

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 46th year | No. 15167 | Saturday | October 11, 2025 | Mehr 19, 1404 | Rabi' al-Thani 18, 1447

Gaza Breathes

As the ceasefire officially begins, displaced Gazans start returning to the north amid uncertain peace



Palestinians celebrate in Nusairat camp on Thursday, October 10, 2025 after news of a Gaza ceasefire deal.

Ayatollah Khamenei encourages innovative approaches to teach and promote prayer

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has emphasized the central role of prayer in shaping both worldly life and the hereafter, calling on religious institutions and devout citizens to utilize modern tools to advance its practice.

His remarks were delivered in a message to the 32nd National Prayer Conference. ▶ Page 2

US and Israel go after Iran's allies, showing no sign of de-escalation

TEHRAN – Israel and the United States are escalating their campaign of economic, military, and diplomatic coercion against Iran, focusing their efforts in recent days on undermining the two of the country's biggest allies, China and Russia, who provide economic, diplomatic, support against external threats, and could potentially offer Iran military aid in the future.

With US-Russia relations strained over the war in Ukraine, Israel took on the mission of influencing Russia. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin on Monday. While Official readouts only mention discussions on Gaza and Iran's nuclear program, reports suggest Netanyahu's primary goal was to pressure Putin into halting support for Iran. ▶ Page 2

Bloodied hands, misplaced laurels: why neither Trump nor Machado deserves praise

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In a move that pleased Washington's propaganda machinery, the Norwegian Nobel Committee chose Venezuelan opponent Maria Corina Machado over a president who spent months begging for a medal.

Machado's selection — and her immediate, public dedication of the award to Donald Trump — tells us exactly what went on: the committee rewarded a Western-aligned opponent of an anti-U.S. government, while snubbing the spectacle of presidential self-congratulation.

The scene is almost comic: a modern president lobbied like an entitled applicant, amplifying every cease-fire he could claim and posting highlight reels where diplomacy's messy work had already been done by others. ▶ Page 5

75 years on: Indonesia – Iran shared responsibilities and solidarity

By Roliansyah Sumirat

Indonesian Ambassador to Iran

TEHRAN – When I was inaugurated by President Prabowo Subianto as Indonesian Ambassador to Iran, the message I received was clear: advance Indonesia-Iran relations across all sectors, and navigate both countries' mutual interests amidst delicate geopolitical situation.

I firmly believe in the goal, in the benefits it will manifest for both countries, and in simply acknowledging that Indonesia and Iran are emerging regional powers whose cooperation should be closer than what it is today – politically, economically, and culturally.

Indonesia officially joined BRICS as a full member in January 2025, making it the first Southeast Asian country in the group and adding to its memberships in the WTO, NAM, OIC, and D8. Both Indonesia and Iran now belong to BRICS alongside major powers like China, Russia, and India. This membership enables both countries to pursue reform of global governance aligned with Indonesia and Iran's interests and to – let me just say the quiet part loud – diversify options from Western-dominated institutions. ▶ Page 2

Iran exports agricultural products to 80 countries

TEHRAN – Iran exports agricultural products to 80 countries worldwide, with foreign currency revenues from horticultural exports rising from \$2.9 billion to \$4.3 billion, according to Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohammad Mehdi Boroumandi.

"The agricultural sector is the cornerstone of the country's food security and must, while feeding 90 million Iranians, safeguard soil and water resources for future generations," Boroumandi said, as quoted by state TV.

He noted that Iran's vast geography and population make food import dependence unsustainable, emphasizing that "reliance on domestic knowledge and local capacities is the only way to ensure lasting food security." ▶ Page 4



©MJC/Amirhossein Shahghholi

International conference in Tehran denounces Israeli-US assassination of scientists

TEHRAN – Iran has inaugurated an international conference titled "Scholars Rise Against Sophicide" to denounce the systematic campaign of assassinations targeting scientists, orchestrated by the United States and Israel.

Mohammad-Javad Larjani, head of Iran's Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences and chairman of the event, said on Thursday that the conference seeks to raise global awareness about the growing threat to scientists in Iran and other developing nations. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

‘Judicial overreach’ and ‘economic terrorism’

Shargh, in an editorial, addressed the U.S. sanctions imposed on 29 entities linked to Iran across different countries, writing: On Thursday, the United States government announced that it had added 29 entities (including 26 companies) to the U.S. Department of Commerce’s restricted list. This move specifically targets companies involved in purchasing American electronic components used in armed drones. These sanctions are often justified as alternative tools to warfare for advancing U.S. foreign policy, but they have faced strong criticism from various countries. China describes these sanctions as “judicial overreach” due to their interference in international trade, while Iran refers to them as “economic terrorism” and a “violation of human rights.” Turkey, which maintains close economic ties with Iran, views secondary sanctions as “extraterritorial” and a threat to national sovereignty.

Farihkheteagan: October 7 set fire to American plan

Farihkheteagan wrote due to its global influence over energy production and distribution, and its role in expanding religious power within the Islamic world, Iran was placed as a top priority for confrontation and containment. Eliminating Iran and gaining access to energy resources would easily compensate for the costs of Middle East wars and maintain America’s position at the top of the global economy. The October 7 operation inflicted a heavy and irreparable cost on the enemy; however, the main plan (Iran’s collapse) remained on the agenda. Yet the result led to increased discredit and isolation of the Zionist criminal network globally. Some Arab leaders in the region, under pressure from Muslim public opinion, were unable to join the Abraham Accords. The survival of the American-led international order depends on the expansion of the Zionist regime and the fragmentation of Iran. The war was designed to save the American empire and dismantle Iran, but Palestinian resistance on October 7 destroyed that plan. The alliance of non-Western countries in this existential war in West Asia holds strategic importance, potentially shaping the fate of the region for at least a century. Resistance is the key to victory in this historic battle, and from its depths, a new Iran will be born.

Hamshahri: A direct warning to US

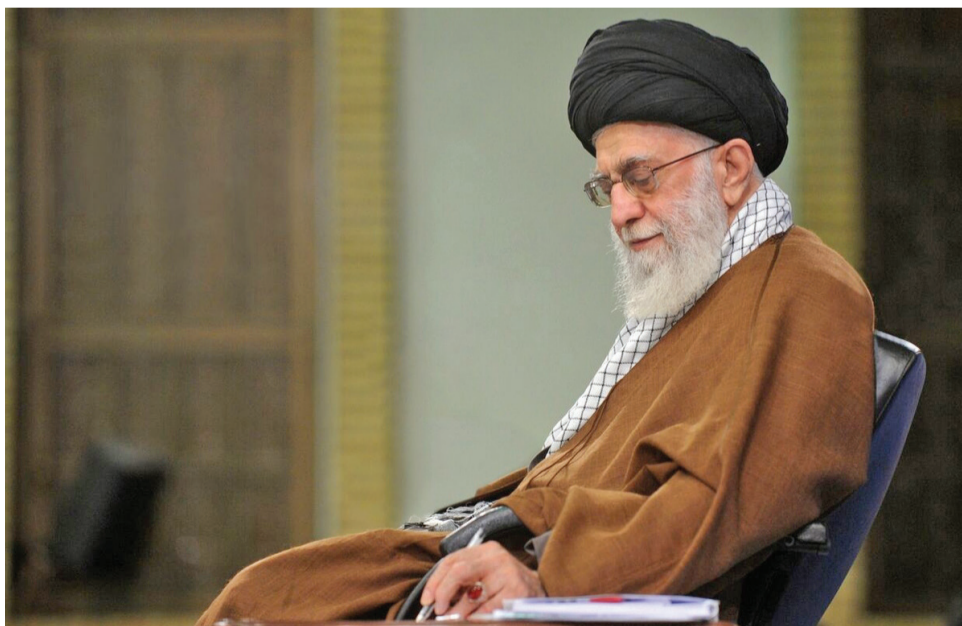
In an analysis, Hamshahri addressed reports

of U.S. preparation to obstruct or interfere with the movement of Iranian commercial vessels. According to Al Mayadeen news network, signs have emerged indicating that the United States is preparing to disrupt Iranian shipping under the pretext of enforcing sanctions (following the restoration of the UN Security Council sanctions by the European trio of Britain, France and Germany). Iran’s model of tanker warfare during the Sacred Defense era (in the 1980s) is seizure against seizure, including recalling ambassadors and political representatives, and reliance on internationally recognized legal frameworks. The historical record of such confrontations casts doubt on any certainty of Western victory. Disrupting Iran’s maritime trade is no simple matter. Approximately 40% of the world’s oil passes through a corridor over which Iran maintains full control and oversight, even in the face of the U.S. Navy. The modern world is defined by complexity, and Iran’s experience during the 12-day war in June has forged a national will stronger than ever. Testing this will have a huge cost, more than the cost of oil that passes through the Strait of Hormuz daily!

Sazandegi: Unsubstantiated claim

In a recent article, Sazandegi refuted a claim by the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida, which alleged direct contact between Iranian and American officials. Amid heightened tensions in the Middle East—driven by the Gaza conflict and developments surrounding Iran’s nuclear program—Al-Jarida published a controversial report claiming direct communication between Tehran and Washington. Despite the denial by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, the report quickly circulated across various media outlets and social networks, once again highlighting the shortcomings of some domestic sources in verifying news and assessing the credibility of information. Analysts believe that these words are mostly propagandistic and symbolic intended to demonstrate America’s prowess. Tehran’s documented and unequivocal response indicates that Iran will not alter its strategic course under media or political pressure and that the country remains committed to negotiation and diplomacy. This approach reflects Iran’s adherence to national security principles, international law, and the importance of resolving disputes through dialogue, not through threats and tension.

Ayatollah Khamenei encourages innovative approaches to teach and promote prayer



From page 1 ▶ Describing the conference as “one of the most beneficial gatherings in the country,” Ayatollah Khamenei said the day of the event is among “the most blessed days of the year,” highlighting the unique significance of prayer among Islamic obligations. He noted that prayer, when performed with humility and heartfelt devotion, brings peace to the heart, strengthens resolve, deepens faith, and revives hope—qualities essential to guiding human destiny.

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that calls to prayer appear more frequently than any other injunction in the Qur’an and religious texts, and that the adhan (call to prayer) proclaims its importance above all deeds. He also underlined the roles of parents, teachers, companions, and daily routines in fostering a lifelong commitment to prayer.

In his message, the Leader urged religious bodies, clerics, and believers to treat the promotion, teaching, and adherence to prayer as a vital duty. He specifically called for the use of modern educational tools and engaging methods to explain the spiritual subtleties of prayer and to highlight the practical and spiritual needs it fulfills for every Muslim.

Ayatollah Khamenei concluded by expressing his gratitude to Mohammad Reza Qara’ati for his long-standing efforts in nurturing and spreading the practice of prayer across the country.

The 32nd National Prayer Conference began on Thursday morning in Rasht, with the participation of Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Head of the President’s Office, and Zahra Behrouz Azar, Vice President for Women and Family Affairs.

