

A 'Revolution' Pursued by Bots

With very few supporters inside or outside Iran, opposition figures use AI-enabled operations to incite revolt



Filephoto

'Brutal and inhumane', Iran condemns Israel's harsh treatment of Sumud flotilla activists

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry has strongly denounced the Israeli regime's "brutal and inhumane" treatment of hundreds of international activists aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla, a humanitarian mission that sought to break Tel Aviv's years-long blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei issued a statement on Saturday, condemning the violent detention of the activists by Israeli forces and their transfer to the notorious Ktzi'ot Prison, which he called a "symbol of torture and inhumane treatment" of Palestinian prisoners. ▶ Page 2

'Narrators of Ancient Iran' on view at National Museum

TEHRAN – A new exhibition titled "Narrators of Ancient Iran: A Selection of Objects from the National Museum" has opened its doors to the public at the vast, prestigious museum, which is located in downtown Tehran.

The opening ceremony was attended by Ali Darabi, Deputy Minister for Cultural Heritage, Jebrael Nokandeh, Director General of the National Museum, and other officials, experts, and enthusiasts on September 29.

It features more than 330 objects from nearly 80 ancient sites, providing an overview of Iranian history from the earliest evidence of human settlement to recent centuries. ▶ Page 6

How hostile forces may test Lebanon's resistance

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – New tactics and concealed strengths suggest the Lebanese resistance has changed, but its exact nature is unknown.

The U.S., via Saudi influence, assumed the resistance was weakened and tried to shift Lebanon's political balance by installing favorable leaders and pushing for the resistance's exclusion and disarmament. However, such moves risk backfiring by destabilizing the region and harming Western interests.

The West, led by the United States, has four main axes of threats against the resistance. The first is the Israeli occupation entity, which might get directly involved again. The second is the movement of extremist groups near the Lebanese-Syrian border, which could also be used. The third is the risk of sectarian conflict in Lebanon, pushed by supporters of the Syrian regime — including dormant Syrian terrorist cells. The fourth is a possible clash with the Lebanese army, which could lead to civil war involving other local groups.

Hamas calls the shots, leaves Israel and US to play catch-up

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The indirect talks in Egypt between Hamas, Israel, and U.S. representatives signal the growing significance of the Palestinian group's strategic maneuvering in the Gaza conflict. The negotiations in Sharm el-Sheikh illustrate Hamas' strategic use of diplomacy following intensive Israeli military operations.

According to AFP sources, Hamas has expressed a strong willingness to implement a U.S.-proposed ceasefire and immediately begin a prisoner exchange, provided Israel demonstrates genuine commitment to the plan. Under the 20-point plan unveiled by President Donald Trump, Hamas would release the remaining 48 captives—approximately 20 of whom are believed to be alive. On Friday, Hamas officially stated that it "affirms its readiness to immediately enter into negotiations through the mediators to discuss the details of this agreement."

Yemen wages new Israeli operation

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Yemeni forces have launched a new "high-precision" military operation against the Israeli occupation regime.

An advanced Palestine-2 hypersonic ballistic missile, equipped with "multiple warheads", was used to target sensitive Israeli sites in the occupied al-Quds area (Jerusalem).

In a televised statement, the spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces said the attack was a response to recent developments and atrocities in Gaza, and a show of support for the Palestinian people.

Though Israel has accepted U.S. President Donald Trump's "peace" offer, its raids on Gaza has killed at least 66 Palestinians and injured over 250, the Gaza health ministry reported on Sunday.

Yemen's Brigadier General Yahya Saree confirmed that the strike "successfully achieved its objectives, causing millions of Zionist settlers to flee in panic to shelters."

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Exclusive Interview

Sanctions will harm Iranian consumers, not defense capabilities, economic expert says

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Scan this QR code to watch the video.



ISNA/Erfan Khoshkhoo

West's excessive demands blocked Iran's diplomatic efforts: FM Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has criticized Western countries for rejecting Iran's diplomatic efforts toward a fair and balanced solution, saying their "excessive and unreasonable demands" have obstructed progress in negotiations.

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting with ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, and heads of international missions based in Tehran on Sunday, Araghchi said Iran has consistently pursued diplomacy in good faith. "Iran has always sought to achieve a fair and balanced negotiated settlement, but it was the Western countries that responded negatively due to their excessive demands," he stated. ▶ Page 3



Women's volleyball team crowned champions of 2025 CAVA

TEHRAN – Iran's women's volleyball team swept past Uzbekistan in straight sets (25-14, 25-14, 25-19) at the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Women's Volleyball Challenge Cup on Sunday to win the title for the first time in the history.

Team Melli had defeated Uzbekistan on Friday in the preliminary round.

Lee Do-hee's side also defeated Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the event held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Turkey's ties with Iran after snapback activation

In an interview with Ali Heydari, an expert on Turkish affairs, Farhikhtegan discussed Ankara's compliance with the sanctions against Iran. He said: Iran did not expect Turkey to announce its compliance with the UN sanctions so quickly. Turkey's action is a symbolic political action, but a symbolic action also conveys its own message. The reason it is symbolic is that Turkey has implemented the sanctions according to the Security Council list, while most of those on the list have no presence or activity in Turkey. There will not be many changes, especially since China and Russia have announced that they will not support illegal and unfair sanctions. That is, in the strategic field, Iran will pursue its relations with China and Russia, and its relations with countries like Turkey will be in conventional fields.

Hamshahri: Israel's reputation has been damaged globally

Hamshahri discussed the worldwide disgrace Israel is faces because of its criminal conduct, writing: There is no solid and convincing evidence that Iran sought to incite war (with the Zionist regime). Iran has always sought to defend its interests, but it has never viewed war as the main approach. But the life of the Zionist regime lies in war and bloodshed. This puppet state, which has nothing of its own, is facing a nation that has a great civilizational history and has also designed a new model that many governments in the world may follow. Since the Zionist regime does not have a clear approach, it takes a stand against this model and discourse. Today, governments, institutions, and public opinion from Europe and the Americas to leading universities worldwide have condemned Israel. What is evident to everyone today is that the Islamic Revolution has been strong in its discourse and its core, namely, resistance, but it has never been the source of hot war.

Ettelaat: Tense conditions after snapback

Ettelaat's analysis warned that Persian Gulf Arab states hosting US airbases fear the activation of snapback sanctions on Iran could trigger dangerous consequences and escalate into a war involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. It wrote: The Arab countries of the Persian Gulf are more vulnerable than any other party to the escalation of tensions.

The presence of dozens of U.S. military bases in these countries exposes them to direct risk of possible Iranian reactions. Inside Iran, the economic pressure resulting from the sanctions could also provide the basis for social protests. Some analysts argue the true objective of the U.S. maximum pressure policy is to instigate a new proxy war with Iran in coordination with Israel. However, the experience of the past years has shown that Iran has chosen the path of resistance rather than giving in to external pressure because Tehran is not willing to surrender to Washington's tough conditions. Ultimately, what is observed in the region is a "diplomatic deadlock." Israel has kept the shadow of war so that it can justify a new attack at any moment. Arab countries are concerned that a new conflict will shatter their fragile security, and Iran, amid the pressure of sanctions and the threat of war, continues to emphasize resistance and maintaining red lines.

Iran: Prospects of Iran-Russia strategic partnership

In an article, the Iran newspaper discussed the strategic treaty between Tehran and Moscow that went into effect on October 2. The paper said: It is noticeable that Tehran and Moscow have reached this level of cooperation in a situation in which the region is in one of the most complex periods in its history, ranging from the rapid and critical developments between Iran and Israel to the uncertain future of the Ukrainian war and the shadow of Tel Aviv's continued adventurism in the Middle East. In such a context, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty can be an important tool for the two countries to strengthen their cooperation to counter Western pressure and sanctions. In addition, the emphasis on cooperation in the fields of technology, energy, and investment shows that the two sides intend to go beyond political slogans and open a practical path to deepening economic and scientific ties. The implementation of the Iran-Russia strategic treaty should be seen as a focal point that emerged from a critical situation and was made meaningful by a clear message of resistance to Western hegemony. Moscow effectively announced that in the process of current developments, new fronts of alliances will be formed, and Iran and Russia have determined to be part of this new plan.

Remains of 46 Iran-Iraq war martyrs returned home through Shalamcheh border



TEHRAN – The remains of 46 martyrs from Iran's eight-year Sacred Defense were brought back to the country on Sunday through the Shalamcheh border crossing in Khuzestan Province, where a large crowd gathered to honor their return.

The solemn ceremony was attended by local residents, military units stationed in the area, and Sunni citizens, who participated on behalf of the Iranian nation to pay tribute to the fallen heroes.

Speaking at the ceremony, Brigadier General Mohammad Baqerzadeh, commander of the Missing in Action Search Committee of the Armed Forces General Staff, praised the martyrs' sacrifices, saying they "brought honor to the

nation, never bowed to the enemy, and now return home more dignified than ever."

The war began on September 22, 1980, with Ba'athist Iraq's invasion of Iran. Fighting continued throughout the eight-year war, with major operations occurring between 1980 and 1982, and sporadic engagements persisting until the ceasefire in August 1988.

According to official figures, between 200,000 – 300,000 Iranians were martyred during the eight-year war imposed on Iran, including 10,196 civilians who were killed in air and missile attacks on Iranian cities. The highest number of martyrs came from Isfahan Province, Tehran, and Khorasan Razavi.

'brutal and inhumane', Iran condemns Israel's harsh treatment of Sumud flotilla activists

From page 1 ► Baqaei said the flotilla participants—representing dozens of nations—had embarked on a peaceful mission to deliver aid and highlight the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, yet were met with violence and humiliation. He cited reports of repeated insults and verbal abuse by Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who labeled the activists "terrorists." Such conduct, he said, reflected "the moral collapse of the Zionist regime."

According to the spokesman, it was in fact the Israeli authorities' violent behavior toward the participants that constituted a "terrorist act."

The flotilla, which had set sail from Barcelona late last month, was the largest international maritime effort in decades to challenge Israel's blockade on Gaza—described by human rights organizations as one of the harshest in modern history.



On Friday, the Israeli navy intercepted the final vessel of the flotilla, detaining its passengers and drawing widespread international condemnation. Participants reported being threatened and harassed, with several alleging physical

abuse during the raid. Among those reportedly targeted was climate activist Greta Thunberg, who was said to have been manhandled by Israeli forces.

Baqaei noted that citizens from at least 44 countries took part in the

campaign, urging all governments and the United Nations to demand the activists' immediate release and hold Israel accountable for its actions.

He said Tel Aviv's confrontation with the flotilla was part of its broader policy of extending the siege and famine it has imposed on Gaza, calling the blockade a deliberate attempt to "starve and subdue an entire population."

The spokesman also condemned the continued support of the United States and several Western governments for Israel amid its ongoing assault on Gaza since October 2023, which is a "war of genocide."

Baqaei stressed that the international community bears both a legal and moral responsibility to stop the genocide, bring the perpetrators to justice, and support efforts to lift the blockade on Gaza.

