches of the Iranian House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) in regional countries.

“Despite unilateral sanctions, we have had no problems with regional countries in boosting and exchanging scientific collaborations,” IRNA quoted Hossein Afshin, the vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy, as saying.

“When we talk about science diplomacy, we do not just refer to American or European countries. Regional and Islamic nations present good opportunities for sharing knowledge and expertise, and exporting products,” the official said.

Recently, an iHiT has been established in Jakarta, Indonesia, to boost economic ties between the two countries and expand the export of knowledge-based products.

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

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

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

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

Iran will inaugurate the first iHiT in China within the next few months.

Neighboring countries ‘a priority’

The current administration places a priority on



fostering scientific collaborations with neighboring countries, an official with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology has said.

The high capacities of the neighboring countries, on one hand, and their need to import Iran's science and technology, on the other hand, will lay the basis for the expansion of relations, IRNA quoted Farhad Yazdandoost as saying.

The official went on to say that since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the country has made significant strides in promoting science, technology, and higher education, further demonstrating these accomplishments through interactions with universities around the world. A prime example of that is the Iranian scientific elites, their achievements, and status abroad.

President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration is attempting to restart and promote collaborative efforts with countries where developing science is a priority.

Hence, scientific communication is not just limited to neighboring countries, he stated. “We are strengthening scientific and international partnerships with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

We are also planning to develop ties with some non-neighboring countries that rely on external scientific support, and import scientific knowledge to share our expertise with them.

Cooperating with Asian leading countries in science like China and South Korea, as well as African and South American countries, will help them get familiar with Iran's potential, which will definitely bring about favorable results,” the official noted

Iran among top 10 countries marking space week

TEHRAN – Iran is among the top ten countries in terms of the diversity of programs that are held to mark World Space Week, an official with the Iranian Space Agency has said.

“Last year, Iran was ranked third. This success was achieved in cooperation with research centers, institutes, and knowledge-based centers that helped record the events,” ISNA quoted Mor-teza Nik-khoo, as saying.

Observed from October 4 to 10, the week helps build up the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students; demonstrates visible public support for the space program; educates the public about space activities; and fosters international cooperation in space outreach and education.

The most important goals of World Space Week are to educate people worldwide about the benefits of space exploitation, promote the use of space for sustainable economic development, attract public support for space programs, and encourage children to learn science, he noted.

Other goals of World Space Week include fostering the establishment of space-related institutions in different parts of the world and strengthening international cooperation in the field, which has always been at the forefront of the Iranian Space Organization's programs.

Each year, a theme is selected by the World Space Week Association Board of Directors in close coordination with the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs. The theme provides broad guidance to World Space Week participants on the content of their programmes. The theme is selected to increase the impact of World Space Week further on all of humanity by using a uniform theme globally.

For World Space Week 2025, the chosen theme is ‘Living in Space’. This theme explores humanity's journey toward making space a habitat, emphasizing the innovative technologies, challenges, and collaborative efforts that make this vision a reality.

Event organizers worldwide are encouraged to integrate the theme ‘Living in Space’ into their World Space Week events. Activities range from educational workshops and interactive sessions to panel discussions and collaborative projects, all aimed at fostering innovative environmental solutions.

The United Nations General Assembly declared

in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10. These dates commemorate two events. October 4, 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration

October 10, 1967: The signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

The Iranian Space Agency is celebrating the event to raise public awareness by holding various scientific and educational programs for different age groups. It has named the days of the week as follows.

Saturday, October 4, ‘Living in Space’

Sunday, October 5, ‘Space habitats, engineering and design’

Monday, October 6, ‘Space climate and Space radiation’

Tuesday, October 7, ‘The Moon, a space travel station’

Wednesday, October 8, ‘Space agriculture and mining’

Thursday, October 9, ‘Life support systems in space station’

Friday, October 10, ‘Space medicine and human physiology’

Last year, Isfahan, Yazd, Fars, Khorasan Razavi, and East Azarbaijan provinces, as well as the Iranian Space Agency, the Iranian Space Research Institute, specialized space companies, universities, private institutions, training, research centers, private companies, and knowledge-based centers, had the highest contribution in holding the programs.

Sky observation and distribution of books and educational products in deprived areas, which began yesterday, space and astronomy education in simple language for children are part of the programs this year.

Holding special live sky observation, and educational programs for students across the country, organizing special students' meetings are among other parts of World Space Week in the country.

These programs will run till the end of the first month of autumn, October 22, in Iran.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average’

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, secretary of environmental policy at the center for strategic studies affiliated to the presidential office has said.

“The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in northeast of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C,” ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province's condition has raised concern.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

محمد درویش، دبیر سیاست محیط‌زیست مرکز بررسی‌های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روبرو شده است.