US and Israel go after Iran’s allies, showing no sign of de-escalation

From page 1 ▶ During its 12-day war with Israel in June, Iran did not request military aid from Russia and China, aiming to demonstrate to the regime and its American patron its capability to effectively defend itself, the Tehran Times understands. However, it is now believed that Tehran might seek certain military assets as it prepares for potential future Israeli-American aggression, particularly in areas where it previously identified deficiencies.

While Iran inflicted heavy and devastating damage on Israel and the U.S. during the war thanks to its formidable missiles, analysts suggest it needs to further enhance its air defense systems. Although it is not yet clear whether Iran has formally requested military aid, an official from Iran’s Air Defense Unit informed the Tehran Times that the country is rapidly rectifying its weaknesses.

Reports that describe Netanyahu’s engagement with Putin are conflicting. Some claim he used their prior close relationship to make a point, but others believe the Israeli war criminal threatened to bolster military support for Ukraine if Russia decided to help Iran.

“The relationship between Iran and Russia is one of strategic significance. The bilateral comprehensive pact that came into effect recently is quite telling of this fact,” said Ruhollah Modabber, a Russia expert. “I don’t believe Israel can disrupt this relationship. The Iran-Russia ties will not be altered by a third party.”

Putin later said that Israeli leaders had requested him to convey to Iran that they are not seeking further confrontation, and wish to ease tensions. “We continue confidence-based contacts with Israel and receive signals from Israeli leadership asking that this be conveyed to our Iranian friends that Israel intends and is determined to further resolve the issue, and is not interested in any form of confrontation,” he said while addressing the Central Asia-Russia summit in Dushanbe on Thursday.

China will take ‘necessary measures’ in response to US anti-Iran sanctions

The U.S. and Israel consistently employ a more heavy-handed approach when attempting to influ-



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to Chinese President Xi Jinping

ence China, another of Iran’s key allies. Likewise, The United States on Thursday imposed another round of sanctions against Iran’s oil sector, targeting 10 individuals, 49 companies, and 34 vessels accused of facilitating Tehran’s crude and petrochemical exports. Among them, Washington said, was an independent Chinese refinery and oil terminal allegedly involved in processing and transporting Iranian oil products.

Earlier on the same day, the U.S. Commerce Department also added 29 new entities—including 16 companies and three addresses in China, nine in Turkey, and eleven in the United Arab Emirates—to its restricted list, claiming they had supported Iran’s military programs.

At a press briefing in Beijing on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said his country would act to protect its businesses from the impact of the new U.S. restrictions, which target a Chinese refinery and dozens of entities allegedly involved in trading Iranian oil.

“China urges the United States to stop using sanctions as a tool of pressure,” Guo said. “We will take all necessary steps to ensure the legit-

imate rights of Chinese companies and citizens are protected and to defend our energy security.”

This is the fourth round of sanctions under President Trump targeting Chinese refineries that continue purchasing Iranian oil.

Despite years of sanctions, Iran has maintained oil exports through alternative routes and by leveraging Asian buyers, particularly in China, which is its biggest customer. The U.S. is escalating its pressure campaign on Iran’s energy sector by targeting its global supply chains and maritime networks.

All this is part of the United States’ pressure campaign against Iran, including the reinstatement of sanctions under the so-called Snapback Mechanism, a settlement mechanism originally adopted to settle difference pertaining to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Under the 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.

International conference in Tehran denounces Israeli-US assassination of scientists

TEHRAN – Iran has inaugurated an international conference titled “Scholars Rise Against Sophicide” to denounce the systematic campaign of assassinations targeting scientists, orchestrated by the United States and Israel.

Mohammad-Javad Larjani, head of Iran’s Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences and chairman of the event, said on Thursday that the conference seeks to raise global awareness about the growing threat to scientists in Iran and other developing nations.

“This conference was organized swiftly to address the emerging threat against science and knowledge,” Larjani said in his opening remarks. “We are facing a new form of terrorism — scientific terrorism.”

Referring to the recent 12-day conflict between Iran, Israel, and the United States, Larjani said several Iranian nuclear scientists and military officials were assassinated during the hostilities.

“The regimes in Washington and Tel Aviv have adopted a dangerous new approach: if they dislike

a scientist, they believe they can eliminate them by any means,” he said.

Israel launched an unprovoked attack on June 13, killing numerous senior commanders, nuclear experts, and civilians. The United States later joined the conflict, striking three Iranian nuclear facilities.

Iran responded by targeting Israeli military sites and the U.S. al-Udeid air base in Qatar. The retaliatory operations brought an end to the hostilities on June 24.

Larjani noted that several prominent scientists were killed alongside their families under the false pretext of nuclear weapons development. Larjani emphasized that Iran’s scientific efforts are entirely peaceful, citing a fatwa by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei that explicitly forbids the production of nuclear arms.

Larjani accused Western powers of seeking to monopolize science and technology to maintain global dominance. “They believe that scientific

knowledge is not suitable for certain nations,” he said. “The emergence of the Islamic Republic and other rising powers challenges this monopoly.”

The Iranian scholar called for stronger global mechanisms to protect scientists and promote ethical research. “We must expand our own scientific ethics,” he stressed. “Scientists should not be deprived or threatened. Conferences like this must continue to raise awareness and strengthen cooperation among scholars.”

Larjani described “sophicide” — the targeted killing of scientists — as a dangerous new reality that legitimizes murder in the name of scientific control. He warned that the use of advanced weapons, surveillance technologies, and data exploitation has transformed ordinary devices into tools of assassination.

“The academic community must lead the effort to build a secure and sovereign technological ecosystem,” he stated. “Universities should reclaim the role of shaping political and scientific discourse toward justice and peaceful development.”

Enemies sought to trigger internal chaos through terror plots: Iran intelligence minister

TEHRAN – Iran’s intelligence minister has revealed that during the U.S.-Israeli aggression in June, Washington and Tel Aviv attempted to destabilize the country by mobilizing Daesh and other Takfiri militants from Syria to launch terror attacks inside Iran.

Speaking at a gathering in the western province of Hamadan on Thursday, Intelligence Minister Esmaeil Khatib said the enemy sought to assassinate senior Iranian commanders, target key military bases, and sabotage critical infrastructure

using advanced technology and Western-supplied weaponry. However, he emphasized, all such efforts were ultimately defeated.

The June conflict began on the 13th when Israel launched an unprovoked act of aggression, sparking a 12-day war that killed more than 1,000 people, including senior military officials, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States later joined the assault, striking three Iranian nuclear facilities in a grave breach of international law.

Khatib said Iran’s decisive counteroperations on June 24 successfully forced an end to the combined U.S.-Israeli offensive.

“In this hybrid war,” he explained, “the enemies tried to deploy Daesh and other Takfiri groups from Syria and the southeast to spread insecurity through terror and sabotage—but they failed.”

The minister said the broader goal was to undermine Iran’s stability, sow despair among the population, and derail diplomatic progress, all

while plotting to divide the country into smaller entities. “Their ultimate objective was to install a puppet government in Tehran,” he noted, adding that the plan collapsed thanks to the unity and strength of the Iranian armed forces.

Khatib said the plotters had miscalculated that public dissatisfaction would allow Israel to foment chaos. “Contrary to their expectations,” he asserted, “the result was national cohesion, solidarity, and collective resolve.”

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Gaza truce deal not end of road; criminals should be held accountable: Iran

TEHRAN – Iran's Government Spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani has expressed the country's backing for a ceasefire in Gaza, stressing the truce agreement in Gaza "is not the end of the road" and that those behind the crimes committed by the Tel Aviv regime must be tried in international courts.

She described the Palestinian nation's resistance as legitimate and an integral part of the process to reclaim their rights, calling on the international community to fulfill their legal and humanitarian responsibilities with regards to the war crimes and genocide in Gaza and to seriously take steps to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The spokeswoman urged all sides to remain vigilant, saying, "One shouldn't be deceived by the Israeli regime and turn a blind eye to the repeated violation of international commitments and agreements."

"Iran supports plans that will provide for the withdrawal of the occupying forces, the entry of humanitarian aid, the freedom of Palestinian prisoners and the fulfillment of their basic rights," she noted.

On Thursday, Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas announced that it had reached a deal with the Israeli regime aimed at ending Israel's two-year-plus genocidal war on Gaza. This deal is based on a proposal put forward by U.S. President Donald Trump.



Photo shows destruction in northern Gaza

Despite responding to the proposal, the group has sternly cautioned about the potential for the regime's reneging on what has been agreed upon, citing Tel Aviv's betrayal of similar arrangements in 2023 and January of this year.

U.S. and the majority of its European allies seek to keep the ICC and ICJ from holding Israeli leaders accountable for their war crimes

Iran's Foreign Ministry has also warned the international community to remain vigilant against the "deception and breach of commitments" by the Israeli regime, following the announcement of a ceasefire agreement in Gaza.

After two years of no-holds-barred genocidal war, the Israeli

regime failed to subdue Gaza or dismantle the Palestinian Resistance, as it had envisioned following the historic and heroic Operation Al-Aqsa Flood by Hamas-led Palestinian Resistance.

From the ruins of their homes and refugee camps across Gaza, new forms of resistance, resilience, and defiance emerged over the past two years. The Palestinian Resistance led by Hamas, though battered by the ruthless occupation, has remained organized, determined, and deeply rooted in national consciousness.

The vow to "erase Hamas" has become a symbol of hubris for the Zionist occupation, which was eventually compelled, under pressure from the Trump administration, to enter into a new truce with the very Resistance it had sought to annihilate.

Meanwhile, Israel's strategy of

collective punishment —obliterating neighborhoods, bombing hospitals and schools, and starving civilians across the besieged territory — was designed to break the will of Palestinians.

Yet, even amid unimaginable suffering, the spirit of steadfastness, or sumud, has only grown stronger among Palestinians over the past two years, who refuse to submit, surrender, or abandon their homeland.

Families displaced multiple times have refused to leave. Resistance has evolved and expanded beyond armed struggle, becoming deeply embedded in other spheres of life.

This comes as the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s judges have ruled that the tribunal's arrest warrants for the Israeli regime's prime minister and his former minister for military affairs would stand, defying overwhelming Israeli and American pressure.

The judges have dismissed the requests concerning the warrants that had been issued last November for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip.

The United States and Western countries have always supported the Israeli regime, seeking to keep the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice from putting Israeli leaders on trial.

75 years on: Indonesia – Iran shared responsibilities and solidarity

From Page 1 ▶ During the 12-Day War, not only did Indonesia condemn Israel's unlawful attack on Iran, we were also committed to keep our embassy open, showcasing our trust on Iran's ability to protect our remaining nationals, including diplomatic corps.

Politically, Iran is navigating a complex transition while seeking expanded cooperation globally. I would posit that the importance of cooperation between Indonesia and Iran is threefold: a) mutual support to create peace and stability internationally, b) strategic economic and technological benefits, and c) culturally both countries represent significant voice in Islamic world.

Indonesia-Iran's common Islamic identity often shapes our position in multilateral forums. Both countries consistently back each other on issues, most notably on Palestine. The IAEA General Conference and UN General Assembly session which took place just weeks ago also went so much to show the urgency for cooperation and collaboration in the face of adversity to create lasting peace in the region. I am hopeful that Indonesia can play its part, both individually and also through ASEAN. As ASEAN will hold its Summit this October under Malaysia's Chairmanship, we will seek to enable discussion and diplomacy to take the front seat. This is a crucial moment in history for ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners – many of whom are involved in the recent dynamics happening across the world. Both Indonesia and Iran will do our part, and in the process, surely will support each other's efforts.