Exclusive: Sanctions will harm Iranian consumers, not defense capabilities, economic expert says

Prof. Farzanegan highlights that trade and inspection restrictions will harm ordinary citizens more than strategic sectors



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

TEHRAN- As sanctions on Iran intensify with the reactivation of the UN snapback mechanism, questions arise about their long-term economic and geopolitical consequences for the country. The measures, targeting Iran's trade, defense, and financial sectors, have sparked debates about their impact on ordinary citizens and the nation's capacity for innovation. Amid these challenges, understanding Iran's position in a shifting global landscape is critical.

To shed light on these complex issues, Tehran Times conducted an exclusive interview with Prof. Dr. Mohammad Reza Farzanegan, a renowned Professor of Economics of West Asia at the Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS) at Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany. A leading scholar in West Asian economic dynamics, Professor Farzanegan's research examines the interplay of sanctions, social structures, and regional development, offering critical insights into Iran's economic resilience and vulnerabilities.

In this first part of a two-part series, Professor Farzanegan provides a comprehensive analysis of the snapback mechanism's effects on Iran's economy, from trade disruptions to inflation and the erosion of the middle class. He also explores the hidden costs of sanctions, including lost opportunities for technological advancement.

The second part of this engaging discussion, delving deeper into Iran's strategies for navigating these pressures, will be published in our upcoming edition.

Below is the full text of the interview:

From your perspective, what long-term impact will the snapback mechanism have on Iran's economic and geopolitical situation?

With the reactivation of United Nations sanctions on Iran, a range of economic consequences can be anticipated. My recent focus has been on the extent to which different segments of Iranian society may suffer under these

renewed sanctions. Importantly, the effects will not be uniform across all categories of sanctions.

Some measures specifically target Iran's defense capacity, including its missile industry and nuclear program. These impose restrictions on Iran's access to conventional weapons and international markets. However, this is not entirely new. Even after the JCPOA, Iran remained largely disconnected from international arms markets. For this reason, I do not expect major new consequences for Iran's defense capacity. Similarly, the impact on Iran's nuclear program may be limited. Much of its progress has relied on domestic resources, and recent U.S. military strikes have already caused damage to nuclear facilities. In the short term, therefore, the additional sanctions may not be decisive in this area.

More problematic are the sanctions related to transportation inspections and financial restrictions. Here, there is a key difference compared to unilateral U.S. sanctions: the new UN measures oblige all 193 member states to enforce inspection controls on Iranian trade. In principle, this means any member state can demand inspections of Iranian imports and exports. Whether this will be implemented consistently in practice remains uncertain, but the legal obligation exists. Such measures could create delays in trade, increase transaction costs, and force Iran to offer larger discounts to trade partners aware of its constrained position.

For Iranian consumers, these sanctions are likely to be particularly harmful. Higher transaction and intermediary costs will fuel inflation, further eroding purchasing power. Financial sanctions, by contrast, may have a more marginal effect. Even before these UN measures, Iranian banks and citizens faced severe restrictions in accessing international financial systems. New constraints might make it more difficult for Iranians abroad to open accounts or for smaller European banks to maintain limited ties with Iran. Yet, given the pre-existing

financial isolation, the incremental damage will likely be modest.

In sum, while sanctions on defense and nuclear capacities may have limited additional impact, the trade-related measures, particularly inspections and associated transaction costs, pose the greatest threat to the Iranian economy and ordinary consumers.

What impact will the continued sanctions have on Iran's capacity for technological development and innovation?

We are now in a period defined by rapid innovation, especially in artificial intelligence. In the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region, we see governments investing heavily in AI. Just a few months ago, Donald Trump visited Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, with AI as one of the central topics. These technologies require significant capital, and the Persian Gulf countries are well positioned to attract investment thanks to subsidized energy and favorable conditions for international tech companies. They are not only building domestic capacity but also investing in AI markets in the United States and China.

For Iran, the situation is very different. The persistent risk for foreign investors makes it extremely difficult to attract international investment in this sector. As a result, Iran risks falling behind its neighbors. This is another hidden cost of sanctions. It is not just about negative effects on macroeconomic indicators, it is also about lost opportunities. While neighboring countries advance, Iran loses the chance to narrow income gaps or benefit from regional technological progress.

Developing innovation requires large-scale investment and long-term commitments. Although Iran has domestic resources, the incentives to allocate them to long-term, high-risk projects are weak under current conditions. In a sanctioned economy with inflation and price instability, investors tend to favor short-term or speculative activities. Rent-seeking behavior increases, startups struggle to survive, and the environment for serious technological progress deteriorates.

In short, sanctions do not only constrain current economic performance. They also discourage the kind of investment and innovation that could shape the future.

What effects will continued sanctions have on the standard of living, employment, inflation, and access to essential goods for the Iranian people?

That is an important question.

Inflation is very visible in Iran. According to the Statistical Office, the annual inflation rate in September was around 45 percent compared to the same month last year. This is a heavy burden on households, especially those with fixed incomes, whose purchasing power has been severely reduced.

One driver of this inflation is the depreciation of the Iranian rial. As the currency loses value, imported goods become more expensive, and these costs are passed on to consumers. The reactivation of UN sanctions is likely to intensify this problem, particularly because of their impact on Iranian oil exports. While countries such as China publicly oppose the UN measures, in practice they can use them as leverage, demanding larger discounts on Iranian oil. That reduces Iran's oil revenues, weakens the supply of foreign exchange, and puts additional pressure on the currency market. Limited supply of hard currency, combined with rising demand, further accelerates inflation.

The employment effects are uneven. Service sectors, which rely mainly on the domestic market, have remained relatively stable in past rounds of sanctions, and agriculture is more affected by climate conditions than sanctions. The greatest damage will likely occur in industries dependent on imported inputs, foreign technology, and international partners.

Sanctions also affect different social groups in unequal ways. Youth unemployment in Iran is already high, particularly among women, and sanctions exacerbate this problem. Women and young people often lack the networks and resources to navigate crises, leaving them disproportionately vulnerable. Meanwhile, some groups benefit from sanctions, through rent-seeking or access to privileged markets, but they represent only a small minority.

The middle class bears the heaviest burden. Our research shows that sanctions have steadily eroded its position, pushing many households downward into poverty. Some members of the middle class migrate abroad, while others fall into low-income groups. This decline has broader consequences: the middle class has traditionally been a key driver of innovation and technological progress. When it loses financial stability and resources, the potential for innovation in Iran is also undermined.

This, in essence, is the broader picture: sanctions not only raise inflation and weaken macroeconomic stability but also reshape the social structure by hollowing out the middle class and eroding the foundations of long-term economic development.

A ‘revolution’ pursued by bots

With very few supporters inside or outside Iran, opposition figures use AI-enabled operations to incite revolt

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – On June 16th, an X user shared an AI-generated picture of the deposed Shah’s son, Reza Pahlavi, seated on a throne, and said, “He will bring Iran freedom and prosperity!” His father, Mohammad Reza Shah, fled Iran twice during his reign: first, when the MI6 and CIA were conspiring to overthrow the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Mosaddegh in 1953, and a second time, when he admitted hearing “the voice” of the people’s revolution in January 1979.

The founder of the Pahlavi dynasty, Reza Khan, fared no better. He was expelled from the country by Allied forces who, upon invading Iran in 1941, began seizing the Iranian people’s food supplies. British and soviet forces created a devastating famine that contributed to the deaths of approximately 3 to 4 million Iranians.

Yet in 2025, as the X user talked about what she called the “golden” days of the Pahlavi era, all that dark and painful history was brushed aside. She called on the Iranian people to join hands with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who is a convicted war criminal, and set off riots across Iran while Israel bombed the country. In another post, she shared a picture of the deposed Shah’s granddaughter, asking if people wouldn’t want such a “pretty princess” to become their future queen. The deposed Shah’s granddaughter does not speak Persian. Her social media is filled with pictures taken at beaches, clubs, and luxury villas.

The replies to the user’s posts were divided into two distinct groups. Accounts similar to the user’s praised her for her “cour-



age” and “wisdom.” They, too, were advocating for the return of the Pahlavi family and had reached their peak activity during the 12 days of Israel’s aggression against Iran. The original user and the majority of these supporters had been mostly inactive in previous months.

The other group of responders reacted with disbelief, and even profanities. They wrote that Israel did not care who governs Iran; they wanted the country in pieces, with or without the Islamic Republic. Some accused the user of being an Israeli agent in disguise. “How can you stand alongside someone that has killed thousands of kids Palestinian children wishes to do the same to your country? How do you even call yourself an Iranian?” one person replied. It has now become clear that the user asking Iranians to back Israeli attacks against their soil was not only non-Iranian but probably not even human.

50 inauthentic X profiles conducted an AI-enabled influence operation in harmony with Israel’s war on Iran back in June, to incite Iranian audiences to revolt

against their government, according to research by the University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab. The researchers concluded that the operation was directly conducted by an unidentified agency of the Israeli regime, or a subcontractor working under its close supervision. These accounts promoted Reza Pahlavi as a political alternative to Iran’s current leadership.

The Tehran Times understands that the United States and certain European countries have funded similar operations, particularly since the fall of 2022, calling for people to rise against the Iranian government. The suggested alternatives, however, are not always the same. Some promote the notorious terrorist group, the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization, as an alternative. A few other names are also circulated, and many foreign-funded operations advocate for the separation of various Iranian provinces.

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life in Iran, there is little discussion of the Western-based opposition, their bellicose calls, or their laconic plans for the country’s “future.” While the re-

cent revelations did not alter this general lack of attention in daily life, they did create waves of anger and mockery on social media. In recent days, Iranians took to platforms like X and Instagram to ask the opposition “why they keep fooling themselves and the West-erners.”

“I can’t believe Israel and the West are still trying to sell us these people,” said a man in his early 20s in an Instagram story. He has a comedy page with over 40,000 followers. In another story containing what appeared to be an explanation of his earlier remarks, the young man said he does not “care about the Islamic Republic” but would never topple the government for a “bunch of traitors that beg others to attack their people.”

Many Iranian opposition figures residing in the West backed Israel’s war against Iran, calling it a chance to “break free.” This made them even more unpopular, as Iranians inside Iran found it difficult to resonate with the message while fearing for themselves and their loved ones during Israeli and U.S. bombardments.

“Western policymakers continue to rely on data and narratives from the opposition, which has been isolated from Iranian society for years and is incapable of understanding the country’s social realities,” wrote Fars News Agency in a commentary discussing the recent saga. “But the more time passes, the more it becomes evident that the opposition truly has nothing. They lack backing in Iran and don’t even want to fight for what they believe in. They use Western funds to attain luxurious positions and use bots to spew disinformation.”

West’s excessive demands blocked Iran’s diplomatic efforts: FM Araghchi

From Page 1 ► The top diplomat called for transparency regarding the latest decision by Western members of the UN Security Council, emphasizing that its legal and political consequences must be clearly explained. “It is important that the public be informed of what the Western countries have created within the Security Council and what risks and complications may result from this decision,” he said.

Araghchi warned that the European trio (E3)—Britain, France, and Germany—have significantly weakened their diplomatic credibility following their latest moves. “Given the recent developments, the role of the three European countries in future diplomacy will become increasingly marginal,” he said. “The snapback mechanism, military threats, and pressure tactics simply do not work.”

Referring to repeated military threats against Iran, Araghchi said such pressure has always failed to yield results. “They have repeatedly threatened Iran with military attacks, but those threats have achieved nothing. The snapback mechanism and military options are ineffective,” he added.