محمد درویش، در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به گزارش‌های منتشر شده توسط سازمان هواشناسی، وزارت نیرو و سازمان آب، اظهار کرد: ایستگاه هومند آبسرد در دامنه‌های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲.۷ درجه سلیوس را نشان می‌دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰.۷۶ درجه سلسیوس افزایش دما داشته‌ایم.

وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی‌تر کشورمان نزدیک می‌شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می‌شود به طوری که از این میان یزد وضعیت نگران‌کننده‌ای دارد.

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

OCTOBER 5, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you gain a blessing, do not refuse it by cool and poor thanks.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:53 Evening: 18:00 Dawn: 4:40 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:03 (tomorrow)

Tehran Times, Antara move forward in media cooperation

By Sedigheh Hosseini

Jakarta – The Mehr Media Group (which consists of Mehr News Agency and English-language daily Tehran Times) has held discussions with Indonesia's national news agency, Antara, to expand journalistic and media cooperation.

This engagement, which includes a discussion on the exchange of news and professional expertise under the framework of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), represents an initial step toward exploring the creation of an MoU and developing joint activities between the two parties.

Teguh Priyanto, Managing Editor of Antara, and Yuni Arisandy, Head of the International News Department at the agency, emphasized the importance for Antara to expand cooperation with all foreign media, including Mehr Media Group, during talks with the Director General of R&D at Mehr Media and a Tehran Times reporter. They described this dialogue as the starting point for future professional and news-related interactions.

Expanding Antara's News Network and Regional Offices Teguh Priyanto highlighted Antara's extensive structure across Indonesia, stating, "We have offices and news correspondents in every province of Indonesia, which allows us to provide accurate and timely coverage." He added that Antara employs nearly 500 staff members across its domestic and international offices.

Structure and international activities

Yuni Arisandy explained, "Through our extensive network of provincial offices and specialized teams, Antara ensures comprehensive coverage of domestic and international news in Indonesia while maintaining professional journalistic standards across all units."

Developing international cooperation with Tehran Times and Mehr Media Group

The Managing Editor of Antara also commented on collaboration with Iranian media: "We currently maintain communications with IRNA and are ready to formalize media agreements with Mehr Media Group and Tehran Times." He added, "Antara will hold discussions with its senior management to implement these agreements."

Priyanto also noted Antara's membership in the OANA media network, emphasizing, "This membership and international collaboration allow

for rapid and accurate news sharing, enhancing transparency and diversity of news in the region. Such cooperation not only facilitates news exchange but also contributes to professional training for journalists and the advancement of journalistic standards."

The Tehran Times reporter also highlighted Mehr Media Group's OANA membership, with both parties stressing the expansion of media cooperation within this framework.

Palestine issue and expert exchanges

Priyanto mentioned the Palestine issue, stating, "We are interested in holding specialized sessions on this topic and exchanging experts with partner media. The Tehran Times reporter also expressed readiness to develop joint scientific and news collaborations in this field."

Historical background and Antara's iconic headquarters

Regarding Antara's historical background, Priyanto said, "Antara has served as one of Indonesia's reliable news sources for over 80 years. From its founding in 1937 and the publication of Indonesia's Declaration of Independence to its development into the national news agency, Antara has always provided accurate and timely news to the public."

He also described Antara's historic headquarters: "Located in the Pasar Baru area of Jakarta, the Antara building is one of the country's historical landmarks. Constructed during the Dutch colonial period as the Aneta news agency office, it became Antara's center after independence and is now recognized as the Antara Museum. The building symbolizes the agency's rich history and its role in national information dissemination."

Focus on innovation and the future

The Managing Editor concluded, "Our current focus is on combining historical experience with technological innovation and expanding international cooperation networks to remain a reliable source of domestic and international news in the digital era."

Yuni Arisandy, Head of Antara's International News Department, also provided explanations during the visit about the agency's overall structure, areas of activity, network of domestic and international offices, and its historic building, which has now been converted into the Antara Museum.

Cartoon of Day



Global Sumud Filotilla
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Iranian illustrator Noushin Sadeghian wins Grand Prix at the Biennial of Illustration Bratislava

TEHRAN – Iranian visual artist and illustrator Noushin Sadeghian won the Grand Prix at the 30th Biennial of Illustration Bratislava (BIB) in Slovakia.

Sadeghian won the top award for her illustrations in the book "Daal's Daughter", written by Ahmad Akbarpour, IRNA reported.

Introduced to the event by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon), "Daal's Daughter" had previously received several awards at international events, including the Bologna Children's Book Fair Illustration Competition (BCBF) 2022.

The book is a folk tale of Lorestan that tells the story of a girl raised by a simurgh (a benevolent bird in Persian mythology and literature), known as Daal. The narrative unfolds as the king's son falls in love with her and employs an old woman to locate the mysterious girl. However, the old woman deceives him, tying the true Daal's daughter to a tree, while marrying her own daughter to the prince instead.

Realizing he has been tricked, the prince sets off in search of the true girl. Meanwhile, a lion arrives and consumes the Daal's daughter, from which two branches of reeds sprout from her blood.