We both also share the belief that multilateralism – with all its imperfections -- remains a feasible pathway for the future as no country can stand solely on

its own. We are seeing challenges today that highlights the urgency to make the system more resilient, more representative, and more accountable to all and not just a few. Wars, economic inequality, climate change, and technological advancement such as AI are just a few issues, among many others, that can be solved when we tackle them as global challenges. This is why we should see the recent development in multilateral institutions not as something permanent, but as an opportunity to revitalize them -- as a reminder that just as global challenges evolve, so should the institutions hoping to overcome them.

Economically, Indonesia's accession to BRICS will inevitably bring us closer to Iran and we appreciate Iran's open hands in accepting our application. BRICS for me does not just serve as a platform to influence regional stability and reshape the geopolitical landscape – the "political challenger" that many Western media may portray. I think BRICS also represent the spirit and desire to "diversify" of the global financial system and for it to be more inclusive toward developing countries. BRICS offers access to New Development Bank (NDB) which certainly still has something to prove compared to existing financing mechanism such as ADB or AIIB, but given the backing of its members, Indonesia believes in its potential to be realized.

It has to be said though, that economically, our trade number is not where we might have expected for two emerging countries. Unilateral sanction on Iran certainly is a factor, Indonesia does not acknowledge said sanction, but still, it causes concern – especially among private sector. This is a gap which both governments must actively bridge. As



both countries grow closer, we should be more creative in finding solutions, we are seeing the rise of Local Currency Settlement (LCS) and barter mechanism just to name a few. These are strategic efforts we must push to attain the economic and technological benefits. I have seen myself how ingenious Iran's industries are, when sanctions got imposed, Iranians do not just stand idly – they manufacture almost everything they need. On my way to the office I see Iranian cars, when I go shopping I see Iranian electronics, and concretely last year Indonesia agreed to purchase Iranian telemedicine devices to be used in four major hospitals across Indonesia.

Culturally, Indonesia and Iran represent a large number of Moslem population in the world, and very importantly we have been exemplary in the way we manage diversity in the school of thoughts/mazhabs that our people hold dear. Many Iranians may not know, but Indonesia also has millions of Shias in our countries. Unilateral sanction on Iran certainly is a factor, Indonesia does not acknowledge said sanction, but still, it causes concern – especially among private sector. This is a gap which both governments must actively bridge. As

tool to divide; clerics still discuss, even universities such as in Gorgan are appealing also to Indonesian Sunni students. Both countries are the cornerstone of doing exactly that, and that – I believe – is truly the principle of democracy: "majority rule, minority rights."

Educational and religious exchanges have also been significant. Iran and Indonesia both has offered scholarships to Indonesian and Iranian students and academics, many of whom have returned to make contributions in religious and academic sectors in their countries. Furthermore, the creation of Iranian Corners at Indonesian universities and the Iranian Islamic Cultural Center in Jakarta has promoted richer cultural engagement. Our engagement is Islamic engagement, it is significant voice to the Islamic world, it is our duty to amplify this important message of peace.

After 75 years of shared responsibilities and solidarity, Indonesia and Iran have a clear path ahead: to collaborate for peace and prosperity for our nations, to embrace our full potential in various sectors, and to lead by example and show that cooperation wins over division, and unity wins over rivalry.

Azmoun's health update: surgery successful

TEHRAN – Iran's Sardar Azmoun, who sustained a foot injury during Shabab Al-Ahli's latest training session last week, underwent a successful surgery on Wednesday.

He will undergo a rehabilitation program under the club's medical staff to pave the way for his return to the pitch soon, Shabab Al Ahli announced via Twitter.

Azmoun has missed two friendly matches against Russia and Tanzania.

He could be sidelined for four months.

FIVB Volleyball Empowerment plays crucial role in Iran's women's success

TEHRAN – South Korea coach Lee Do Hee says that FIVB Volleyball Empowerment supported Iran celebrated the zonal title at the CAVA Women's Volleyball Championship in Tashkent last week.

Formed 62 years ago, the Iranian women's national team had never before achieved a gold medal finish in international competition. Host Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan completed the podium with silver and bronze

Volleyball Federation of Iran has so far received USD 168,000 in coach support for its women's national volleyball team in addition to another USD 83,500 in volleyball equipment.

Head coach Lee Do Hee reflected on how the Empowerment program helped transform the team.

"The FIVB's Volleyball Empowerment program, especially its financial support for our national team coach's salary, has played a crucial role in transforming Iran's women's volleyball. This support has improved the understanding of fundamental volleyball skills among players and coaches across the women's community in Iran. As a result, our age-group teams have shown significant progress in their technical and tactical performance compared to last year."

She added that the consistent development under the program helped the senior team reach its breakthrough moment.

"This consistent development has strengthened the foundation of the senior national team, allowing us to achieve a milestone, winning the gold medal at the CAVA Women's Championship, the first such victory in 62 years. We believe the ongoing empowerment initiative will also benefit the U16 and U18 national teams, helping them perform better in the upcoming Islamic Solidarity Games and Asian Youth Games."

Iran's Moeini snatches silver at 2025 World Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Alireza Moeini of Iran snatched a silver medal at the 2025 World Weightlifting Championships on Thursday.

Bulgarian Karlos Nasar was surprisingly out of the medals in fourth place at halfway in the 94kg snatch before pulling ahead in clean and jerk. He did it in style, finishing with the clean and jerk world record of 222kg.

On 173-222-395, Nasar finished 4kg clear of the snatch winner Alireza Moeini from Iran. Moeini led Nasar by 9kg after making a snatch world record on 182kg – becoming Iran's first world record holder since Sohrab Moradi. He also lifted 209kg in clean and jerk and won the silver with 391kg.

Jokser Albormoz from Colombia was hugely impressive in winning three medals – one more than Nasar – from the B Group. He took snatch bronze, clean and jerk silver and bronze on total with a six-from-six 175-215-390.

Ali Alipour from Iran was fourth on 176-211-387. His former team-mate Kianoush Rostami, lifting for Kosovo for the first time, was fifth with 172-205-377 from two good lifts. "I will do much better next year," said Rostami, 34, who won Olympic

gold in 2016.

Iran water polo advance to 2025 Asian Aquatics Championships final

TEHRAN – Iran's men's water polo team edged past Japan 19-18 on Friday and propelled to the final match of the 2025 Asian Aquatics Championships.

Team Melli had previously defeated China (14-9), Hong Kong (22-10), Uzbekistan (28-7) and Thailand (21-6) in the competition.

Iran will play winner of China and Kazakhstan in the final match on Saturday.

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

NOC President Khosravi Vafa meets IOC President Coventry

TEHRAN – Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, the president of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) and Vice President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), met Kirsty Coventry, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Accompanied by NOC General Secretary Mehdi Alinejad and woman taekwondo athlete Nahid Kiani, Khosravi Vafa invited Coventry to visit Iran.

The meeting took place in Lausanne, Switzerland on Thursday.

The Iranian delegation had also held a meeting with Jean-Christophe Rolland, the head of the World Rowing Federation, on Tuesday.

Iran in Pot 2 of 2026 Asian Men's Handball Championship

TEHRAN – The Asian Handball Federation (AHF) said it is pleased to announce that the draw ceremony for the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship will take place on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at the Conference Room of the Safir Fintas Kuwait Hotel, Fintas City, State of Kuwait.

Team Melli are in Pot 2 of the draw along with South Korea, the UAE and Iraq.

The draw pots are as follows:

Pot 1: Qatar, Japan, Bahrain, Kuwait

Pot 2: Republic of Korea, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq

Pot 3: Saudi Arabia, China, Oman, Hong Kong-China,

Pot 4: India, Australia, Jordan

The 22nd Asian Men's Championship will be held from 15 to 29 January 2026 in Kuwait, and will serve as the Asian qualification tournament for the 30th IHF Men's Handball World Championship, to be held in Germany from January 13 to 31, 2027, with top four (4) teams qualifying for the World Championship.

Women's futsal team to play Poland and Canada

TEHRAN – Iran's women's futsal team will play two friendly matches with Poland and Canada.

Team Melli Banovan are also scheduled to play Russia next week in Tula, Russia.

Iran have been drawn in Group D of the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup along with Brazil, Italy and Panama.

The competition will be held from November 21 to December 7, 2025 in Pasig City, Manila, the Philippines.

According to Farideh Shojaei, Iran Football Federation vice president, Iran will play two warm-up matches with Canada and Poland in Manila.

Over 13m tons of essential goods imported in H1

TEHRAN – Iran imported 13.5 million tons of essential goods during the first half of the current Iranian year (March – September), up 12.5 percent from the same period last year, according to data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The value of imported essential goods reached \$9.07 billion, marking a 1.5 percent decline compared with the previous year, the report said.

Corn, edible oils (including semi-solid, liquid, and crude varieties), and rice were the top imported commodities, totaling 5.19 million tons, 1.07 million tons, and 965,000 tons respectively.

Imports of barley and wheat also rose significantly, increasing by 50 percent and 141 percent in volume compared with the same period last year.

The country imported 118,000 tons of various



legumes worth \$160 million during the first six months, representing a 38 percent increase in volume and a 30 percent rise in value year-on-year.

According to IRICA, essential goods accounted for 72 percent of the total weight of Iran's imports in the first half of the year.

Iran, Rwanda align standards to boost trade cooperation

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's National Standards Organization (INSO) met with Rwanda's Minister of Trade and Industry to discuss expanding cooperation through the harmonization of standards, conformity assessment, and laboratory accreditation.

According to INSO, Farzaneh Ansari held talks with Rwanda's Trade and Industry Minister, Sebahizi Prudence, on the sidelines of the annual ISO meeting, emphasizing the need to facilitate trade by aligning standards and implementing joint training programs for women entrepreneurs in

areas such as quality, innovation, digital transformation, and emerging standards.

Ansari noted that Rwanda's successful experience in establishing an e-government system provides numerous opportunities for joint collaboration.

For his part, the Rwandan minister welcomed the proposals, particularly those related to science, technology, and the empowerment of youth and women, expressing interest in drawing on Iran's century-long experience in standardization.

NIOC begins development of new Pazan oil and gas field

TEHRAN – The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has launched the development of the newly discovered Pazan oil and gas field, which officials say could play a key role in easing the country's energy imbalance by supplying gas to four provinces.

Mohieddin Jafari, NIOC's director of exploration, told IRNA that a contract has been signed with a private investor to drill several wells under a 40-month development plan.

"The Pazan discovery is one of the country's most significant new oil and gas finds, achieved after years of geological surveys and seismic studies," he said.

Initial exploration in the region began in 2015 with a 4,000-meter well that revealed a single gas layer. Subsequent two- and three-dimensional seismic studies led to a second drilling phase, where two additional hydrocarbon layers—one oil and one gas—were discovered, alongside the initial gas zone, which turned out to be larger than earlier estimates.