The Foreign Minister also noted that Iran has signed a new technical cooperation agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to replace the previous Cairo Agreement, which he said no longer meets current needs.

“This new arrangement was necessary in light of recent field developments and security threats, including attacks on nuclear facilities,” he explained. “The earlier framework estab-

lished in Cairo is no longer sufficient, especially after the activation of the snapback mechanism, and new decisions will be made accordingly.”

Araghchi stressed that Iran has “exhausted every diplomatic path” to demonstrate the peaceful nature of its nuclear program. “The Islamic Republic of Iran has engaged in dialogue, maintained cooperation, and presented constructive and balanced proposals,” he said.

He concluded by saying that Western governments now have no justification for accusing Iran of avoiding talks. “Iran’s positions are entirely legitimate and reasonable,” Araghchi said, reaffirming that Tehran remains ready to pursue any initiative that builds mutual confidence and strengthens diplomacy.

A few days ago, the Iranian government spokesperson revealed that U.S. President Donald Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, had been invited to a meeting proposed by Tehran, with the participation of the foreign ministers of the three European countries and the representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“Witkoff did not show up to the meeting,” spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani confirmed. She said European governments had told Tehran it must agree to direct engagement with a U.S. representative if it wanted extended relief from pre-JCPOA UN sanctions.

Mohajerani added that even Iran’s offer to delay the activation of the snapback mechanism for 45 days was rejected due to pressure from the Zionist lobby.

Her remarks came after the United Nations confirmed the



Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks during a meeting with foreign ambassadors and heads of foreign and international missions

reactivation of UN sanctions on Iran, following the Security Council’s failure to adopt a resolution extending the implementation of Resolution 2231 for six more months.

The decision came after France, Britain, and Germany formally invoked the snapback mechanism last month—an option originally designed to restore previous sanctions in the event of verified non-compliance.

Under the 2015 JCPOA, Iran accepted restrictions on its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions. The deal was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which set October 2025 as the deadline for the final expiration of all nuclear-related measures.

Iran has consistently argued that the U.S., even under the Obama administration, failed to uphold its side of the agreement by obstructing Tehran’s access to economic benefits. The situation deteriorated further in 2018 when the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA and reimposed sweeping sanctions.

In response, and after waiting over a year for Europe to fulfill its commitments, Iran began gradually reducing its obligations under the deal while maintaining that its actions were reversible and within the legal framework of the JCPOA.

The October 2025 deadline was meant to mark the end of the decade-long nuclear dispute and the normalization of Iran’s nuclear status. However, the E3’s decision to trigger the snapback mechanism effectively blocks that process.

Iran maintains that its reduced commitments were legitimate countermeasures to Western non-compliance, and therefore, the E3 has no legal grounds to activate the mechanism. Russia, China, and several other countries have endorsed Iran’s position, saying they do not recognize the legitimacy of the renewed anti-Iran sanctions.

Araghchi concluded that despite these pressures, “Iran will continue to pursue diplomacy, but not under threats or unlawful measures. Those who violate the deal cannot claim to defend it.”

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iranian throwers win two more golds at 2025 New Delhi

TEHRAN – Mehran Nikoe Majd and Sadegh Beit Sayah claimed two gold medals at the final day of the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships on Sunday.

Nikoe Majd finished in first place at the Men’s Shot Put F34 with a throw of 12.27 meters, setting a new world record as well.

Jordan’s Ahmad Hindi won a silver with 11.87m and the bronze medal went to Colombian Mauricio Valencia with 11.50m.

Beit Sayah also claimed Iran’s ninth gold medal at the Men’s Javelin Throw F41 with 48.86 meters.

Indian thrower Navdeep Singh and China’s Sun Pengxiang claimed silver and bronze medal, respectively.

Ali Asghar Javanmardi at the Men’s Discus Throw F11, Amir Hossein 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, Hassan Bajoulvand at the Men’s Discus Throw F11, Ali Baziyar at the Men’s Javelin Throw F54, and Yasin Khosravi at the Men’s Shot Put F57 had previously claimed seven gold medals for Iran.

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

The 2025 World Para Athletics Championships is a para-athletics meet organized by the World Para Athletics, the respective sport branch of the International Paralympic Committee.

This was the 12th edition of the event and was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, from 27 September to 5 October 2025.

This was the first time the event was hosted in India as well as in South Asia.

Azmoun sustains foot injury in Shabab Al-Ahli training

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Sardar Azmoun sustained a foot injury during Shabab Al-Ahli’s latest training session.

The Emirati club announced that the injury is to his left ankle.

After medical examinations, it was determined that he will need to remain off the pitch for a period of time and will undergo a surgical operation.

Iranian media reports suggest that Azmoun could be sidelined for four months.

Sotiris Manolopoulos to remain Iran basketball head coach

TEHRAN – The Technical committee of the Iran Basketball Federation voted positively on continuing collaboration with Ioannis Sotiris Manolopoulos, as head coach of the national team.

Javad Davari, the president of the basketball federation, expressed satisfaction with the performance of Manolopoulos in the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup.

Team Melli finished in third place in the competition held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

During the Technical Committee meeting, Mehran Hatami provided a report on the youth teams, especially the under-16s, and examined the strengths and weaknesses of these teams.

Nemati wins gold at Karate 1 Series A Kuala Lumpur

TEHRAN – Morteza Nemati of Iran won the

gold medal at the Karate 1 Series A Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Nemati defeated Russian Ernest Sharafutdinov 6-1 in the final match of the Male Kumite -75 Kg.

Nemati’s countryman Ali Rahimi took the bronze medal at the weight class by beating Indonesian karate athlete Joshua Ignatius.

Aliasghar Asiabari also seized the silver medal at the Male Kumite -84kg, after being defeated against Russian Eduard Gasparian 8-7.

The Karate 1-Series A Kuala Lumpur is the fourth and final event of the 2025 season. It wraps up the successful events in Tbilisi (Georgia), Larnaca (Cyprus) and Salzburg (Austria).

The Karate 1-Series A is a series of top international tournaments held worldwide, aimed at providing competitors with even more opportunities to enhance their positions in the WKF World Ranking. Furthermore, the Karate 1 – Series A serves as an additional platform to showcase the prestige of Karate’s major events and the sport’s global development.

Iran water polo defeat Hong Kong at 2025 Asian Aquatics Championships

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s water polo team defeated Hong Kong 22-10 at the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships on Sunday.

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

Iran, who had defeated China 14-9 in their opening match, are scheduled to face Uzbekistan on Monday.

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.

Esteghlal held by Chadormalou at 2025/26 PGPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team and Chadormalou shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Matchday 6 of the 2025/26 Iran’s Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Sunday.

Hadi Habibinezhad was on target for Chadormalou in Tehran’s Takhti Stadium and Munir El Haddadi leveled the score to minutes later.

Esteghlal head coach Ricardo Sa Pinto is under pressure after failing to win the second win in six matches.

The Blues sit eight with seven points out of six matches.

Chadormalou are sixth with one more point.

Khosravi collects gold at 2025 World Para Athletics Championships

TEHRAN – Yasin Khosravi of Iran won a gold medal at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships on Saturday.

Khosravi won the gold medal at the Men’s Shot Put F57 Final with a throw of 16.60 and also bettered his own world record.

Indian athlete Soman Rana took the silver with 14.69 meters and the bronze medal went to Finland’s Teijo Koopikka with a throw of 14.51 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, Hassan Bajoulvand at the Men’s Discus Throw F11 and Ali Baziyar at the Men’s Javelin Throw F54 had previously won six gold medals for Iran.

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

Iran, Norway explore cooperation on renewable energy



TEHRAN – Senior Iranian and Norwegian officials discussed expanding cooperation in renewable energy and electricity grid management during a meeting between Norway’s ambassador to Tehran and the head of Iran’s Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

Mohsen Tarztabal, SATBA chief and deputy energy minister, emphasized Iran’s willingness to broaden bilateral collaboration with Norway in renewable energy development, technical knowledge exchange and learning from Norway’s experience in integrating renewables into the power grid.

Tarztabal highlighted Iran’s legal and financial frameworks designed to support clean energy investments, including the En-

ergy Exchange’s Green Board and various incentive models.

He said these mechanisms provide a solid foundation for joint projects with Norwegian partners aimed at improving energy efficiency and launching new renewable initiatives.

Paal Bjornstad, Norway’s ambassador to Iran, outlined his country’s expertise in offshore wind and solar power development, citing successful projects by Norwegian companies in neighboring countries.

He described Norway’s electricity production and regional power trade structure with Germany, Denmark and Sweden, which has earned the country the title of “Europe’s green battery.”

Despite being a major oil and gas producer—ranked as the world’s third-largest gas exporter—Norway has enacted advanced legislation to promote clean energy and electrification. Nearly all of its electricity comes from renewable sources such as hydropower, wind and solar, and around 90 percent of vehicles sold in recent years are electric.

Iran is seeking to leverage international partnerships to accelerate its renewable energy deployment, particularly as it ramps up domestic solar and wind projects to diversify its power mix and ease pressure on the national grid.

Parliament approves plan to remove 4 zeros from national currency

TEHRAN – Iran’s parliament on Sunday approved a bill to remove four zeros from the national currency, the rial, paving the way for a redenomination process in which the “rial” and “Qeran” will become the official currency units.

Lawmakers passed the bill after resolving objections raised by the Guardian Council to the amendment of the country’s Monetary and Banking Law. The measure was approved with 144 votes in favor, 108 against and three abstentions out of 262 lawmakers present.

Under the revised law, 10,000 current rials will be equal to one new rial, which will be divided into 100 Qerans. The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) will be responsible for setting foreign currency exchange rates and buying and selling currency in line with the prevailing monetary system and foreign currency reserves.

A maximum three-year transition period, referred to as the “dual circulation phase,” will allow both the current rial and the new rial to circulate simultaneously. During this time, existing banknotes and coins will be gradually withdrawn from circulation.

The CBI must prepare the necessary arrangements within two years of the law’s en-



forcement to start the transition. The beginning of this period will be announced publicly through the official gazette, electronic platforms, and state media.

The central bank will also draft implementing regulations within three months, subject to approval by the High Board and the Cabinet.

Iran’s redenomination plan has been under discussion for years amid high inflation and depreciation of the rial. Removing four zeros is aimed at simplifying financial transactions, accounting, and the use of currency in daily life, though analysts note it does not by itself address underlying inflationary pressures.

Private sector to invest \$290m in Iran’s rail fleet modernization

TEHRAN – Two Iranian companies have signed investment contracts worth 145 trillion rials (about \$290 million) to modernize and build railway rolling stock, in a deal signed in the presence of Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh and the head of Iran Railways, Jabbar-Ali Zakari.

The investment aims to upgrade the country’s rail transport capacity, support domestic manufacturing, and reduce reliance on imports.

Under the agreements, one company will allocate 120 trillion rials (\$240 million) to the construction and overhaul of 40 heavy locomotives, 37 passenger locomotives and four Siemens locomotive engines. The second company will invest 25 trillion rials (about \$50 million) to refurbish 50 passenger coaches.

Officials said the program is part of Iran Railways’ broader strategy to increase rail’s share in freight and passenger transport while strengthening local production capabilities.