After a while, the king's shepherd sees the reeds and cuts them to play a song but the

An illustration by Noushin Sadeghian for the book "Daal's Daughter"

reed tells the story of the Daal's daughter. So, the prince cuts the reed in half, and Daal's daughter appears.

At this year's edition of the BIB, the Iranian researcher of children's literature and picture books Sahar Tarhandeh was one of the international jurors.

Previously, Iranian illustrators Alireza Golduzian (2005) and Hassan Mousavi (2019) had won the Grand Prix of the BIB.

The Biennial of Illustration

Bratislava, held since 1967 under the auspices of UNESCO and IBBY, is one of the most prestigious international events in the field of illustration. Every two years, Bratislava, Slovakia, hosts selected works by illustrators from around the world.

This esteemed competition, held every two years under the auspices of UNESCO and in collaboration with the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak

Republic, takes place in Bratislava, Slovakia, and is considered one of the most significant events in the illustration world.

This international event features a series of exhibitions, workshops, symposiums, and professional programs for illustrators and children's literature researchers from around the world.

Launched on October 3, the 30th Biennial of Illustration Bratislava will run until January 10, 2026 at the Bratislava Castle.

24th Tehran Auction realizes about \$1.5m

The highest-grossing piece at the auction was the painting "One Golden Winter Hunt" by Reza Derakhshani, which was sold for \$154,000.

TEHRAN – The 24th Tehran Auction, dedicated to contemporary Iranian art, concluded with total sales of \$1,472,130 on Friday, with the painting "One Golden Winter Hunt" by Reza Derakhshani setting the record at \$154,000.

TEHRAN- The 37th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth opened on Friday in Isfahan with a heartfelt ceremony, paying tribute to the martyrs of the 12-day war, the fallen heroes of Iran's sacred defense, and innocent children of Gaza.

The ceremony was attended by a number of cultural officials, artists, municipal officials, festival organizers, young journalists, and students, Mehr reported.

Speaking at the ceremony, Hamed Jafari, the festival's secretary, emphasized the significance of renewing commitment to the values upheld by Iran's martyrs. "Today, we gather to reaffirm our pledge to the principles of sacrifice, freedom, and hope—values that our martyrs believed in and fought for," he said. "This festival is a sanctuary of dreams and creativity for children. It is a platform for showcasing hope and heroism among the younger generation, our future builders."

Jafari highlighted the tragic toll of the 12-day war that

claimed the lives of 47 Iranian children. From infants like Rayan, just two months old, to students who have become martyrs, their innocent lives serve as a stark reminder of the devastating human cost of war. "This festival is more than a celebration of art; it carries a message to the world," he added. "Despite grief, we stand resilient. Despite sorrow, we remain steadfast. We pledge, in the name of our pure-blooded martyrs' children, to forge a brighter future—an Iran filled with love, hope, and enthusiasm for today's and tomorrow's children."

He underscored the importance of the festival as a guardian of childhood dreams, a beacon of hope, and a symbol of Iran's cultural resilience. "We solemnly honor this sacred promise," he affirmed.

Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi also sent a message to the festival, emphasizing the festival's cultural significance amid the memories of recent sacrifices. Salehi highlighted that the

This edition of the auction featured 120 works by 117 established, renowned, and emerging artists in various fields of visual arts, including painting, calligraphy-painting, sculpture, and photography. Of the total works, only six pieces remained unsold, IRNA reported.

event reflects Iran's unwavering commitment to preserving its cultural identity and investing in its future—its children. He noted that the festival, held during a time of national mourning, serves as a reminder that arts and culture are vital tools for building hope and unity.

"In the face of sorrow and hardship, hope remains alive in Iran's young hearts," Salehi wrote. "The cinema of children and youth is a universal language that fosters understanding, peace, and brotherhood. It crosses borders and unites nations. This festival plays a crucial role in strengthening Iran's cultural presence globally and nurturing generations that cherish peace, resilience, and creativity."

Moreover, the event featured a bilingual opening statement read by young journalists, emphasizing Iran's cultural grandeur and the festival's role in nurturing dreams. The statement read: "Iran, this ancient land of culture and history, has once again become a hub of happiness, hope, and art. Naqsh-e Jahan Square,

with its unmatched beauty, transforms into a stage for children's laughter and endless enthusiasm—manifesting dreams born from small hearts but with grand ideas."

As the festival continues, organizers aim to promote messages of hope, resilience, and cultural pride through a variety of films and cultural exchanges. The event underscores that despite the tragic toll of war and sacrifice, the future remains bright in the dreams and hopes of Iran's youth.

The 37th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth will run until October 8 and will feature three main sections: a national competition including feature films, shorts, and animation; an international competition showcasing films produced after 2024 from around the world; and a special section dedicated to themes such as children affected by war, specifically focusing on Israel's attack on Iranian soil as well as Gaza and other regions, and the Asian Films Award.