The field is estimated to hold about 10 trillion cubic feet of gas in place—equivalent to around one billion cubic feet per day or 28.5 million cubic meters—which could meet the daily demand of the provinces of Bushehr, Ilam, North Khorasan, and Masjed Soleyman. "Its importance lies in its

ability to reduce winter gas shortages," Jafari noted.

He added that preliminary estimates suggest at least 200 million barrels of oil in the field, though final figures will depend on the results of a third well. "This will give us a clearer picture of the Pazan field's long-term production capacity," he said.

The ongoing development plan involves drilling multiple wells across the field and connecting them to gas separation and sweetening facilities for delivery to the national grid.

Jafari also said NIOC is conducting two- and three-dimensional seismic surveys in the provinces of Ilam, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Ardabil, while preparations are underway to contract surveyors for North Khorasan, South Khorasan, Razavi Khorasan, Golestan, and Gorgan by year-end.

"Our simultaneous operations across Iran's vast onshore regions aim to deliver new discoveries to the Iranian people and strengthen the country's energy balance," he said, describing the Pazan field as a clear example of Iran's untapped subsurface potential that can be transformed into economic value and energy security through consistent scientific effort.

IRISL ranks 17th among world's largest container shipping companies

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) now ranks 17th among the world's largest container shipping companies and has maintained its position among the global top 20 for nearly a decade, according to the company's head.

Mohammadreza Modarres Khiabani, IRISL's managing director, told IRNA that the company continues to hold the top position among maritime transport operators in Iran and the region.

He said IRISL increased its capital by 41 percent this year, bringing it to 116 trillion rials (about \$232 million), despite sanctions and international restrictions.

"Although global freight rates have fallen by 45 to 55 percent compared with 2024, the company's performance remains strong," he added.

Container transport grew by 0.4 percent in the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024–March 2025)

compared with the previous year, with more than 860,000 TEUs handled. In bulk cargo, IRISL carried 10.23 million tons of various goods, up 9.3 percent year-on-year, while its Caspian Sea fleet transported 1.41 million tons, marking an 11 percent increase.

Modarres Khiabani noted that IRISL employs nearly 4,000 Iranian seafarers. "In 2019, more than 680 foreign crew members were active in our fleet, but thanks to our maritime training institute, all current seafarers are now Iranian. Foreign crew are only engaged in exceptional cases at foreign ports," he said.

He added that IRISL's assets currently include 144 vessels with a total capacity of 5 million deadweight tons (DWT), encompassing space for 160,000 TEUs, along with 324,000 TEU containers for export and import services and about 1,600 freight wagons operating across the company's logistics network.

North Korean Embassy in Tehran marks 80th anniversary of Workers' Party founding

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – The Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Tehran hosted a ceremony on Wednesday evening to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The event was attended by a number of Iranian officials, including Hossein Alvandi, Director General of the Asia and Pacific Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ceremony commenced with an address by Kim Chol, the Chargé d'Affaires of the DPRK in Iran. In his speech, which was delivered in Persian, the diplomat reflected on the history and ideological foundations of the Workers' Party. Here is the translation of his speech.

"Mr. Hossein Alvandi

Dear Friends,

First of all, on behalf of the embassy, I sincerely welcome the guests from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Parliament, the Army, the Islamic Coalition (Mo'talefeh) Party, the Workers' House, and other distinguished personalities who participated in the grand banquet commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

I pay my deepest respect to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, who achieved immortal accomplishments in the founding, strengthening, and development of the Workers' Party of Korea.

After the liberation of the country, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung brilliantly realized the idea of founding the Party before founding the state and the army, and throughout his revolutionary leadership, he devoted everything to building our



Party into a Juche revolutionary party with strong independence and a people's party rooted deeply among the broad masses.

The great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il presented an original idea of party building and, through his outstanding leadership, for the first time in the history of revolutionary party building, transformed our Party into the party of the leader, in accordance with its revolutionary character and nature, and powerfully guided our Party to fulfill its role as the leading and vanguard force, the general staff of the Juche revolution.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, with his extraordinary ideological and theoretical foresight and prescience, has presented brilliant ideas and theories for permanently maintaining the revolutionary ideals and character of our Party, including the five main lines of party building for the new era, and has wisely led the historic cause of strengthening the entire Party and achieving a comprehensive national rejuvenation.

The glorious 80-year history of the Workers' Party of Korea cannot be considered separately from the

wise leadership of the great comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who have led the Party with unwavering belief even amidst complex and turbulent political conditions.

The destiny of a nation and its people cannot be guaranteed without a defense industry that provides a secure environment and a vanguard organization that guides it politically.

The inexhaustible assets of the national defense force will evolve without stagnation and at an even faster pace, and the Workers' Party of Korea's cause of continuously strengthening its defensive war deterrent will continue on its glorious and victorious path.

Independence, peace, and friendship are the unchanging ideals of the foreign policy of our Party and our government.

Our Republic will continue to oppose and reject aggression, interference, domination, and subjugation, and will cooperate with all countries and peoples who pursue independence and justice, regardless of ideological and political system differences. We will continue to develop exchanges and cooperation

with countries that respect our country and treat us friendly.

The development of bilateral relations with Iran in various fields is the firm stance of our government.

It is necessary to mention that in the near future, at the ceremony of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, a delegation from the Iranian Mo'talefeh Party, headed by Mr. Omani, the Secretary-General of the Party, will participate.

Our country will also strengthen friendship and cooperation with the Iranian people, who stand in the common trench of anti-Americanism, and the traditional relations between the two countries and the close coordination and cooperation between the two sides on the international stage.

Taking this opportunity, I wish for the health and longevity, and success of Comrade Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, His Excellency Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and His Excellency Mr. Masoud Pezeshkian, the Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I wish success and good health to all respected attendees.

Thank you."

Following the North Korean envoy's remarks, Hossein Alvandi, Director General of the Asia and Pacific Department of Iran's Foreign Ministry, delivered a speech to the attendees.

The formal program was followed by a reception, where guests had the opportunity to sample a selection of traditional Korean cuisine.

Iran, Kazakhstan seek to raise trade to \$3 billion: Lorestan chamber chief

TEHRAN – Mohammad Khaki, head of the Khorramabad Chamber of Commerce, met with Ontalap Onalbaiyev, Kazakhstan's ambassador to Iran, to discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, emphasizing the need to raise annual exchanges from \$340 million to \$3.0 billion.

Khaki said Iran and Kazakhstan have enjoyed dynamic and growing trade ties, adding that despite international restrictions, joint planning and coordination could help achieve the new target. He described Kazakhstan as a key Central Asian nation with significant geographical and economic potential for regional cooperation with Iran.

He highlighted Lorestan province's role, noting that five of Iran's top export items to Kazakhstan are produced there. A Kazakh delegation is expected to visit agricultural, dairy, and construction

materials facilities in the province to explore opportunities for cooperation.

Khaki pointed to Lorestan's vast natural and industrial potential, including 13 billion cubic meters of water resources—around 11 percent of Iran's total—and over 1,300 active industrial units spanning petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and mineral processing. The province, he said, ranks among Iran's top regions for decorative stones and non-metallic minerals, with more than 200 stone-cutting factories.

Ambassador Onalbaiyev praised Iran's cultural and historical ties with Kazakhstan, saying relations between Tehran and Astana rest on shared heritage and mutual support in regional and international affairs. He said trade between the two countries reached \$245 million in the first half of

2024, including \$144 million in Kazakh exports and \$101 million in Iranian exports, and is expected to rise as transit corridors and joint projects expand.

The envoy said Kazakhstan is considering establishing a logistics hub in Iran's Bandar Abbas to strengthen links via the North–South Transport Corridor to Gulf and Iraqi markets. He added that Kazakhstan welcomes Iranian investors, offering tax exemptions, investment guarantees, and long-term residency to attract participation in mining, agriculture, and processing industries.

Onalbaiyev also stressed the importance of cultural and academic cooperation, calling it the foundation of deeper ties between the two nations. He noted Lorestan's potential to play a key role in fostering both economic and cultural connections between Iran and Kazakhstan.

Electricity coverage in Iran's rural areas reaches 99.8%

TEHRAN – Iran has extended electricity access to 99.8 percent of its rural population, marking one of the highest rural electrification rates in the world, according to the head of the Iran Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Company (Tavanir).

Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said significant progress has been made over the past 46 years, noting that the number of villages accessing the national grid has grown thirteenfold since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Rural communities have always played a vital role in the country's sustainable development, and the

power industry is proud to serve them by improving living standards and supporting regional progress," he said, as quoted by Tasnim news agency.

Rajabi Mashhadi added that Iran's rural electrification rate surpasses the global average of about 80 percent, with almost all officially registered villages of more than 10 households now connected to the grid.

Since the beginning of the current year, 32 new villages have been connected to the national grid, and around 5,000 nomadic households have gained access to portable so-

lar power systems. In recent years, more than 33,500 nomadic families have benefited from such solar units, he noted.

Tavanir has invested about 240 trillion rials (roughly \$4.8 billion) in rural power network expansion and development, Rajabi Mashhadi said. The network improvement program has so far covered 25,800 villages, including 4,000 this year alone.

Efforts have included relocating and reinforcing power lines, replacing transformers, and upgrading street lighting. Around 220,000 electricity poles have been repositioned, 40,000 kilometers of rural

power lines refurbished, and nearly 8,000 transformers replaced to strengthen the grid and stabilize voltage.

Rajabi Mashhadi said Tavanir plans to invest another 16 trillion rials (\$320 million) in the current Iranian year (ends in March 2026) for power generation, rural network upgrades, and electricity projects on strategic southern islands.

"These remarkable achievements signal a brighter future for rural development and a major step toward improving the quality of life for villagers across the country," he concluded.

Iran exports agricultural products to 80 countries

TEHRAN – Iran exports agricultural products to 80 countries worldwide, with foreign currency revenues from horticultural exports rising from \$2.9 billion to \$4.3 billion, according to Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohammad Mehdi Boroumandi.

"The agricultural sector is the cornerstone of the country's food security and must, while feeding 90 million Iranians, safeguard soil and water resources for future generations," Boroumandi said, as quoted by state TV.

He noted that Iran's vast geography and population make food import dependence unsustainable, emphasizing that "reliance on domestic knowledge and local capacities is the only way to ensure lasting food security."

Despite challenges such as drought, electricity shortages, and tight budgets, Boroumandi said the agricultural sector posted a positive trade balance of \$3 billion last year.

He attributed the surge in horticultural export revenues—from \$2.9 billion to \$4.3 billion—to the resilience and cooperation of farmers amid tough economic conditions.

Boroumandi announced that agricultural products exported from Iran now reach 80 countries and said product traceability will soon become mandatory for both domestic and international markets.

Highlighting pistachio as a key export commod-

ity, he said the crop generates around \$1.7 billion in annual foreign exchange earnings. With 650,000 hectares of pistachio orchards, Iran remains one of the world's largest producers.

Boroumandi added that through careful government planning and constructive engagement with the European Union, previous restrictions on Iranian pistachio exports to Europe have been lifted. "The EU officially acknowledged the high quality and safety of Iranian pistachios," he said.