The investment comes amid a wave of private-sector collaboration across the rail sec-

tor. In April 2025, Iran signed \$750 million in memoranda with private firms to expand both its passenger and freight capabilities. One deal targets 600 tank wagons, 300 DMU cars and 50 locomotives, while another involves 650 bulk wagons.

More recently, in July, Iran’s Railways signed a \$176 million agreement to upgrade passenger rolling stock, including the purchase of new “five-star Royal” cars and refurbishment of existing wagons with Raja Rail and Rail Tarabar Saba.

These investments align with Iran’s broader ambitions to scale up rail transit. The country aims to carry 8.0 million tons of goods via rail transit this year, up from 5.0 million tons last year, and ultimately boost annual transit capacity to 40 million tons.

If fully realized, the \$290 million investment will become a lynchpin in an emerging ecosystem of public-private synergy in Iran’s rail sector — one that leverages indigenous manufacturing, reduces foreign dependencies, and helps meet the ambitious goals of the Seventh Development Plan.

Over 280 domestically manufactured, rebuilt rail units added to national fleet

TEHRAN – Iran inaugurated 17 rail infrastructure projects and added 283 domestically manufactured and rebuilt rolling stock units to its railway fleet in a ceremony held via video conference with President Masoud Pezeshkian and Transport Minister Farzaneh Sadegh.

The projects, valued at 90 trillion rials (about \$180 million), were unveiled in the presence of the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways and industry operators.

The new additions include 224 freight wagons built domestically, 14 new and rebuilt locomotives, and 45 new and rebuilt passenger coaches.

Infrastructure projects inau-



gured at the same ceremony include the construction of 50 kilometers of double track on the Bafq–Zarrin Shahr line in central

Iran, track and turnout rehabilitation on the Karun–Miandasht block in the south, and upgrades to signaling systems at several

stations, including Rahgard in the Arak region.

Other initiatives involved fitting shunting locomotives with video monitoring systems, building a spur line for Shirin Asal Company in East Azarbaijan, and expanding capacity at Nezamieh station in Khuzestan Province.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with a broader set of Ministry of Transport inaugurations commemorating Iranian casualties of the recent 12-day Israeli attack. In total, the ministry inaugurated 57,226 housing units and 202 transport, urban development, and meteorology projects worth 1.640 quadrillion rials (\$32.8 billion) and \$125 million.

‘UN sanctions not to disrupt Iran-China trade; concerns largely psychological’

TEHRAN– Majid-Reza Hariri, the chairman of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, commented on the extent to which the UN Security Council sanctions would affect Iran-China relations, and stated: “Given that none of the UN sanctions are trade-related and instead pertain to the nuclear industry and some sectors of the country’s missile industries, consequently, they should not impact our normal trade with China.”

He added: “Although the U.S. sanctions have completely prohibited oil sales, we see that the Chinese are currently buying nearly over 90 percent of the country’s oil. Therefore, UN sanctions are not related to the commercial sphere and logically should not affect these types of relations either.”

Hariri further added: “The UN sanctions will have psychological and secondary effects which must be examined.”

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) for planning and international affairs, the value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$34.1 billion in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

He said that importing non-oil goods worth \$14.8 billion from Iran, China was the first destination of Iranian products in the past year.

He also announced that by exporting non-oil products valued at \$19.3 billion to Iran, China was the second source of import for Iran in that year.

On May 4, Iran-China Business Development Forum convened at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), with the participation of China’s ambassador to Iran, the head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, and senior officials from the Tehran Chamber.

A large number of business leaders from both countries attended the event, where state, legislative, and private-sector strategies for deepening bilateral trade ties were outlined, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Opening the event, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab welcomed Chinese delegates who traveled to Iran for the Iran Expo. He expressed gratitude for the Chinese ambassador’s continued efforts to expand economic ties between the two nations.

Najafi Arab said Iran and China share thousands of years of cultural and commercial relations, which have entered a new phase in recent decades, marked by growing partnerships across multiple sectors. He said the two countries could serve as a model for sustainable cooperation based on mutual respect in today’s increasingly interdependent world.

He also highlighted recent visits of Iranian private sector delegations to various Chinese provinces and exhibitions, emphasizing the need to identify investment opportunities and facilitate financial exchanges. The Chamber, with over 140 years of history, is prepared to host expert meetings, present economic opportunities, support joint ventures, and activate professional networks between Iranian and Chinese businesses, he said.

China’s Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu, thanked Iranian participants and the Tehran Chamber for organizing the event. He expressed hope that the forum would help strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Referencing the recent meeting between

the two presidents at the BRICS summit in Russia, Cong said China is fully committed to enhancing cooperation across all sectors in ways that benefit both peoples.

Also speaking at the forum, Ruhollah Nejabat, chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, said Iran’s non-oil exports to China surpassed \$14.8 billion last year, making China the largest destination for Iranian goods and accounting for about one-quarter of Iran’s total non-oil exports. Imports from China reached approximately \$19.3 billion, or 27 percent of Iran’s total imports, making China Iran’s second-largest import partner after the United Arab Emirates.

These figures, he said, demonstrate the resilience and strategic importance of Iran-China trade, even amid global economic slowdown, with both countries supplying a significant portion of each other’s needs.

Nejabat noted that Iran’s Seventh National Development Plan emphasizes industrial modernization and attracting foreign capital and technology. He said Iran aims to upgrade its industries—from automotive and textiles to pharmaceuticals and medical equipment—and that this will be achieved more quickly with partners like China, now a global industrial superpower.

He added that technology transfer and joint investment are two strategic priorities for Iran. Chinese firms, he said, could take advantage of Iran’s market size and skilled labor to establish production lines and access broader regional markets.

Conversely, Iran could supply intermediary goods and industrial components needed by Chinese industries. Nejabat said Iran will offer special incentives for foreign industrial investment and provide a secure legal environment for Chinese companies. Infrastructure development—including rail networks, highways, and ports—is also a priority, and many of these projects will require Chinese expertise and participation.

He also pointed to Iran’s largely untapped mining sector, including vast reserves of iron, copper, aluminum, and rare earth elements, as an area ripe for development and export growth.

Speaking at the forum, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), outlined four key strategies for expanding trade with China. The first is technology transfer. He said Chinese companies have made major investments in research and development, much of which has not yet been fully commercialized. Iran, as a long-time partner, seeks deeper collaboration in these cutting-edge sectors.

The second strategy, he said, is increasing trade in high value-added goods. Currently, much of the bilateral trade consists of raw or semi-processed materials. The average value of Iran’s exports stands at less than \$400 per ton. “We want to change that,” he said, calling on Chinese importers to prioritize Iranian products with higher added value. He welcomed the Chinese ambassador’s praise for the competitiveness of Iranian nanotechnology and biotechnology products.

The third strategy is joint production through co-investment. Dehnavi said Iran offers a secure investment climate, with legal guarantees allowing foreign investors to repatriate both capital and profits. “There are many documented cases of investors successfully exiting after profitable ventures,” he said.

Iran offers highly competitive costs, a

wide range of investment opportunities, and strong security for foreign capital, he added, expressing hope for increased joint ventures with Chinese firms.

The fourth strategy is mutual market access. Dehnavi said Iran produces many goods that are well-suited for the Chinese market and that joint production could also help both countries expand into third-country markets. “This kind of cooperation can make our trade ties deeper and more sustainable,” he said.

Fereydown Vardinejad, secretary general of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, said China had stood by Iran during both stable and turbulent times, and that the two peoples share a strong emotional bond.

However, he warned that a lack of information exchange and mutual understanding of economic capacities had led to a wide gap between political relations and economic realities. “Our ties are excellent in potential but need significant work in practice,” he said.

Vardinejad called for a “win-win partnership” and proposed several actions: holding specialized business meetings, promoting bilateral trade missions, introducing market opportunities, ensuring trade balance, and supporting private-sector cooperation in areas like creative industries, digital economy, nanotechnology, and biotechnology.

“These steps,” he said, “can build deeper and mutually beneficial ties between Iran and China.”

Meanwhile, Hossein Eyvazlou, a member of the executive board of Iran’s National Development Fund (NDF), has announced plans for collaboration with China in the field of foreign investment in Iran.

Speaking at a press conference on January 4, Eyvazlou highlighted the importance of attracting foreign capital to boost Iran’s economic projects, emphasizing the role of strategic partnerships with countries like China.

Details on the scope and nature of the cooperation were not disclosed, but it is expected to focus on key sectors that align with Iran’s long-term development goals.

On December 20, 2024, a Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) representative announced that the Chinese investors are prepared to fund the construction of combined-cycle power plants in Iran’s energy-rich Khuzestan province to help address the country’s energy imbalance and boost regional economic development.

Zhao Bin He, the Executive Director of SCO’s Iran Office, made the remarks during a meeting with Khuzestan’s governor and local religious leaders. “We are here to pay our respects to provincial authorities and outline China’s plans for strengthening economic and trade ties, with a particular focus on Khuzestan,” Zhao said.

He highlighted the historical and enduring relationship between Iran and China, describing it as built on mutual respect, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange.

“Khuzestan’s strategic position in southwest Iran and its vast economic potential make it a key player in enhancing Iran-China relations,” Zhao added. “With access to the Persian Gulf and proximity to strong regional economies, Khuzestan offers exceptional opportunities for port infrastructure development and maritime transport.”

Zhao reiterated China’s readiness to actively participate in developing Khuzestan’s infrastructure, expanding port capacity, and exploring joint projects in energy, industry, and agriculture.

Hamas calls the shots, leaves Israel and US to play catch-up

From page 1 ▶ Both Trump and the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded positively to Hamas' declaration, signaling a tentative alignment on the path to a truce.

Key provisions

The ceasefire plan stipulates that Israel's military assault in Gaza would cease immediately upon agreement by both parties. All captives, whether alive or deceased, are to be released within 72 hours. Israel would also halt operations, withdraw from large parts of Gaza, release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and permit an influx of humanitarian aid alongside eventual reconstruction efforts. The plan emphasizes that no Palestinian would be forced to leave Gaza, though those choosing to depart may return freely.

The Israeli military has confirmed that preliminary steps are underway to prepare for the potential implementation of the plan.

Hamas' strategic positioning

A closer examination of Netanyahu's stated military objectives highlights the significance of



Hamas' diplomatic posture. Since launching its campaign in Gaza in October 2023, Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to continue the offensive until Hamas is eliminated and all captives are released. His acceptance of the ceasefire plan signals an implicit acknowledgment of the limitations of military force and a pragmatic turn toward diplomacy to achieve objectives that eluded the battlefield.

Similarly, Trump's involvement underscores the recognition that Israel cannot defeat Hamas mil-

itarily. Politically, the ceasefire represents an opportunity for Trump to claim a form of victory. During his presidential campaign, he pledged to end the Gaza conflict swiftly. Finalizing the truce would allow him to portray tangible success, potentially positioning him for international accolades, including consideration for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Global and regional implications

The ceasefire would also mark a strategic victory for Hamas. Israel's international standing has

suffered during the Gaza conflict, with widespread criticism from global leaders, United Nations officials, and even domestic human rights organizations. The death of 67,000 Palestinians has exacted a heavy price: Netanyahu has been designated a wanted individual by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, while several Western allies—including the UK, France, Australia, and Canada—have recognized Palestine as a state, further isolating Israel diplomatically.

If implemented, the ceasefire could derail Israeli ambitions of fully reoccupying Gaza. In this scenario, Hamas positions itself as a prudent and politically astute actor, placing the onus on Israel to either honor the agreement or face escalating international condemnation. Reneging on the deal carries significant political and strategic costs for Israel, further entrenching its image as a pariah.

By accepting Trump's ceasefire proposal, Hamas demonstrates not only strategic foresight but also a calculated understanding of the shifting balance of power in the Gaza conflict.

How hostile forces may test Lebanon's resistance

From page 1 ▶ The goal in this situation is to present the resistance party as weak and unable to face all these threats.

The resistance party however is now cautious and setting the red lines. It wants time to rebuild and create a political climate for recovery, after the resistance followed through with the ceasefire deal.

The resistance was under the belief that this process could secure certain bargains without its exclusion. It relies on its strong support from the people and thought it could follow its own path despite efforts to stop it. The resistance support base is strong and active. It is involved in many areas — social, health, education, military, and security — and it is therefore hard to stop them from playing a major role in the country.

Enemies of the resistance are interested in testing its new form to see how much it has benefited from the experience and what it may evolve into. They may test it — possibly through war or otherwise; if this matter were not important, the Israeli occupation entity wouldn't insist on it through the American administration. It now sees the resistance arms as a major issue and links Lebanon's future to it.

One option to test the resistance might be to push Lebanon into civil war to weaken the resistance. This would mislead the resistance from its main goal and reduce its popularity in the Islamic world as a force primarily confronting the Israeli enemy. An internal

conflict is intended to undermine its credibility, because infighting breeds deception and confusion about its true goals through media warfare, causing it to lose direction.

If the official Shi'ite forces represented in the parliamentary council realize that losing the resistance paper means losing everything connected to the resistance structure and alliances, that would be a huge defeat. Whilst new resistance groups may rise, in the transitional period, their enemy would be decisive in confronting them and use everything at their end to prevent them from growing. The Speaker of Parliament must understand that all current advantages directed at him will become a curse if the resistance is defeated. If the resistance loses all its power, dismantling it will be easy and pursuing it to the last non-moving element will be simple, not just the moving elements.

In these complex political times, with many cards that can be played in any direction, the political role must be conscious of all these dangers and define the limits that cannot be crossed or accepted. It must study the appropriate response for each case if it approaches these red lines, with options that preserve the resistance's basic choices.

One should not be concerned with the enemy's power and ignore the possible reactions, some of which may be destructive to its environment, since the key is to preserve the most important goal: preserving the covenant, setting the compass, and keeping the

resistance alive for future generations.

This must be a daily mindset for the resistance — to avoid the deceptions as seen in the earlier stages that included trusting the 60-day grace period, the presidential election, the choice of prime minister, the ministerial statement, and the agreement to hand over weapons south of the Litani River, even though the resistance knew such matter could not be fulfilled as a pledge for the group. Any belief that the enemy might act in good faith during a ceasefire is a big mistake. Even if peace terms are agreed, the enemy will only respect them when the balance of power is not in its favor. If the balance shifts, it will break those promises.

The resistance party has taken the issue of civil peace into account in dealing with the enemy to avoid tearing the civil peace. But if some internal groups work with the enemy and try to reach their goals through it, civil peace no longer matters — because those groups have turned traitor and joined the enemy.

Then, a new rule applies: fight anyone inside who starts a conflict. At that point, the enemy loses its advantage and the resistance no longer holds back, since civil peace is already broken. Then the enemy strikes harder to shift the balance. This will abolish the concept of preserving the internal traitors, because all options would be gone that has given the enemy the advantage, since there is no more civil peace for the resistance to secure.

The move to dissolve Hezbollah's cultural association is spiteful

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Ignoring the ongoing U.S.-led Israeli aggression and the stifling economic crisis, the Lebanese government has prioritized putting on its agenda a draft resolution to dissolve the Lebanese Association for Arts.

The draft resolution, submitted by Interior Minister Ahmad Hajjar, on the pretext of "violating applicable regulations" came immediately after the lighting of the Raouche Rock with the images of Hezbollah's two secretaries-general, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine.

The timing reveals that the issue is not legal, as it is intended to be portrayed. Rather it is purely political and vindictive.

Instead of addressing the comprehensive collapse or confronting the Israeli threats, the government is busy trying to undermine a cultural activity that falls under the freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 13 of the Lebanese Constitution, which guarantees freedom of opinion, assembly, and association without the need for prior licensing.

Legally, the executive authority has no authority to dissolve an association operating in accordance with law, except after a final and

binding judicial decision issued based on an official lawsuit and after the association has been granted the right to defend itself.

Therefore, the move to dissolve Resalat constitutes a violation of the principle of separation of powers. It is a clear infringement on the authority of the judiciary.

Hezbollah MP Hassan Fadlallah was clear in his position. Talking on Al-Manar TV, he said: "God willing, they won't make a mistake, because no one takes anything from us in a challenge."

Addressing Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, he said: "Your decision is as useless as a chocolate teapot [translated from a Lebanese idiom]." Fadlallah announced that he would speak in Parliament on behalf of the association, asserting that the government "undermines the state's prestige with the way it handled the Raouche event."

Hence, the proposed dissolution becomes a new chapter in the chain of soft war waged against the Resistance, with the aim of drying up the sources of awareness and undermining the cultural identity it protects.

Cultural targeting is the other side of the political and media blockade. It is an attempt to silence the voice of artistic resistance now



that foreign military aggression and external dictates have failed to silence the movement.

The sickening paradox is that the government is dealing with Resalat as if it were a hostile entity. However, the government released Riad Salamé, the former governor of Banque du Liban, known as the plunderer of the people's wealth, along with several collaborators with Israel.

The Resalat association is a cultural and artistic institution that has presented sophisticated musical, theatrical, and operatic works over the years, established a world-class orchestra, and launched projects to support Lebanese and Arab creatives. Its record shows that it nurtures national culture and is not a threat to the state.

Israel kills dozens more Palestinians in Gaza

The Palestinian Health Ministry reported on Sunday that at least 65 Palestinians were killed and 153 others wounded by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours.

These latest fatalities bring the death toll in Gaza from Israeli attacks since October 2023 to over 67,100, with nearly 170,000 people wounded. The majority of victims are women and children.

Abductions and murders of minorities escalate despite al-Sharaa's UN pledges

The murder and abduction of religious minorities in Syria has accelerated in the wake of self-appointed President Ahmad al-Sharaa's speech at the UN General Assembly in New York late last month, The Cradle reported.

During his speech, al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, pledged to protect Alawite, Druze, Christian, and Ismaili minorities, vowing: "I promise to bring anyone whose hands are tainted with the blood of Syrian people to justice."

Yet a wave of sectarian killings and kidnappings followed his return. On 4 October, a 14-year-old girl disappeared in Latakia just weeks after being rescued from a previous abduction.

Days earlier, 34-year-old Mary Ali Hassan vanished in Hama, while the body of engineer Majd Khalil was found in Daraa after his arrest

by internal security forces. In Latakia, Shia resident Farid Yasser Haj Mousa was killed after kidnappers failed to secure a ransom.

Other incidents included the murder of Mahmoud Khneiseh in Hama, the shooting of two Christian brothers in Homs' Valley of the Christians, and the abduction of dozens of Alawite women and girls since January, according to Amnesty International.

Massacres have also targeted minorities on a larger scale: in March, at least 1,500 Alawite civilians were killed on the Syrian coast, and four months later, 167 Druze civilians were executed in Suwayda, according to SOHR.

Amnesty concluded: "The authorities in Syria have repeatedly promised to build a Syria for all Syrians, yet they are failing to stop abductions and kidnappings ... to effectively investigate and to prosecute those responsible."

After Sumud, 'Conscience' aims to renew flotilla effort

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition launched the Ship of Conscience alongside the "Thousand Madleens to Gaza" initiative, carrying 92 personnel from 26 nations — doctors, journalists, human rights defenders — in a bold challenge to Israel's naval blockade of Gaza.

The mission sets off just days after Israel intercepted the Global Sumud Flotilla, seizing 42 vessels and detaining more than 450 activists, including Greta Thunberg.

Activists report Sunday an Israeli military jet made low flyovers over Conscience north of Alexandria, a show of force they branded as intimidation. They say they remain undeterred.

The Conscience had previously been struck by a drone in May off Malta, an attack that

left scars on its hull and crew.

Onboard medics now declare readiness to treat Gaza's wounded if access is granted, while reporters intend to pierce the siege's information blackout.

Organizers insist the mission is legal, nonviolent, and urgent: to open a maritime corridor, bring critical supplies, and expose Israel's assault on Gaza's shattered health system.

Emblazoned with tatreez embroidery, the ship's sails carry a message: resistance is cultural as well as political. In confronting Israel's "suffocating siege," the flotilla stakes itself as a living symbol of global solidarity with Gaza's besieged people.

Yemen wages new Israeli operation

From page 1 ▶ The operation, he stated, was a direct response to "genocidal crimes" against Palestinians and an expression of solidarity with their ongoing struggle.

The Yemeni Armed Forces emphasized that they are "closely monitoring developments in light of the latest events in Gaza and in coordination with Palestinian resistance groups.

The statement noted that Yemeni forces will act accordingly on the battlefield in a manner that "ensures the fulfillment of the just demands of our oppressed Palestinian people, particularly the cessation of the Zionist aggression and the lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip."

It further stressed that Yemeni support operations would continue until the genocide in Gaza ends and the siege is lifted.

Earlier, the spokesperson for the Israeli occupation army reported the detection of a missile launched from Yemeni territory toward occupied Palestine.

Following the report, air raid sirens were

triggered in central areas and near the western Dead Sea.

Hebrew media outlets also reported hearing several explosions in the central region, suggesting that the blasts were likely the result of missile interception attempts.

In response to the attack, Israeli media reported that Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv temporarily closed its airspace, a move seen as part of heightened Israeli security measures.

This latest development is part of an ongoing series of military actions by the Yemeni Armed Forces targeting Israeli positions, which they have declared are acts of support for the Palestinian people and retaliation for the ongoing genocidal war on Gaza.

In November 2023, Yemen opened a support front for Gaza targeting Israeli vessels in the Red Sea as well as ships docking at Israeli ports. The naval blockade expanded as the genocide intensified with regular missile and drone attacks on Israeli cities.



Protesters join a "Red Line" march, carrying Palestinian flags and a banner reading "Stop Genocide," to demand government action over Gaza — Amsterdam, Netherlands, October 5, 2025.

Burnt City, a symbol of peaceful coexistence in ancient Iran

TEHRAN – An Iranian archaeologist has said that the UNESCO-registered Burnt City is one of the most prominent archaeological sites in Iran, reflecting one of the earliest urban societies in the history of human civilization.

Archaeological research in recent decades has provided new insights into the social, economic, and cultural structure of the Burnt City region, Mohammadreza Jafari, a researcher of Sistan-Baluchestan's cultural heritage, said on Sunday, as quoted by CHTN.

A distinctive feature of Burnt City is the existence of lasting peace among its inhabitants and the absence of any evidence of militarism, which indicates a culture of cooperation and peaceful coexistence in a society characterized by cultural diversity and extensive interactions, Jafari explained.

"Additionally, numerous industrial and commercial findings testify to the technological advancement and technical knowledge of the people at that time."