He also noted that the government is pursuing efforts to remove pistachio from the list of water-intensive crops and to reduce customs tariffs on its exports.

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN - After two harrowing years of conflict that devastated Gaza and shook the Middle East, a tentative ceasefire has been announced, outlining a phased military withdrawal from the coastal enclave and promising the release of captives and Palestinian prisoners. Proliferated and brokered by US President Donald Trump's controversial 20-point peace plan, this ceasefire is an extraordinary diplomatic achievement, but it comes with deep skepticism about Israel's commitment to durable peace and the chance of renewed warfare.



A ceasefire under siege

On October 9, the Israeli regime formally approved the first phase of the ceasefire, brokered through indirect talks in Sharm el-Sheikh mediated by Egypt, Qatar and Turkey. The deal calls for an immediate Israeli troop pullback to an agreed boundary in Gaza, relinquishing control of roughly 47% of the territory to Palestinian authorities. Hamas, in turn, commits to releasing the remaining Israeli hostages—about 20 believed to be alive—within 72 hours of troop redeployment.

In tandem, Israel agreed to free approximately 250 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences, along with 1,700 detainees arrested amid the recent conflict surge. Humanitarian corridors opened swiftly, permitting hundreds of trucks laden with food, medicine, and other essentials into Gaza daily to address the dire humanitarian plight.

To ensure compliance, a multinational force of some 200 troops from the US, Egypt, Qatar, Turkey, and the UAE will oversee ceasefire adherence, though notably without deploying US troops inside Gaza.

Trump's 20-point plan faces harsh realities in Gaza ceasefire

At the heart of this agreement

lies President Trump's comprehensive 20-point so-called peace plan, which envisions dismantling Hamas's military structure, establishing a transitional technocratic government under international supervision chaired by Trump and former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, and neutralizing Gaza as a precursor to renewed Palestinian governance and eventual statehood talks.

Despite international endorsements, the plan faces daunting hurdles.

Gaza's gains amid fragility

Though partial and precarious, the ceasefire affords Gaza some crucial gains:

- A halt to large-scale Israeli military operations and the start of troop withdrawals in key sectors.
- A significant easing of the blockade, evidenced by a formal agreement opening humanitarian aid channels.
- The release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners, symbolizing a morale boost across Gaza and the broader Palestinian population.
- An opportunity for international oversight and a potential pathway toward governance renewal.

Continued killings cast shadow over peace

Yet, even as the ceasefire was declared, the grim reality on the ground casts doubt on its durability. Reports from humanitarian monitors and hospitals confirm that Israeli airstrikes and shelling continued after the truce's formal inception. Notably, seven bodies were recovered from a helicopter strike near Gaza's Al-Ahli Hospital on October 9, a stark reminder of the ongoing violence.

Official figures from the Gaza Health Ministry indicate the Palestinian death toll since the ceasefire began runs into the dozens, including women and children. These casualties underscore a brutal truth: Israel's aggressive military posture persists despite diplomatic agreements, raising alarm bells about its sincerity in pursuing peace.

Israel's reluctance and the looming threat of renewed war

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has praised the deal as a tactical success, yet his regime's hawkish elements remain deeply opposed to its concessions. Prisoner releases and military pullbacks are seen by many in Israel as temporary setbacks rather than permanent changes.

Reports of limited Israeli airstrikes continuing after ceasefire approval further magnify questions regarding Israel's genuine commitment to ending hostilities. The conspicuous absence of US troops from the multinational monitoring force also reflects Israeli mistrust of international presence—signaling a desire to retain control over Gaza's fate.

Regional and international stakeholders react

The ceasefire received cautious commendation from the United Nations, the European Union, and Arab states, all calling for a sustainable political solution and urgent reconstruction efforts.

Egypt's mediation remains central under intense regional pressure, with neighboring states closely watching for any destabilizing developments.

Hope amidst fragile calm and lingering violence

The Gaza ceasefire is the most hopeful diplomatic development since the brutal hostilities erupted in October 2023. It signals potential relief for Gaza's war-battered population and a tentative path to normalized survival conditions.

However, the continued killing of Palestinians after the ceasefire starkly reveals Israel's persistent warlike tendencies and the truce's fragile nature. Without tangible moves to address the root causes of the conflict—occupation, blockade, and political disenfranchisement—the aid trucks pour into the enclave and displaced families cautiously return to their shattered homes, the coming weeks will test the strength of this ceasefire and the region's readiness to opt for peace over perpetual war.

Bloodied hands, misplaced laurels: why neither Trump nor Machado deserves praise

Sponsoring war, sanctions, and regime change is not a résumé for peace.



From page 1 ▶ The White House's tantrum — accusing the committee of putting “politics over peace” — reads more like wounded vanity than moral argument.

The deeper motive is obvious: Trump's hunger for the prize blends ego and a very public envy of Barack Obama, who famously won his Nobel early and left aides flummoxed (Ben Rhodes's memoir captures that White House bafflement). The chase was childish and transparently transactional.

Machado's victory is not an apolitical honor; it is a geopolitical signal.

Her politics align with U.S. regime-change currents, and her elevation conveniently bestows moral gloss on opposition forces that have courted Washington's favor — even as behind-the-scenes diplomacy with Caracas explored commercial concessions and strategic resource deals.

The NYT's Friday reporting has shown how talks between U.S. envoys and Venezuelan officials involved sweeping offers over oil and mining access — facts that underscore the material stakes behind “democracy” rhetoric.

Two painful truths follow. First, the Nobel prize itself is not an apolitical oracle; it was established by Alfred Nobel — an explosives industrialist whose fortune still haunts the award's optics — and it has long been susceptible to geopolitical instrumentalization.

That history helps explain why laureates like

Henry Kissinger or Barack Obama provoked outrage: the prize can sanctify powers even as those powers wage war.

Second, even if you presumably grant the committee some legitimacy, neither Machado nor Trump merits the moral laurels.

Machado has courted wanted war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu to intervene in Venezuela, embraced aggressive measures toward Maduro, and backed policies — sanctions and privatization pitches — that critics say have devastated ordinary Venezuelans (scholars have estimated tens of thousands of deaths tied to sanctions' effects).

Trump's “peace” record is equally thin: U.S. military backing for Israeli war crimes, massive arms transfers, and recent U.S. strikes that joined a 12-day war on Iran in which over 1060 Iranians were killed — actions he publicly boasted about — are hardly the work of a genuine peacemaker.

The Nobel Committee didn't just reject a man — it revealed a farce.

Whether you loathe Trump or admire Machado, the real scandal is structural: a prize created by an arms magnate has repeatedly been folded into the service of empire.

If we want peace, we should stop treating symbolic medals as substitutes for accountability. The world needs justice and genuine diplomacy — not awards that tidy up violence with a ribbon.

Kabul bombings heighten Pakistan–Afghanistan rift

A series of explosions across Afghanistan late Thursday, including blasts in central Kabul, Paktika, and Khost provinces, has deepened tensions between Pakistan and the Taliban-led Afghan government.

Witnesses reported multiple waves of strikes overnight, with explosions near Kabul's Abdul Haq Square prompting a Taliban-led investigation. Officials said there were no immediate reports of casualties or major structural damage.

Taliban authorities accused Pakistan of

launching coordinated airstrikes inside Afghanistan, including an alleged bombing of a civilian market in eastern Paktika, calling the attacks a “clear breach of sovereignty.” Islamabad has not confirmed any cross-border strikes but reiterated that militants from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) continue to use Afghan territory as a base for attacks inside Pakistan.

The operation followed a deadly ambush in Pakistan's Orakzai district earlier in the week that killed 11 soldiers. Pakistan's military said in-

telligence-led raids afterward eliminated about 30 TTP fighters.

Regional reports suggested the strikes may have targeted TTP leader Noor Wali Mehsud, though an unverified audio message later claimed he had survived.

Analysts warn the renewed hostilities risk igniting a broader regional crisis, underscoring deep mistrust that has persisted since the Taliban's 2021 takeover.

Victory for resistance amid fragile ceasefire

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Gaza ceasefire agreement marks a decisive failure for the Israeli occupation regime to eliminate Hamas or recover captives through military force.

Images of Israeli occupation brigades withdrawing from Gaza's cities and neighborhoods, and Palestinians returning to them as outlined in the ceasefire deal, would not have been possible without the steadfastness of the Palestinian resistance forces.

For two years, Palestinian resistance forces have confronted the Israeli occupation army backed by the U.S. and other Western-backed countries. Daily ambushes and near-daily losses inflicted on the

Israeli regime's military vehicles and soldiers thwarted its war objectives.

Aside from two brief ceasefires in November 2023 and earlier this year, occupation forces are believed to have dropped more bombs on Gaza than the ones used in World War Two.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have both tried to claim credit for an alleged victory. Yet no amount of military force succeeded in retrieving captives or disarming Hamas and other Palestinian resistance factions.

The killing and maiming of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, the destruction of Gaza, and

the use of starvation as a weapon of war, met with the endurance of the Palestinian people, have isolated the occupation regime internationally and turned it into a global pariah.

The ripple effects of this isolation have perhaps been felt even more in Washington, the regime's staunchest supporter, than in Tel Aviv. It was the United States that ultimately sought a way to rescue its closest ally from further global isolation.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad political bureau member Ali Abu Shahin stated, “The unity of the Palestinian stance and the steadfastness of our people are among the internal factors that forced the enemy

to submit to negotiations.”

“The resistance foiled the enemy's objectives of displacement and forced surrender. It will not be able to recover its captives except through negotiations,” Shahin added.

Despite the influx of aid, the reopening of the Rafah crossing, and the release of around 2,000 Palestinian hostages, the occupation army will not fully withdraw from the Gaza Strip. The timeline for a complete withdrawal remains vague and uncertain. U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff says Israel has withdrawn to the so-called (and newly invented) “Yellow Line.”

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Acknowledging the resistance: What the Gaza ceasefire really means

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON - The first phase of the Gaza ceasefire plan includes the release of prisoners from both sides, in addition to the entry of aid into the Gaza Strip. It also includes the Israeli occupation entity's withdrawal to the “yellow line,” i.e. the first stage in the withdrawal. The most crucial objective for Trump is showing that the agreement was achieved by him.

However, this does not mean the rest of the plan will proceed smoothly, which are more complicated and will not happen now. This especially includes disarmament of the resistance movement, removal of resistance leaders from Gaza, the complete withdrawal from Gaza and how to govern Gaza. Therefore, the security dis-

order and confusion will persist.

It is unlikely there will be a comprehensive explosion of the situation on the military level. Rather, it is more likely that military operations, as observed in Lebanon, with continue with targeted strikes and assassinations.

The mere agreement to stop the war is an acknowledgement of a new balance of power, one where the resistance still exists. Halting the war is an admission that the resistance remains and they were not able to defeat it militarily. This applies to the general situation in the region as a whole.

According to the American plan, after a ceasefire with Lebanon late last year, a president and a prime minister were appointed. This was in

hopes of containing the resistance in Lebanon and disarming it. America considered that this would be a defeat of the resistance. However, this is not the reality on the ground. America will try this similarly in Gaza, through the papers prepared regarding governing Gaza, with a direct Arab and international role.