With the efforts of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the protection of this valuable heritage is being strengthened. The use of modern technologies is an effective step in preserving and better introducing the Burnt City to the global community, said Jafari, who doubles as the Burnt City's UNESCO World Heritage Base.

"Education and awareness-raising among



younger generations also play a key role in sustaining these efforts."

The archaeologist added that Burnt City is one of the most important sites of the third millennium BC, with a history of about 5,000 years.

According to the UN cultural body, changes in watercourses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the Burnt City in the early second millennium BC. The site's structures, burial grounds, and numerous significant artifacts—well preserved due to the dry desert climate—make it a valuable source of information about the emergence of complex societies and their interactions during the third millennium BC. Previous excavations revealed that the residents possessed advanced skills in weaving and in the creation of fine arts, including decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting.

Tehran's first visual documents to be displayed at Axkhaneh Shahr

TEHRAN-- On the occasion of commemorating Tehran Week and Day, an exhibition of historical photographs of Tehran titled 'The Face of Tehran' will be open on Monday at the city's Axkhaneh Shahr (photo museum).

According to ISNA, Axkhaneh Shahr is set to showcase 60 photos of Tehran in the 13th century AH (19th century AD). These photos, which have been taken by photographers such as Luigi Pashe, Luigi Montabone, Agha Reza Akasbashi, and Abdullah Mirza Qajar, are considered among the first visual documents of Tehran.

Also, along with these works, the two old maps of Tehran, prepared in 1269 and 1275 AH, will be on display for the first time.

The 'Faces of Tehran' exhibition is a religious tribute to the 200-year-old capital of Iran; a city that has experienced many changes in its face and identity over time. These images narrate the times when our ancestors lived and the first signs of Tehran's urban life have been recorded in the frame of the picture.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition will be held at Axkhaneh Shahr at the intersection of Bahar St. and Bahar Shiraz St. near Haft-e Tir Square on Monday.

Visiting the exhibition is free and open to the public, and those interested can visit the exhibition every day (even holidays) from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM until November 5.

Chehel Sotoun palace undergoes restoration

TEHRAN – A restoration, cleaning, and lighting project has commenced on the main portico of Chehel Sotoun, a 17th-century royal pavilion in Isfahan.

Head of Isfahan Cultural Heritage Department Amir Karamzadeh told IRNA on Sunday that the columns of the Chehel Sotoun's iwan (portico) had not been cleaned in the past years, and their appearance and protective condition were not very good, so the first stage of cleaning and dusting the columns has begun, IRNA reported.

Karamzadeh added that after cleaning, the columns will be oiled and strengthened to achieve the desired structural and external conditions.

Referring to the implementation of the porch lighting project, he also said that about 10 billion rials (\$10,000) have been spent on this project, and all the porch lighting systems and internal burnt-out lights have been improved.

Karamzadeh continued that in addition to lighting, restoration of the mirror work and strengthening of the historic tiles and paintings of the porch are also on the agenda, and these measures are being implemented in stages.

Before the start of restoration works, issues such as termite decay and the effects of moisture were examined with detailed pathology on the structure, and spraying operations were carried out to prevent further destruction, he said.

According to Karamzadeh, planning for organizing green spaces, flower planting, and revitalizing the complex's fountain and pond is also on the agenda.

He stated that the restoration work will not disrupt visits to the complex, adding that the cleaning of the columns will be completed in about two months, and upon completion of these measures, the Chehel Sotoun Complex will welcome domestic and foreign tourists with a fresher appearance.

Chehel Sotoun, meaning 'Forty Columns', is a Safavid-era Persian pavil-

ion built by Shah Abbas II. The palace was used historically for entertainment and hosting dignitaries and ambassadors on its terrace or in grand reception halls.

The pavilion's name derives from its 20 wooden columns, which, when reflected in the pool in front of the building, appear as 40.

The palace features intricate architectural and decorative designs, including wall and ceiling patterns known as Lachak Toranj, combining painting, tiling, and other elements. It is considered a prime example of Safavid Persian architecture.

Today, the site functions as a museum displaying artworks from various periods of Iranian history.

The lighting upgrade is part of ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance the site for cultural and tourism purposes.

Second Announcement



Brief Notice of International Two-Stage Tender No. 834058-2

It is hereby announced that Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) intends to procure the single-line roller bearing 2P19022C4, in accordance with the required conditions and technical specifications, through a two-stage international tender.. Accordingly, all the prospective bidders are kindly requested to visit ESCO's website www.esfahansteel.ir so as to obtain the tender document no later than 06.10.2025 and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website (through Sourcing Field) max. up to 06.10.2025 at 18:00 p.m.

It is evident that this letter is only for notification purpose.

Yours Respectfully,
S.Khalili,
Equipment and Goods Procurement Management
Esfahan Steel Company

‘Narrators of Ancient Iran’ on view at National Museum

TEHRAN – A new exhibition titled “Narrators of Ancient Iran: A Selection of Objects from the National Museum” has opened its doors to the public at the vast, prestigious museum, which is located in downtown Tehran.

The opening ceremony was attended by Ali Darabi, Deputy Minister for Cultural Heritage, Jebrael Nokandeh, Director General of the National Museum, and other officials, experts, and enthusiasts on September 29.

It features more than 330 objects from nearly 80 ancient sites, providing an overview of Iranian history from the earliest evidence of human settlement to recent centuries.

According to Nokandeh, the exhibit, which will run until November 22, is one of the largest ever held by the museum in terms of the number of objects displayed.

Regarding the exhibited collection, he stated: “The exhibition includes a selection of less-seen objects from the repository of the National Museum of Iran, objects on display from the Museum of Ancient Iran and the Museum of Islamic Archaeology and Art of Iran, as well as a selection of artifacts recently exhibited in the ‘Glory of Ancient Persia’ exhibitions in museums in Beijing, Shanghai, and Xinjiang.”

According to Nokandeh, the exhibition includes three main galleries dealing with the evolution of technology, art, society, and culture on the Iranian Plateau.

The first gallery of the exhibition is dedicated to Iran's prehistory, specifically the Paleolithic, Neolithic, and Chalcolithic peri-



ods. Important sites from which objects are displayed include Wezmeh Cave, Abdul Hosein, and Sang-e Chakhmaq. The Director General added: “Visitors can see the bone flute from Sang-e Chakhmaq, which is currently the oldest known musical instrument in Iran.”

Regarding the Historical Periods gallery, he said: “This gallery, which is the largest space in the exhibition, is dedicated to the Bronze and Iron Ages, Elamite, Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian periods.” Notable works in this gallery include Bronze Age artifacts from Shahr-e Sukhteh, Shahdad, and Jiroft in southeastern Iran. From the Iron Age, prominent works from sites such as Marlik, Hasanlu, Qalaich, and Lorestan are displayed,

including the golden bowls of Hasanlu and Marlik, which are among the prominent artistic works of this period in the National Museum of Iran. Artifacts from the Elamite and Median civilizations are other features of this gallery. Nokandeh, regarding the Elamite works, stated that alongside known Elamite objects like the Joubaji collection, the second guardian bull statue from Chogha Zanbil is also on display. He continued, noting that prominent Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanian works are other sections of this gallery.

The third gallery of the exhibition is dedicated to artifacts from the Islamic era in Iran. This gallery consists of two sections, displaying a selection of Iran's rich heritage from the Islamic period in

the fields of calligraphy, metal-working, and the textile. The first section of this gallery contains outstanding works from the early centuries to the Qajar period, including a Quran written in Muhaqqaq script from the Ilkhanid period dated 704 AH (1305 CE), the manuscript of “Masalik va Mamalik,” Ilkhanid mihrab tiles, an astrolabe, and a celestial globe from the Seljuk period.

He continued: “The second section of the gallery is dedicated to displaying exquisite Safavid-era textiles, showcasing a brilliant example of Iranian textile art.” This section features works such as silk brocade (Zarbaft) with delicate Gol-o-Morgh (flower and bird) patterns, satin fabrics with golden backgrounds, and brocaded borders (Zari), all woven in the workshops of Isfahan, the art-loving capital of the Safavids. These precious textiles, created with astonishing delicacy using silk and golden threads, bear witness to the splendor and artistic taste of the Safavid court and textile industry.

A photo exhibition showcasing the activities of the National Museum of Iran during the 12-day war is another section on display in the side gallery. Also featured are replicas of two artifacts: a statue of Darius the Great from Susa and a model of the Tarikhaneh Mosque in Damghan. It is worth noting that the mentioned mosque model was built in the 1930s.

The “Narrators of Ancient Iran” exhibition is open from Saturday to Wednesday, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Iran to take part in FITUR 2026 in Spain


TEHRAN – The Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, will hold the national pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the international tourism exhibition FITUR 2026 in Spain.

Activists from private and public sectors in the tourism, hospitality and related industries fields can register to participate in this exhibition until November 3.

All applicants, including travel agencies, hotels, airlines, associations and other relat-


ed sectors, are invited to register to attend and participate in this exhibition.

The FITUR international tourism exhibition is one of the most prestigious specialized events in the world in the field of travel and tourism, and Iran's active presence in this event is a valuable opportunity to develop international interactions, attract tourists, and introduce its cultural and historical potentials.



INVITATION TO RENEWAL OF ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
First Announcement
55/04/14796
06/10/2025

Agricultural Support Services Company



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jihad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below 4 items of pesticides technical materials, through renewal of one step international tender.

	Name	PACKING	Quantity/kg
1	Cartap Technical min 98%	25 or 50 kg waterproof cardboard drum	40,000
2	Propargite Technical min 90%	200 kg drum	96,000
3	Deltamethrin Technical min 98.5 %	50 kg drum	3,700
4	Glyphosate Isopropylamine Salt Technical 62%	200 or 250 kg drum	80,000

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Monday** dated **06/10/2025** until **Saturday** dated **11/10/2025** (4 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).
The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 339039782263500650000000000008.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Sunday** dated **09/11/2025** until 10:00 AM to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on **Sunday** dated **09/11/2025** at **02:00 PM** with the presence of bidder's representative(s) at our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).
We would like to emphasize that the value of the bid bond amount must be only submitted by the bidders in bank guarantee as follows:

1- € 30506.88 for **Cartap Technical min 98%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **24,923,568,000**.
2- € 36402.86 for **Propargite Technical min 90%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **29,740,481,280**.
3- €10110.25 for **Deltamethrin Technical min 98.5%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **8,259,892,266**.
4- € 10475.95 for **Glyphosate Isopropylamine Salt Technical 62%** equivalent to Iranian Rials **8,558,659,200**.

- The bid bond value should be in Euro or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the exchange rate of Telegraphic Transfer on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir, on **27/9/2025**.
-The bidders are also permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial.
- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website **www.assc.ir**, and **<http://iets.mporg.ir>** or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)

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2495

Foreign students studying in Iranian universities almost doubled

TEHRAN – Nearly 60,000 foreign students are currently studying in Iranian universities, compared with 35,000 students in the past Iranian academic year started on September 22, 2024.

Despite existing challenges, Iran has managed to attract students from 101 countries, IRNA quoted Saeed Habiba, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs, as saying.

The scientific capacity of the country's universities and their positive record in international cooperation are a valuable opportunity that must be seized to transform the presence of foreign students into a national discourse and strategic planning, the official said.