The American intervention, aimed at removing the resistance from the state's civil administration, could succeed, paving the way for new arrangements. Meanwhile, security and military operations will continue in ways that fit the objective. However, the main goal — removing the Gazan resistance militarily, seizing its weapons and Israel's full withdrawal from Gaza — will not happen.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Imam Mahdi scouts: A model of construction and resistance in a time of political impotence

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Beirut is preparing to host the largest scout gathering in Lebanon's history, marking the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Hezbollah's Imam Mahdi Scouts Association, amid the martyrdom anniversary of Hezbollah secretaries-general, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Hashem Safieddine.

Amidst this, a stark contrast appears between the vitality of the Resistance civil society and the state's political inability to fulfill its most basic duties.

In Beirut's Sports City—where preparations began weeks ago—the association has made impressive logistical and organizational efforts such as: a comprehensive cleaning of the stands, halls, and courtyards, maintenance and lighting of the facilities, and the installation of electrical wiring to provide lighting via special generators, with a promise to leave these permanent installations for the facility to use later.

The cost of this voluntary effort amounted to approximately \$20,000, a step that reflects the spirit of initiative within the resistance community and restores life to one of the capital's most important landmarks, which Nawaf Salam's government has systematically neglected.

This is not the first time Hezbollah has contributed to such projects. It was a pioneer in rehabilitating the playground before the funerals of martyrs Sayyed Nasrallah and Safi al-Din at a cost of approximately \$28,000.

This voluntary activity embodies the association's philosophy since its founding in 1985, when it transformed from a fledgling scouting experiment into a major educational and social institution with more than 76,000 members.

The Imam Mahdi Scouts built their project on preparing individuals above all else. For them, resistance begins with educating the soul,

building awareness, and instilling the values of public service and sincere belonging to one's homeland.

The association has developed its curricula to include, in addition to religious, cultural, political, and sports programs, modern fields such as “The art of negotiation” and “artificial intelligence,” emphasizing that its members are also a generation of knowledge, reason, and openness.

Since assuming office, martyr Sayyid Hashim Safi al-Din (R) paid special attention to the Imam Mahdi Scouts Association, viewing it as an educational school for building a generation of faithful, resistant individuals who would carry the banner of Vilayat-el-Fakih (rule of supreme jurisprudent).

His support was not merely superficial, but rather meticulous and organizational follow-up, leaving an everlasting mark.

Despite this constructive role, the association has not been spared from media smear campaigns that have attempted for years to portray it as a closed military organization, simply because it graduates young people who embody the spirit of resistance and commitment.

These campaigns, led by the anti-Resistance team, fear a scouting model that redefines citizenship based on awareness and responsibility, rather than dependency or a moral vacuum.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese political scene is deteriorating further, as reflected in the heated debate between Speaker Nabih Berri and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam.

Berri accused the government of failing to assist the people of the South and Bekaa affected by the Israeli aggression, hinting that the budget would not be approved unless it included provisions for reconstruction.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

'Tehran rainbow of Iranian ethnicities, symbol of national unity'

TEHRAN — Tehran, as a symbol of cultural diversity, and national identity, holds immense potential to become one of Iran's top cultural tourism destinations, Governor-General of Tehran said on Thursday during a visit to the historical Si-e Tir Street.

On the fourth day of Tehran Week, Mohammad Sadegh Motamedian explored several prominent sites including a synagogue, Zoroastrian fire temple, a church, and the Abgineh Museum which is dedicated to glassware and ceramics.

Engaging with cultural managers and heritage experts, Motamedian underscored the importance of smart preservation of the capital's historical identity that is a backbone of Tehran's rich cultural assets for sustainable development.

Si-e Tir Street, Motamedian noted in an interview with heritage reporters, is a living memory of Iran's cultural and historical fabric. It is a place that reflects peace, mutual respect, and the coexistence of divine religions. "This street stands today as a symbol of Iranian solidarity and mirrors the ancient civilization and spirit of tolerance in our society," he said.

He highlighted the unique presence of a mosque, church, synagogue, and fire temple all within less than a kilometer on Si-e Tir Street.

"The capital is a microcosm of all Iran. The presence of various ethnic groups including Lors, Kurds, Turks, Azarbaijanis, Baluchis, and others has turned Tehran into a colorful mosaic of cultures, languages, and traditions. This cultural diversity is a valuable asset to strengthen national unity and expand cultural interactions across the country."

Echoes of the past: Fragment of an Achaemenid relief

The architectural reliefs of the Achaemenid Empire are far more than mere decoration; they are a powerful and sophisticated visual language designed to convey the empire's ideology, unity, and grandeur.

Carved with exceptional precision and detail on the limestone stairways and palaces of ceremonial capitals like Persepolis, these reliefs served a primary purpose: propaganda. They depicted a vast, orderly, and harmonious empire where diverse nations, identified by their unique attire and offerings, willingly brought tribute to the benevolent "King of Kings."

This imagery reinforced the monarch's legitimacy and divine mandate to rule. Stylistically, the reliefs synthesize artistic influences from across the empire—including Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Ionian Greek, and Median traditions—to create a unique and cohesive imperial style. The repetitive, dignified figures and scenes of ceremony were not meant to portray individual action but to represent the eternal and stable power of the empire and the unwavering support of its subjects.

This stone relief from Persepolis depicts a figure wearing a garment fastened at the waist with a Median belt and a domed-shaped hat, holding a short sword and a scabbard known as an akinakes. A border of rosette motifs is visible at the top of the relief. It likely belonged to the Palace of Artaxerxes III (Palace G) or the western staircase of the Apadana.

The most famous examples of Achaemenid stone reliefs are found in the Apadana at Persepolis. The northern and eastern façades feature double stairways adorned with intricate, mirroring reliefs. On each façade, one side depicts twenty-three delegations from across the Persian Empire bringing tribute and gifts, while the opposite side shows Median and Persian nobles, guards, and attendants. Originally, a panel depicting the king enthroned occupied the center of each façade, though these were later removed and replaced.

Other structures at Persepolis with stairway reliefs include the Central Building, the Palace of Xerxes, Palaces G and H, and the Palace of Darius. These reliefs portray groups of nobles in Median and Persian attire, along with figures ascending the stairs carrying



A view of Abgineh Museum, Si-e Tir St., downtown Tehran

The governor-general further stressed the strategic cultural development approach of Tehran's provincial management, emphasizing that cultural heritage is not only a legacy of the past but the foundation for a dynamic future rooted in Iranian identity. "Si-e Tir Street can serve as a national model for showcasing Tehran's cultural and human dimensions and as a platform for international cultural tourism exchange," he added.

Si-e Tir is a stone-paved one-way street in downtown Tehran. Its name corresponds with July 2, named after the date of the massive pro-Mossadegh uprising against the Shah in 1952 in which dozens of people were killed.

Si-e Tir intersects Imam Khomeini Street between Imam Khomeini Square (better known as Toop Khuneh to the locals) and Hasanabad Square. It continues north to Nofel Loshato Street near the Embassy of France, although once you pass the intersection of Jomhuri Avenue, the name mysteriously changes to Mirza Kuchak Khan (named after an early 20th century Gilani revolutionary).



food, beverages, and live animals. It is believed that all these reliefs were originally painted.

Persepolis, also known as Parseh (or Takht-e Jamshid, "Throne of Jamshid," in Persian), is an archaeological treasure located in the fertile plain of Marvdasht in northern Fars province. Founded by Darius I the Great around 518 BCE, it served as the magnificent ceremonial capital of the vast Achaemenid Empire for many years, primarily used for celebrating the Persian New Year (Nowruz) and for hosting representatives from across the empire's vast territories. This awe-inspiring complex of palaces, treasuries, and audience halls stands as a powerful symbol of ancient Persian power, architectural genius, and artistic achievement. Its immense historical and cultural value was globally recognized in 1979 when it was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, solidifying its status as one of Iran's most significant and cherished historical monuments. Today, despite being sacked by Alexander the Great in 330 BCE, its majestic ruins, including towering columns, intricate stone carvings, and monumental stairways, continue to draw scholars and visitors from around the world, offering a breathtaking window into the grandeur of the first Persian Empire.

Fars province is the showcase of Iran's culture and art: minister

TEHRAN — The Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts on Thursday described Fars province as the showcase of Iranian culture and art, highlighting its deep historical and civilizational significance.

Speaking at a tourism council meeting in Sepidan county, Seyed Reza Salehi-Amiri emphasized that Fars boasts a magnificent civilization that spans thousands of years, from the Achaemenid era to the Safavid dynasty.

The minister stated that the province's wealth of historical sites clearly demonstrates its importance as a cradle of Iranian culture.

"Fars is a vast land of history and a key player in Iranian civilization, identity, and thought," Salehi-Amiri said. He added that the province holds many hidden mysteries whose full value will become clearer in the future.

The minister also stressed the importance of familiarizing the younger generations with their civilizational roots. "Introducing the cultural, historical, and natural capacities of Fars will deepen the connection between young people and ancient Iran," he remarked.

Salehi-Amiri then pointed to the National Tourism Development Plan as a guiding framework for the country's tourism



A view of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in Fars province, southern Iran.

growth in the coming years. He noted that for the first time, this plan was developed and officially issued at the provincial level in Fars.

He underlined that focusing on heritage and natural assets will pave the way for achieving sustainable tourism development.

"Tourism is a cultural and social process that strengthens family bonds and social capital. It plays an important role in foster-

ing emotional connections and enhancing community spirit," the minister added.

In his concluding remarks, Salehi Amiri highlighted three key faces of Iran to present to the world: first, the civilizational face rooted in Iranian history and identity; second, the cultural face centered around [the ancient festival of] Nowruz and the Persian language; and third, the spiritual face, represented by renowned figures such as Sa'di,

Rumi, Hafez, Khayyam, and other mystics and poets who embody the lofty spirit and thought of Iranians.

The minister also announced the launch of a national festival project across 31 provinces of Iran, adding that the initiative involves collaboration between five ministries to coordinate cultural activities across the country in a more targeted and organized manner.

Gilan, where tradition lives in fields, music, and stories



TEHRAN — Nestled in Iran's lush northern region, Gilan is a place where history breathes through vibrant traditions. This Caspian province isn't just rich in nature, it's a treasure trove of living culture, from haunting melodies and ancient myths to mouthwatering cuisine and timeless crafts.

Gilan's heritage is as diverse as its landscapes. Farming rituals, traditional music, handmade crafts, and unique dishes continue to thrive, coloring daily life. Rasht, the province's capital, has even earned a spot on UNESCO's Creative Cities Network for its incredible gastronomy, a true testament to Gilan's rich cultural roots.

The region is also famous for its silk-reeling craft and the ancient harvest festival of Mehregan, both

recognized by UNESCO. Beyond that, Gilan boasts over 130 cultural treasures, from culinary delights to musical instruments and local rituals, 41 of them food-related alone.