These students are mainly from Afghanistan, India, Iraq, and Pakistan.

In 2024, Hashem Dadashpour, the former head of the Organization of Student Affairs, said that the organization would offer new services to foreign students studying in the country's universities, ISNA reported.

Moreover, online language learning systems would be launched for applicants to take Persian language courses before entering Iran and prepare to study in universities, he added.

In September 2023, Dadashpour said the ministry of science was planning to increase the number of international students to some 320,000 from currently around 100,000 by 2026.

"Strengthening scientific authority, developing public diplomacy, and expanding the Persian language are the three main reasons for attracting international



students," Dadashpour said, IRIB reported.

World university rankings

The 2024 World University Rankings (WUR) report by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has included 72 Iranian universities, up from 69 in 2023.

A total of 426 universities from 31 Islamic countries are listed in the ranking, where Turkey, with 102 universities and Iran, with 72 universities, and Pakistan, with 39 universities, are placed first to third, IRNA reported.

Tehran University's ranking has changed from 501-600 in 2023 to 401-500 in 2024. The University is placed first in the country.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks second. The university's global ranking is 501-600, up from 601-700 in 2023.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences' ranking has also improved from 801-900 in 2023 to 601-700 in 2024, ranking third in the country.

Sharif University of Technology and Tarbiat Modares University are placed fourth and Fifth, respectively.

Shanghai University ranking 2025 has placed six Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide, down from 9 in 2024.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran are among the top 500 universities in the world, ranking 401-500 globally. Tarbiat Modares University ranks 701-800.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Sharif University of Technology rank 801-900. Iran University of Medical Sciences ranks 901-1000.

The July edition of the Webometrics world ranking has included 64 medical universities from Iran, unchanged from January's edition, 11 of which have advanced in the ranking compared to the January edition.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (485) is the only university ranked among the top 500 institutions in the world, Mehr news agency reported.

Among Iranian universities, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, and Yazd Uni-

versity of Medical Sciences have improved their rankings by 1002, 961, and 948 positions, respectively.

Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Kashan University of Medical Sciences, Alborz University of Medical Sciences, Kordestan University of Medical Sciences, Gonabad University of Medical Sciences, and Maraghe University of Medical Sciences are the other universities that have noticeably improved their rankings.

The Times Higher Education (THE) has included 34 universities from Iran among the top universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDGs), up from 33 universities in 2024.

Iran University of Medical Sciences, with a global ranking of 301-400, is placed first in the country.

Alzahra University, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401-600) are placed second.

Iran University of Medical Sciences ranks 48th in good health and well-being as well as reduced inequalities, and 62nd in quality education goals.

Alzahra University and Kerman University of Medical Sciences rank 85th and 89th in gender equality, respectively.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranks 30th in good health and well-being.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Shahid Beheshti University rank 46th and 60th in industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

Over 1.2m Iranians donate blood in 6 months

TEHRAN –A total of 1,226,464 Iranians donated blood in the first six months of the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, indicating a 14 percent growth compared to the same period last year, according to an official with the Blood Transfusion Organization.

The highest blood donation growth was recorded in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Zanjan, and North Khorasan, respectively, the health ministry website quoted Shahram Mirzaei as saying.

Blood donation in the last month of the summer (August 23 – September 22) has increased by 14 percent in comparison with the same period in 2024. Some 192,662 units of blood were donated during this month.

The highest blood donation growth was recorded in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan (almost 53 percent), Yazd (more than 39 percent), and Gilan (around 30 percent).

The official went on to say that about 56 percent of blood donations come from regular blood donors.

Thanks to various promotional and cultural

campaigns and activities, the number of female blood donors has increased. Currently, women's share of blood donation in the country is around five percent, Mirzaei noted. North Khorasan and (almost nine percent), Lorestan (more than eight percent), and Qazvin (over seven percent) provinces had the highest blood donation by women.

However, women are expected to get more involved in blood donation.

WHO lauds IBTO's achievements

In January, the former World Health Organization representative, Jaffar Hussain, admired the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization's (IBTO) leadership in blood safety and transfusion services, and highlighted their remarkable achievement of a 100 percent voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation system, a testament to the principles of universal health coverage in action.

He also thanked the blood donors, whose selflessness serves as an inspiration to all.

Admiring the IBTO's efforts and expertise in providing services to patients with rare blood

types, the official underscored Iran's capacity to serve as a model for other nations in the realm of blood transfusion and rare blood management.

Addressing National Rare Blood Day on January 22, the official praised the country's steadfast commitment to equitable healthcare access, ensuring that no one is left behind, regardless of their blood type.

The official commended the country's unwavering dedication to tackling the unique challenges surrounding rare blood, emphasizing the critical importance of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering determination in this global endeavor, the WHO website announced in a press release on January 27.

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ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Recent rainfall not to compensate for water scarcity’

Since the beginning of autumn, the country has been poured with rain, experiencing a 14 millimeters increase compared to the long-term average, nevertheless the water scarcity or the severe drop in ground-water resources are not compensated, director for drought and crisis management department at Iran's Meteorological Organization has said.

Since the beginning of the current water year (September 23) up to November 12, the whole country has received some 35.5 millimeters of precipitation which demonstrates a 14 mm increase compared to its long term mean of 21.6 mm, ISNA quoted Sadeq Ziaeian as saying.

"It also exceeded the last year's autumn rainfall rate of 11.2 millimeters by 24 millimeters," he added.

The capital also has experienced 44.7 millimeters rainfall while the long-term averages are 29 millimeters which indicates a 15.7-millimeter increase in mean precipitation, Ziaeian explained.

باران پاییزی کم آبی ها را جبران نمی کند

رئیس مرکز ملی خشکسالی گفت: از ابتدای پاییز تا ۲۲ آبان ماه میانگین بارش نسبت به بلندمدت حدود ۱۴ میلی‌متر بیشتر بود و پیش‌بینی می‌شود که تا پایان فصل پاییز بازندگی‌ها در حد نرمال یا بالاتر از نرمال باشد، با این وجود خشکسالی‌های انباشته و افت شدید آب‌های زیرزمینی جبران نمی‌شود.

صادق ضیائی‌ان در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا اظهارکرد: میانگین بارش بلندمدت کشور ۲۱.۶ میلی‌متر و برای مدت مشابه در سال گذشته، ۱۱.۲ میلی‌متر ثبت شده است بنابراین در ایران نسبت به بلندمدت حدود ۱۴ میلی‌متر و نسبت به سال قبل حدود ۲۴ میلی‌متر افزایش بارش وجود دارد.

این کارشناس سازمان هواشناسی اظهارکرد: از اول مهر تا ۲۲ آبان، استان تهران ۴۴.۷ میلی‌متر بارش دریافت کرده این در حالیست که در این بازه زمانی بارش سال قبل تهران ۹.۲ میلی‌متر و بارش بلندمدت تهران ۲۹ میلی‌متر بود بنابراین نسبت به درازمدت ۱۵.۷ میلی‌متر افزایش بارش رخ داده است.

BRICS welcomes Iran's proposal for establishing joint satellite data platform

TEHRAN – Member states participating in the 4th meeting of the BRICS working group on geospatial technologies and its application have welcomed Iran's proposal for the establishment of a joint satellite data exchange platform.

The meeting was hosted by Iran online from September 30 to October 1.

Developing a joint platform can facilitate the exchange of information and the provision of practical services. It allows all member states to upload their satellite data and benefit from a variety of services offered by each country, IRIB quoted Emran Amini, an expert with the Iranian Space Agency, as saying.

From monitoring fires and determining the area under cultivation to managing crises and facilitating exports and imports, this system can play a key role, he noted.

China, Russia, and Brazil have announced their interest in the proposal, and it is expected to be implemented as a joint strategic plan soon.

The 4th meeting of the BRICS working group brought together BRICS member states, including Brazil, China, Russia, India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.

The two-day event was organized in cooperation with scientific institutions, including Mapping Organization, Metrological Organization, Space Organization, Space Research Institute, the Geology and Mineral Exploration Organization, the University of Tehran, and Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology.

World Habitat Day 2025 highlights responding to urban crises

TEHRAN – Marked on the first Monday of October each year, World Habitat Day 2025 is focused on addressing urban crises such as climate change, human displacement, inequalities, and sustainable solutions for cities.

The United Nations designated World Habitat Day in 1985, the day reflects on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.

It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns; it's our collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

This year the day falls on October 6; the Global Observance of World Habitat Day is linked to urban crisis response. The theme focuses on addressing multiple crises affecting urban areas – including climate and conflicts – that are contributing to inequality, and promotes existing tools and approaches to effective crisis response.

The day highlights sustainable, scalable, and transformative solutions to urban displacement that help stabilize populations, while promoting prosperity and fostering social

The event provided a valuable opportunity to showcase Iran's capabilities in modern technologies, foster scientific and technological cooperation, and share expertise with BRICS member states.

The first day focused on showcasing capacities, capabilities, and opportunities for fostering cooperation among member states.

On the second day of the meeting, participants discussed and explored avenues for the expansion of collaborations in geospatial data and its applications.

The issues raised in the meeting will be summarized and approved in the form of a multilateral cooperation document. The document will lay the basis for joint practices of the states in spatial data in the coming year. A report on the actions taken based on the document will be presented in the next meeting.

Moscow hosted the third meeting of the BRICS working group on geospatial technologies and its application from September 16 and 17, 2024.

The meeting welcomed the proposal presented by the former director general of the National Cartographic Center of Iran (NCC) to establish the BRICS spatial data infrastructure (SDI).

Addressing the opening ceremony of the meeting, Ali Javidaneh said maps and spatial data are critical tools in the sustainable development of communities, which provide the information needed for informed decision-making, effective planning, and economic growth, ISNA reported.

cohesion for all. It puts the spotlight on the importance of urban and territorial planning, inclusive urban governance, and the role of local governments in sustainable solutions for displacement.

Iran, like many countries, faces challenges such as the spread of marginalization, inadequate standard housing, pressure on natural resources, water crisis, air pollution, and land use change.

The pressure on cities is heightened by the rapid urban population growth and migration from rural areas.

The country has taken different measures to mitigate the problems, such as the establishment of UN-HABITAT's Tehran Office in 2009 to strengthen cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and UN-Habitat, to contribute towards capacity building in the themes of sustainable urban development through policy development, institutional implementation and improvement of required skills and to promote UN-Habitat mandated activities in Iran, particularly in the field of earthquake resistance construction.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Volunteer vets vaccinate livestock in village

A group of veterinarians voluntarily vaccinated livestock and farm animals in a village in Shirvan County, northeastern North Khorasan Province, on Saturday.

October 6 was designated as National Veterinary Day in 1990.



OCTOBER 6, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

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

IAF cinematheque will screen “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid”



The American Film Institute ranked it as the 73rd-greatest American film on its “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Movies (10th Anniversary Edition)” list, and number 50 on the original list.

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were ranked 20th-greatest heroes on “AFI’s 100 Years...100 Heroes & Villains”. The movie was selected by the American Film Institute as the 7th-greatest Western of all time in the AFI’s 10 Top 10 list in 2008.

TEHRAN – The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the 1969 American Western buddy film “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” directed by George Roy Hill on Monday.

It is the 637th program of the IAF cinematheque and will be followed by a review session with the veteran film critic Javad Toosi in attendance.

The 110-minute movie will be shown with Persian subtitles. The screening is scheduled for 5 p.m. at the Nasser Hall of the IAF, Mehr reported.

Based loosely on fact, the film tells the story of Wild West outlaws Robert LeRoy Parker, known as Butch Cassidy (Paul Newman), and his partner Harry Longabaugh, the Sundance Kid (Robert Redford), who are on the run from a crack US posse after a string of train robberies. The pair and Sundance’s lover, Etta Place (Katharine Ross), flee to Bolivia to escape the posse.

The movie won 22 awards including Oscars for Best Writing, Cinematography, and a Golden Globe for Best Original Score.

The film was released on September 24, 1969 and initially received lukewarm reviews from critics, but has gained widespread acclaim in subsequent decades. In 2003, the film was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant”.

The movie is based on a pair of outlaws who robbed banks and trains in the early 1900s. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid had out-sized reputations. Rather than committing every robbery in the American Northwest as some suggested, one expert says they likely conducted nine major thefts.

The real Cassidy and Sundance did escape to South America as depicted in the movie. However, members of their family believed they didn’t die there.

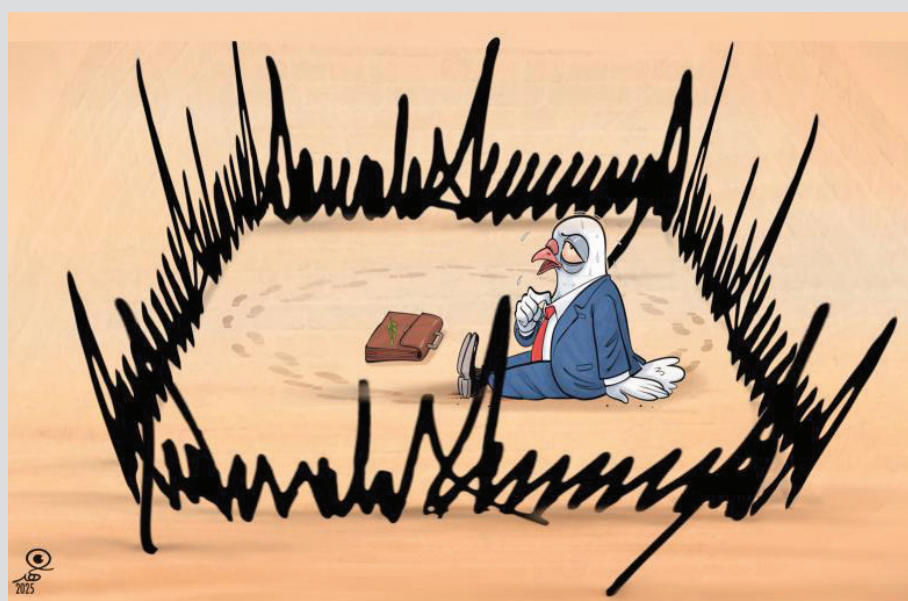
The film is selected for this week’s program of the IAF cinematheque as one of the lead actors Robert Redford passed away recently.

Redford was an American actor, director and producer, celebrated for his magnetic presence as a leading man during the American New Wave. Across a career spanning more than six decades, Redford earned widespread recognition and numerous awards, including an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award and five Golden Globe Awards.

He has also received various honors including the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in 1996, the Academy Honorary Award in 2002, the Kennedy Center Honors in 2005, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016 and the Honorary César in 2019.

On September 16, Redford passed away in his sleep at his home in Sundance, Utah, the U.S. at the age of 89.

Cartoon of Day



Peace and Trump's Decisions
Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

Iran to celebrate National Children’s Week with record number of organizations joining initiative

By Samaneh Aboutaleb

TEHRAN- Hamed Alamati, director of the Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) announced a significant increase in the number of organizations involved in this year’s National Children’s Week, emphasizing a shift toward greater community participation and public involvement.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday, Alamati highlighted that the number of active institutions during the week has doubled compared to previous years, reflecting a move toward people-oriented initiatives. “This year, all sectors and institutions are participating in the week, and its scope extends beyond the Institute itself,” he stated.

Alamati underscored the importance of honoring the memory of the martyrs of the Israeli attack on the Iranian soil during the 12-day war, especially the 40 child martyrs. “We must commemorate the sacrifices of these martyrs, as their memory symbolizes both the suffering of our children and Iran’s resilience and strength,” he asserted.

He also noted two key distinctions for this year’s event. First, the establishment of a high-level overarching framework—namely, the “National Child Rights Document”—serves as a unified guiding principle for all participating entities. “This document is now the top-tier policy instrument for safeguarding children’s rights in Iran, and it is imperative



that we promote awareness about it among society, authorities, families, and media,” Alamati explained.

The “National Child Rights Document” is designed to ensure that all groups and institutions operate collaboratively in support of children’s wellbeing. Its emphasis on a culturally and religiously aligned approach—rooted in the country’s Iranian-Islamic biosphere—has been central to the planning and execution of this year’s programs.

Reflecting on the broader scope of participation, Alamati noted that the involvement of organizations dedicated to children has significantly increased, with the aim of fostering a more inclusive, community-based approach. “The rise in institutional participation underscores our

goal of democratizing the event and transforming it into a collective effort involving government agencies, private sector, academia, and civil society.”

This year’s theme, “Children, the Joyful State of Life,” encapsulates the spirit of hope, vitality, and growth. It encourages creating a joyful environment where children can flourish physically, mentally, and socially, he mentioned.

In terms of programming, over 10,000 events are scheduled nationwide, spanning cultural, artistic, educational, and recreational activities.

Private sector and civil society organizations are actively participating, with many hosting specialized programs for children. The Post Company, for example, continues its initiative by distrib-

uting books through its postal libraries across the country, fostering a culture of reading and learning. Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) has committed extensive coverage across its networks to promote awareness and engagement, Alamati explained.

He concluded by emphasizing the importance of aligning national policies with Iran’s cultural and religious values, nurturing a supportive environment for the nation’s youngest citizens, and fostering a future rooted in hope and resilience.

The week-long celebration of National Children’s Week will commence on October 7 and conclude on October 13, featuring a series of daily themes designed to highlight different aspects of children’s lives and rights.

Iran presenting over 500 titles at 7th Sulaymaniyah International Book Fair



TEHRAN – Iran is participating in the 7th Sulaymaniyah International Book Fair in Iraq with over 500 titles on various topics.

Iran Book and Literature House represents the country at the fair, presenting titles by

more than 60 Iranian publishers, IRNA reported.

The books showcased at the Iran pavilion include classical and contemporary literature, children and adolescents, religion, Iranology, Persian language education, and tourism.

The fair features the participation of 250 publishing houses and printing and distribution centers from 16 foreign countries, including Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, the UK, the UAE, Germany, Palestine, Denmark, Turkey, Jordan, Kuwait, and Morocco.

It serves as a vital platform for intellectual and cultural exchange, allowing visitors to explore the latest publications across various fields.

The exhibition showcases over 250,000 ti-

tles spanning diverse genres, including children’s literature, education, the arts, politics, economics, society, history, and philosophy, among many other disciplines.

Launched in 2016, the fair has grown into a major cultural platform that promotes reading, strengthens the local publishing industry, and is now regarded as one of Kurdistan’s leading literary gatherings with an expanding regional influence.

Sulaymaniyah, often referred to as the cultural capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, has a rich history of literary and intellectual contributions to Kurdish culture.

The fair will run until October 13 and includes a range of cultural events with contributions from authors and publishers from Iraq and abroad.

London exhibition captures hope and horror of life in Gaza

“Against Erasure: Photographs from Gaza” is the title of a new exhibition currently on display at London’s P21 Gallery, featuring images from 11 photographers based in Gaza.

Organized in partnership with Kuwaiti non-profit Photo Humanity Grant, features images from 11 photographers based in Gaza: Mahmoud Abu Hamda, Belal Alhams, Jihad Alshrafi, Hammam Younis Alzyatuniya, Anas Ayyad, Majdi Fathi Suleiman Qraieqa, Belal Khaled, Ahmed Salama, Fatima Alzahra Shbair, Ali Jadallah, and Abdul Rahman Zaqout.

This August, Israel killed five journalists in a double-tap air strike at a hospital in Gaza: Moaz Abu Taha, Mariam Abu Dagga, Mohammad Salama, Ahmed Abu Aziz, and Hussam al-Masri.

Abu Dagga, a 33-year-old photojournalist who worked with Associated Press and Independent Arabia, appears as a subject in one of the works at the exhibition.

Part of a series of portraits of women in Gaza by photographer Jihad Alshrafi, the shot frames her in front of a bombed building; holding a press helmet and with a camera strap across her shoulder,

she gazes away from the camera and into the sun, frowning slightly but with a look of resolve. It is one of the standouts of a deeply powerful collection of images, Dazed reported.

While several participants are experienced photojournalists, the project was intended to capture events in Gaza through a more artistic lens.

For Yahya Zaloom, one of two curators alongside Razan AlSaraf, this distinction is important. “If you look at these photographs, you’ll find that they have layers about normal life in Gaza, whereas photojournalism is more direct and in your face: this bombing happened and these people are dead,” he explained. “Everything over there is a disaster, at every level, but [these photographers] are trying to show a different angle on these issues, so we feel them more personally. They’re not like the images you see on social media and the news,” he added.

For starters, it makes a difference that these photographers are themselves from Gaza, documenting their own lives and those of the people around them. These works are not the product of a patronizing or sensational-

izing gaze: as Ali Jadallah, whose father and four siblings were killed in an air strike, said in an interview in Magnum: “When I photograph a grieving mother or a child walking barefoot through the rubble, I do not see them as distant subjects. I see my own family in them, I see myself.”

The exhibition does not shy away from harrowing scenes of desperation and grief, yet these coexist alongside images of endurance and hope. This range of emotions can be seen in “Tales Narrated by Hands,” a series by photographer and artist Belal Khaled, which places hands at the center of each image.

In an image quite excruciating in its evocation of grief, a father bows his head and holds the body of his dead son for the final time. A young girl in a hospital bed raises an amputated limb with an expression both battle-scarred and defiant. Two hands clasp in a tight embrace, as one pulls the other from a flattened building. As Khaled has said: “These hands pulse with life and sing for hope; they are not just physical limbs, but a permanent symbol of resilience and determination.”

Of all the artists on display, Mahmoud Abu Hamdah’s work

is perhaps the most obviously hopeful. His series, “Steadfastness and Resilience,” focuses in part on the children of Gaza: a young girl smiles playfully as she rolls a loaf of bread; a group of kids run across the beach, a rainbow in the sky behind them. These are joyful images, but they capture only brief moments of respite: in the understanding that Israel has inflicted upon these children – and others just like them – a level of suffering difficult to comprehend, they’re as potent as anything else in the exhibition.

Zaloom hopes the exhibition will serve two main purposes. “First, I want people in London and the Western world to know that people in Gaza want to live and want to keep doing creative work,” he said. The second relates to the traumas and tragedies experienced by these photographers: many of them have been injured, their homes have been destroyed, their family members have been killed (Abdulrama Zqout lost 13 family members in a single Israeli air strike, to give one example among many).

“Against Erasure: Photographs from Gaza” will run until October 10.