Music in Gilan is more than entertainment; it's a heartbeat. Traditional songs from soothing lullabies to lively field chants echo the rhythms of rural life. Instruments like the tambura and karna carry deep meaning. The tambura, depicted in ancient pottery and 14th-century poetry, is one of Iran's oldest folk instruments. The karna, once used in battles and worship, still plays during mourning ceremonies in eastern Gilan.

Religious and social customs vary across Gilan's villages, blending Islamic traditions with local

flavor. During Muharram, unique mourning rituals like noheh chanting set Gilan apart from other regions. Seasonal festivals—celebrating rice, pomegranates, and silk harvests—bring communities together with music, dance, and shared meals, strengthening bonds across generations.

In Gilan, food tells stories as well. Dishes like torshe tareh, fesenjan with duck, and mirza ghasemi showcase the region's rich biodiversity and culinary creativity. Preparing and sharing these meals is a ritual itself—torshe tareh, made from seven medicinal herbs, is traditionally served during Nowruz to symbolize renewal.

Women are the keepers of this culinary wisdom, passing down recipes and cooking techniques that keep family traditions alive and fuel the local economy. Many dishes are still crafted using handmade tools and earthenware, linking food to the province's artisanal heritage.

Moreover, the Gilaki language, with its distinct dialects, carries the spirit of the province. Though its use is declining among younger generations, storytelling, proverbs, and folktales continue to preserve the wisdom of nature and myth. Rural gatherings—especially on long winter nights or

during festivals like Yalda—keep these stories alive.

When it comes to traditional clothing, Gilan has also many to offer. From the colorful Qasemabadi styles in the east to Talishi garments in the west, it is a vibrant expression of identity. These hand-embroidered outfits, some dating back to ancient times, reflect not just fashion but the environment and culture of each community.

In addition, handicrafts remain a vital part of Gilan's cultural fabric. The village of Qasemabad, known worldwide for its chadorshab weaving, creates stunning textiles that blend tradition with modern life. Meanwhile, reed weaving from Fashtekheh village, using local wetland materials, is gaining recognition for its sustainable and cultural significance.

Despite its rich history of cultural heritage, Gilan's traditions face challenges: limited markets, expensive materials, and the risk of fading skills. Experts stress that preserving this heritage means more than just documentation—it requires the active participation of local communities.

Some believe that organizing festivals, workshops, and eco-tourism are helping revive these customs, linking cultural pride with economic opportunity.

Governor calls for intl. promotion of Marivan

TEHRAN — The governor of Marivan has urged greater efforts to promote the city's tourism potential at both national and international levels, saying its attractions have not yet been properly introduced to domestic and foreign audiences.

Speaking on Thursday at the "Worthy Host" conference, held to boost trade and improve the urban landscape of Marivan, Governor Nejad Jahani said the event aimed to identify strengths and weaknesses in local tourism, develop a scientific and economy-based model for attracting visitors, and refine behavioral and visual standards for large events.

Jahani said local residents play a key role in attracting tourists, describing tourism as one of the



A view of Lake Zarivar near Marivan, western Iran

main branches of trade. He added that the sector requires sustainable infrastructure, preservation of traditional foundations, and education in modern behavioral patterns.

"All government bodies must take responsibility for promoting Marivan's cultural and tourism attractions, as this contributes directly to economic development," he said.

Several professors from the University of Kordestan also presented scientific and research-based perspectives, emphasizing the need to re-connect Marivan's natural and cultural capacities with commercial markets. They described tourism as a major driver of regional economic growth.

The conference, held under the slogan "Marivan: Harmony of Nature and Commerce in Iran," marked the beginning of a new approach to presenting Marivan as a host city for the Nowruz 1405 (March 2026) celebrations.

Located about 100 km west of Sanandaj, the capital of Kordestan province, Marivan is known for its natural attractions, including the scenic Lake Zarivar.

35 countries attending Iran Med 2025

TEHRAN – The third international medical, dental, and pharmaceutical equipment exhibition, known as Iran Med, kicked off in Tehran on Thursday with the participation of around 300 domestic and foreign companies from 35 countries.

Supported by the ministries of health and industry, as well as the Food and Drug Administration, the event will run till October 20, aiming to promote innovation, quality, and sustainability in the medical equipment supply chain, IRNA reported.

Supported by the ministries of health and industry, as well as the Food and Drug Administration, the event aims to promote innovation, quality, and sustainability in the medical equipment supply chain.

The exhibition has provided a great opportunity for the participants to showcase their latest products in different fields like Dental Equipment and Tools, Dental Imaging Equipment, Orthodontic Products, Prosthetic Solutions, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Equipment, Infection Control Equipment, Disposable Dental Supplies, Hygiene Products, Diagnostic and Treatment Equipment, Disinfectants and



Disposable Products, Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Equipment, hospital furniture and clothing, stretchers, wheelchairs, air conditioning equipment, ambulances, Laboratory Supplies and Containers.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, several specialized conferences will be held in the fields of nuclear medicine and medical equipment.

Self-sufficiency in medicine, medical equipment is a priority

The issue of medicine and medical equipment production

and self-sufficiency in these areas is one of the government's priorities, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi has said.

Medicine and medical equipment are two important areas related to people's health, he said, adding: "We are trying to reach self-sufficiency for the supply of medicine and medical equipment," IRNA reported.

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is

exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines and other equipment, are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

WMBD: create a world where birds, people thrive together

TEHRAN – Celebrated twice a year—in May and October—World Migratory Bird Day 2025 aims to raise awareness about the many challenges migratory birds face due to human activities and expanding urban development, as well as driving change to design urban environments that support both birds and people.

Observed on May 10 and October 11, the WMBD reflects the cyclical nature of bird migration with varying migration periods in the northern and southern hemispheres.

The WMBD campaign is organized by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), Environment for the Americas (EFTA), and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAPP).

The worldwide initiative triggers countless educational events, uniting people in a common goal to protect migratory birds and their habitats.

Each year, the day selects a central theme to inspire action and concentrate global efforts towards preserving the habitats and wellbeing of migratory birds.

The 2025 theme, 'Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities', underscores the urgent need for bird-friendly cities, combining scientific insights with practical steps for individuals and communities to support these remarkable creatures. It urges collective efforts to secure the future of migratory birds in and around urban environments amid alarming bird population declines.

Through good city planning and by adopting bird-friendly practices like creating healthy habitats, reducing pollution, and preventing

collisions with glass windows and other built objects, communities can significantly contribute to the well-being of migratory birds.

Iran, an important stopover for migratory birds

Iran is the most important country in West Asia in terms of housing migratory birds in winter, as around two million birds fly each year to spend winter in the country's wetlands, according to an official with the Department of Environment.

Encompassing numerous wetlands, reservoirs, and diverse water bodies, Iran welcomes millions of migratory birds every year. The country has also emerged as the most important stopover for migratory birds in their flight route from Siberia to the Nile, as sixteen percent of them select to spend the winter in the country, ISNA quoted Hassan Akbari as saying.

A diverse array of migratory birds fly to the country, with more than 160 species of aquatic and waterside birds identified in Iran, which is a significant number.

Despite limited water resources in the domestic habitats of the country, the study of the migratory bird population trend shows that the abundance and diversity of the birds that enter the country have not decreased. The majority of them have flown to the coastal areas of the Caspian and the Persian Gulf, though.

Iran hosts more than five percent of the world's migratory birds in 450 sites in winter, Akbari said.

"Every year, some 30 to 40 million birds are counted all over the world, and the related statistics are recorded in the International Waterfowl Census (IWC) database," he added.

How data science is fighting financial fraud

By Soroush Saki

TEHRAN – In a world where nearly every transaction happens online, from mobile banking to e-commerce and digital investments, financial fraud has evolved into one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Traditional methods of detecting fraud, once sufficient for catching suspicious activity, are now struggling to keep up with the speed and sophistication of modern cybercriminals. To stay ahead, financial institutions are turning to a powerful ally: data science.

Data science, with its ability to process vast amounts of information and identify subtle patterns, has become the backbone of fraud detection systems worldwide. At the heart of this transformation lies machine learning, a branch of artificial intelligence that enables computers to learn from data and improve over time. Instead of relying on fixed rules, like flagging a transaction above a certain amount, machine learning models continuously analyze millions of records, learning what normal behavior looks like and identifying what doesn't.

Consider how this works in practice. When you swipe your credit card or make an online purchase, data is instantly compared to your previous spending patterns. If something seems off, a purchase in a foreign country, an unusually high amount, or a sudden burst of small transactions, the system flags it for review or even blocks it automatically. These alerts are powered by complex algorithms trained to detect anomalies, or behaviors that deviate from the norm. In simple terms, machine learning acts as a digital detective, constantly scanning the financial landscape for signs of foul play.

The advantage of using data science in this field is speed. Humans alone can't analyze billions of transactions in real time, but al-

gorithms can. They don't just look for known fraud techniques; they also uncover new ones. Fraudsters are creative; they constantly change their tactics to bypass security systems. Machine learning models, however, evolve too. By retraining themselves on new data, they learn to recognize fresh patterns of deceit, from stolen credit cards to fake loan applications and cryptocurrency scams.

Another powerful tool in this fight is anomaly detection, a method used to identify irregular patterns in financial data. Imagine a customer who typically spends modestly throughout the month but suddenly makes a series of large international transfers. That spike is an anomaly, something worth investigating. In fraud prevention, these anomalies often reveal hidden schemes long before human analysts can spot them. Some systems even combine multiple data points—such as location, device type, and transaction history to assign a "risk score" to each activity. The higher the score, the more likely it is to be fraudulent.

Beyond the technical side, there's also an ethical dimension to consider. While data-driven systems enhance security, they also rely on massive amounts of personal information. Financial institutions must ensure that these technologies respect user privacy and comply with strict regulations. Striking a balance between effective monitoring and personal freedom is a growing challenge, especially as algorithms become more powerful and autonomous. Transparency and fairness in how these models operate are essential to maintaining public trust.

The results of these efforts are promising. According to global banking reports, AI-powered systems have reduced false alerts by up to 50% and improved fraud detection accuracy significantly. Major banks, payment processors, and fintech companies are now



investing heavily in data science teams, recognizing that combating financial crime is not just a matter of security; it's also about preserving customer confidence.

Looking ahead, the future of fraud prevention will depend on collaboration between humans and machines. Data scientists, cybersecurity experts, and regulators will need to work hand in hand to refine algorithms, share insights, and develop international standards. As criminals adopt more sophisticated tools, from deepfake identities to AI-generated phishing scams, our defenses must evolve just as quickly.

In many ways, data science represents the modern version of a financial guardian, quietly watching over every transaction, learning from each mistake, and adapting to new threats. While no system is foolproof, the fusion of human judgment and machine intelligence offers the strongest defense yet against the growing tide of financial fraud. In an increasingly digital world, this partnership may be the key to keeping our money and our trust safe.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Over 950 earthquakes rattle Iran in a month

TEHRAN – Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran, recorded more than 950 earthquakes across the country over the past calendar month Ordibehesht (April 21-May 21).

Two earthquakes of more than 4 on the Richter scale have been recorded in the country by the National Seismological Center, the largest of which occurred on May 17, with a magnitude of 5.5 near Sankhast in northeastern North Khorasan province, which left 25 injured.

Statistically, 883 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 3, and 64 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, also, 8 quakes with magnitudes 4-5 have occurred.

Also, 3 earthquakes with magnitudes 5-6 shook the country.

ثبت بیش از ۹۵۰ زمین لرزه در اردیبهشت ماه

شبکه‌های لرزه‌نگاری مرکز لرزه‌نگاری کشوری وابسته به موسسه ژئوفیزیک دانشگاه تهران در اردیبهشت‌ماه ۱۴۰۴ تعداد ۹۵۸ زمین‌لرزه را ثبت کردند. این زمین‌لرزه‌ها در نواحی مختلف ایران و نواحی مرزی رخ داده و توسط شبکه‌های لرزه‌نگاری ثبت و تعیین محل شده‌اند. در اردیبهشت‌ماه ۱۴۰۴ تعداد ۱۱ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بیش از ۴.۰ در داخل کشور توسط مرکز لرزه‌نگاری کشوری به ثبت رسیده است که بزرگ‌ترین آن‌ها در تاریخ ۱۴۰۴/۰۲/۲۷ با بزرگی ۵/۵ حوالی سنخواست واقع در استان خراسان شمالی، رخ داده‌است.

از لحاظ آماری ۸۸۳ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی کوچکتر از ۳، تعداد ۶۴ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بین ۳ و ۴، تعداد ۸ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بین ۴ و ۵ و تعداد ۳ زمین‌لرزه با بزرگی بین ۵ و ۶ بوده‌است.

Tehran, Managua underline co-op in urban development

TEHRAN – Iranian and Nicaraguan officials have highlighted the significance of boosting collaboration in areas related to urban development.

During a meeting held in the capital city of Managua on Wednesday, Iranian ambassador to Nicaragua, Ramin Zare, and the mayor of Managua, Reyna Rueda Alvarado, also stressed promoting interactions between

Tehran and Managua as sister cities, IRNA reported.

Establishing relations between the museums of the two countries, installing statues of celebrities and national figures of the two countries, and naming streets, parks, and passages after them, as well as exchanging experiences in urban management, were among other agreements reached.



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

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



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

OCTOBER 11, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is no greater wealth than wisdom, no greater poverty than ignorance; no greater heritage than culture and no greater support than consultation.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:52 Dawn: 4:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:08 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



* White Line Gallery is displaying paintings by Hadi Khani in an exhibition named "Belonging".

The exhibit will be running until October 20 at the gallery located at 22 Parvin Alley, off Jame Jam St. off Vali-e Asr Ave.

* Marzieh Yarali is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named "Body-Place" will run until October 21 at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* A collection of paintings by Mohammad Keyvan is on view in an exhibition at Iranshahr Gallery.

The exhibit will run until October 20 at the gallery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.



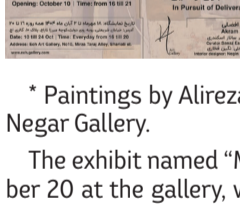
* An exhibition of paintings by Elaheh Shamlou and Azadeh Nemati is currently underway at Afrand Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until October 24 at the gallery located at 48 Jalal Hosseini St., Jahan Ara St., off Jalal Ale-Ahmad Highway.



* Ech Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Akram Afzali.

The exhibit named "In Pursuit of Deliverance" runs until October 24 at the gallery that can be found at 10 Mirza Taraj opposite Dowlat St., Shariati Ave.



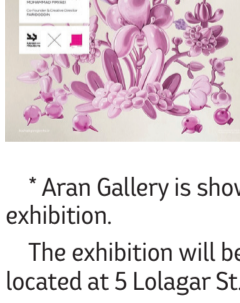
* Paintings by Alireza Chamak are on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit named "My Name Is Red" will be running until October 20 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 5, Bahrami alley, Mashahir Street, Qaem Maqam Farahani Avenue.



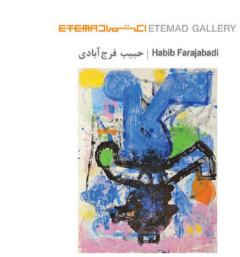
* Paintings by Asad Badehjani are on display in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibition will continue until October 24 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.



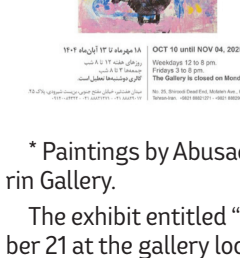
* Aran Gallery is showcasing paintings by Kamran Kafai in an exhibition.

The exhibition will be running until October 24 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.



* Paintings by Habib Farajabadi are currently on view in an exhibition at Etemad Gallery 1.

The exhibition will be running until November 4 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.



* Paintings by Abusaeed Asadi are on view in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "The Day Before the Last" will run until October 21 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.



7 Iranian films participating in Russia's International Festival of Children's and Family Films "Zero Plus"

TEHRAN – Seven films from Iran are present at the XII International Festival of Children's and Family Films "Zero Plus", which is underway in Siberia, Russia.

The Iranian films include the feature film "Snowy Summer" directed by Setayesh Sasani Nejad and short films "Being Ten" by Fatemeh Jafari, "Tomorrow Is Not Like Today" by Seyyed Mahdi Karbasi, "Memory" by Fereshte (Sonya) Fardipur, "Eraser" by Mohammad Hasan Emadi, "Silently" by Sahar Mahmudi, and "Playground" by Samaneh Asadi, Mehr reported.

A 2025 production, "Snowy Summer" is the story of a boy with Down syndrome, left without a family. He tries to escape from a private boarding school for special children to start a new life.

Produced in 2023, "Being Ten" is a short animation depicting a father and his ten-year-old son who live in a secluded house in the middle of a dense forest. The father, a hunter, decides to spare one of his preys and brings it home as a gift for his son. What initially seemed like just a toy will change the boy's life forever.

In "Tomorrow Is Not Like Today," produced in 2024, Hossein and Reza are close friends, studying in the fifth grade at Isar State Elementary School. The joy of Hossein's goal during physical education class leads to a strange conflict between Reza and their teacher, Mr. Ahmadi, but the story turns out to be more complex than just a quarrel.



A scene from the short animation "Being Ten" directed by Fatemeh Jafari

The 2024 short film "Memory" tells the story of Saeid, a ten-year-old boy who one day gets into big trouble because of a lie.

A production of 2025, "Eraser" shows Sohrab, a hooligan, bullying other students. An accident happens in class, and he is blamed, but this time he turns out to be the hero and savior of the situation, and in the end, he reforms and becomes a decent person.

"Silently" is a 2025 production, which depicts Aysan, a hearing-impaired boy who has lived a

stressful and sad life. At school, he is blamed and becomes the victim of an incident, but due to his fears for Ash's family, he doesn't open his mouth to speak up or defend himself.

The 2022 short animation "Playground" shows a bored little girl whose illness and the monotony of hospital life has worn her down, until one day she receives a very special toy.

International Children's and Family Film Festival "Zero Plus" seeks to promote and popularize high-quality films, which foster a

positive, creative and formative worldview in children and young people, strengthen common human values like family, childhood, friendship, kindness, nature, love for a profession, etc.

It also aims at the integration of cinema and education by creating a collection of value-oriented films for carrying out educational screenings in schools and social institutions of Russia.

Launched on October 5, the 12th edition of the "Zero Plus" international film festival will wrap up on October 27.

Ammar festival officials, family of detained translator voice concerns over Mahdieh Esfandiari's prolonged custody

TEHRAN- On Tuesday night, a group of officials from the 16th edition of the Ammar Popular Film Festival visited the family of Mahdieh Esfandiari, a detained translator and cultural activist in France, to express their concerns regarding her ongoing detention and the way Western media are covering her case.

The meeting was attended by Esmail Heshmabadi, Deputy of the Cultural and Artistic Institute of the Islamic Revolution Cultural Front; Marzieh Hashemi, Secretary of the 16th Ammar Popular Film Festival; and Mohammad Hossein Sabouri, the festival's executive secretary.

Esfandiari, a 39-year-old academic at Lyon's Lumière University, has been in detention in France since February 28 due to her social media posts supporting Palestine.

Despite several months passing, she remains in temporary custody, with no specific or substantiated charges filed against her. The judicial process continues to be marked by delays and uncertainty.

Her family emphasized during the visit that Mahdieh has committed no illegal act under French law. Her activities, which include cultural programs and interactions with Iran, are primarily educational, conducted in full compliance with regulations. Much of the published material consists solely of trans-

lation and reposting of news. Alongside her studies, she also participated in some educational initiatives.

Her family highlighted that her detention has been accompanied by conflicting narratives from Western media. These outlets have sought to distort the facts and misrepresent her entirely cultural activities, framing them inaccurately. They also noted that Mahdieh is a proactive individual who has not sought recognition or attention, emphasizing that her focus has solely been on issues related to Palestine.

Sabouri for his part, underscored that Esfandiari's arrest reflects the impact of her cultural work, which has even raised concerns among Western governments.

Marzieh Hashemi pointed to the current sensitive political and social climate, stressing that various actions are being taken against Western governments, reaching a peak that has caused alarm among them. Some university professors residing in Western countries have actively participated in protests and issued tweets, with some facing repercussions.

"The heightened awareness among public opinion and the initiation of social activism have caused widespread anxiety, signaling a wave of political awakening both regionally and globally," she added. Hashemi expressed

hope that Mahdieh Esfandiari will be released soon and will be able to attend the 16th Ammar Film Festival.

Mahdieh Esfandiari has lived in France for eight years and works as a translator. She was detained on charges related to social media activity. The investigation, launched in November 2024 by the Paris Prosecutor's Office, focused on several active accounts on platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram, which prosecutors claimed incited terrorism and spread hate speech based on religion and ethnicity. The accounts' activity gained attention three weeks after the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Gaza.

For weeks, Esfandiari's whereabouts were unknown, prompting her family to alert Iranian authorities. Eventually, the Iranian government confirmed she was in French police custody, but details remained scarce. French authorities only disclosed information about her legal status, raising international concerns and diplomatic efforts.

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

Iranian Artists Forum screens Japanese animated film "Ghost Cat Anzu"

TEHRAN – The 2024 Japanese animated film "Ghost Cat Anzu" directed by Yoko Kuno and Nobuhiro Yamashita was shown at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran on Friday.

The 97-minute animation was screened with Persian subtitles at the Nasser Hall of the IAF, Mehr reported.

Based on the manga of the same name by Takashi Imashiro, the animated film shows the friendship shared between Karin, a strong-minded girl sent to live with her monk granddad in the Japanese countryside, and Anzu,



the even-more unpredictable phantom feline who acts as her guardian.

Karin, 11 years old, is abandoned by her father at her grandfather's house, a monk who lives

in the small, woody and coastal town in the Japanese countryside named Iketeru. Her grandfather asks Anzu, his jovial and helpful although rather capricious ghost cat, to look after her. The meeting of their strong characters causes sparks, at least at the beginning.

Distrustful of her new guardian, Karin sabotages Anzu's odd jobs for the townsfolk and befriends the eccentric local forest spirits. In an effort to win Karin over, Anzu accidentally makes a deal with the devil, and all Hell breaks loose.