



Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado waves during the campaign closing rally of presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia in Caracas on July 25, 2024.

Nobel Peace Prize 2025: A Fusion of Dynamite's Memory, Fresh Genocide, and Coup Dream

Rumors about assassination of General Qaani denied

TEHRAN – Reports circulating on certain social media accounts linked to the Israeli regime alleging the assassination of Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Quds Force Brigadier General Esmail Qaani have been categorically denied.

According to informed sources talking to Tasnim News Agency, these baseless claims are part of a recurring pattern by Israeli-affiliated networks that aim to spread disinformation and conduct psychological operations. Since the beginning of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the Israeli regime has repeatedly circulated false rumors about assassination attempts against General Qaani. ▶ Page 2

Iran capable of exporting missiles: Top Iranian Cmdr.

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian military commander says the country has reached self-sufficiency and developed the capability to export its products in sensitive military areas, adding Iran is now is capable of exporting missiles to other countries.

“Today, we are proud to be one of the countries that can export missiles, drones and vessels,” said Brigadier General Alireza Tangsiri, the commander of the Naval Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The top general stressed that Iran was the target of military aggression during the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war in the 1890s and had very limited military equipment back then. ▶ Page 3

Egypt prepares summit as Trump seeks credit for Gaza ceasefire

U.S. President Donald Trump will attend a signing ceremony in Egypt after a brief stop in Israel, joining European, Arab, and regional leaders to endorse the first phase of a Gaza ceasefire and hostage-exchange plan that could pause the two-year conflict.

Egyptian officials say President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi will host the event, aimed at securing captive releases, phased Israeli withdrawals, and wider humanitarian access. Trump is also expected to address the Knesset in occupied Jerusalem (al-Quds) and meet families of captives beforehand.

The trip is set to follow visits by U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, whose meetings in Egypt and Israel aimed to shape the ceasefire's security and investment terms.

With Gaza in ruins and at least 67,000 Palestinians reported killed and millions displaced, many see the summit less as a breakthrough than as a carefully staged moment — one Trump is eager to brand as his personal achievement.

Lebanon foils high-risk Israeli terror operation in major security success

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Amid the escalating challenges facing Lebanon, the General Directorate of General Security's announcement of the dismantling of a foreign-run spy network working for the Israeli enemy marked a significant step.

The arrest of several members of the network, initially carried out by Hezbollah's security apparatus, is a turning point in terms of security and a preemptive step in thwarting a terrorist plot that could have seriously destabilized internal stability.

The announcement revealed that terrorist operations were to be carried out during the commemoration of the martyrdom of Hezbollah chiefs Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieddine.

What's striking about the details of the case is that the network wasn't just planning to carry out bombings, but was also involved in previous assassinations targeting party figures affiliated with the Islamic group.

Gaza truce's fault lines: Disarmament, sovereignty, and power

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – As tens of thousands of Palestinians returned to northern Gaza on Friday, the fragile relief of the ceasefire was burdened by political ultimatums—a reminder that even a pause in violence cannot erase the deeper struggle over power and sovereignty.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed the truce but framed it as conditional. He announced “ Hamas will be disarmed” and warned that if that cannot be achieved “the easy way,” Israel will pursue it “the hard way.”

Those words make the pause less an opening toward justice than a tactic to extract political concessions from a devastated population.

Hamas and allied factions responded firmly. The movement's officials have welcomed international aid but explicitly rejected any foreign “guardianship” that would supplant Palestinian authority.

Sovereignty, history, and geopolitics at the heart of the Persian Gulf

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu (Bu) Musa, strategically located in the Strait of Hormuz, are far more than simple stretches of land surrounded by water: they represent the intersection of history, sovereignty, and regional geopolitics.

Their significance goes beyond territorial concerns, extending into the very heart of Persian Gulf security—a space where geography dictates strategy and history shapes international relations. Today, these islands symbolize Iran's capacity to project influence, consolidate sovereignty, and maintain stability in a global landscape marked by energy interests, strategic maritime routes, and regional tensions. ▶ Page 2

Exclusive Interview

“Gaza is not just a humanitarian crisis; it is a crime against humanity”: Argentine physician

▶ Page 5

Pezeshkian inaugurates 250MW of new solar power plants across Iran

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian inaugurated 250 megawatts (MW) of new solar power plants across the country via a video conference, and ordered the beginning of the construction on another 400 MW project in Tehran on Saturday.

According to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), these developments will bring Iran's total renewable energy capacity to 2,550 MW, marking a major milestone in the nation's transition toward sustainable energy. ▶ Page 4

Exclusive Interview

Pakistan sees UNSC snapback as setback to dialogue, expert says

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

America’s failure to shape the new Middle East order

In a note, Sobh-e-No dealt with America’s failure to shape the new Middle East order. The paper said: The United States of America sought to create a new order in the region; an order based on the hegemony of the Zionist regime, in a way that could challenge the countries exercising power in the region. On the second anniversary of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, we clearly see that the goals outlined by America and Israel have not been achieved. The order they had in mind - including the Abraham Accords, marginalizing the Palestinian issue, eliminating resistance groups, and dismembering countries - has effectively failed. Since the emergence of ISIS, the plan for a new Middle East has been on the agenda, but the Axis of Resistance with the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the main obstacles to its implementation. During these two years, America, the West, and the Zionist regime have made every effort to advance this plan, but they have not succeeded. The Zionist regime, despite the all-out support of the United States, has not been able to shape a new regional security order in its favor, and this game is continuing.

Resalat: The solution to overcome neither war nor peace

Resalat, in an analysis, discussed the common formula of the United States and the European troika in full confrontation with the Iranian government and people, writing: The common formula of the United States and the European troika in comprehensive confrontation with the Iranian government and people is obvious: placing the country in a situation of “neither war nor peace”. To counter this situation, it is enough to turn the country into an independent variable. We must seek solutions to the country’s internal problems and shortcomings within the country and not in the behavior, speech, tactics, or strategy of our enemies. It is obvious that the more this independence and its dependencies are strengthened in the country’s economy and domestic politics, the more the enemy will fail in advancing its strategic plan of placing Iran in a situation of neither war nor peace. The enemy wants to solve its strategic puzzle in confrontation with Iran. The West’s insistence on activating the snapback mechanism is rooted in this strategy. Therefore, the enemy’s premise must be targeted and destroyed.

Iran: Tel Aviv’s cyber alliance with saboteur networks

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper

published a report by the CitizenLab Institute and the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, saying: These reports revealed an operation aimed at hitting Iran, changing the government, and restoring the Pahlavi monarchy in Iran. Israel and segments of the saboteur groups, with all the problems they have with each other, are aligned on one point: weakening social trust in Iran’s political structure. These reports show the importance of cognitive warfare, a war that targets the cognition of the audience, and its weapons are data, images, and narratives. The hidden alliance of foreign actors and opposition media groups shows that conspiracy no longer makes sense in its classic form, but is taking place in an invisible, digital, and multi-layered form. Victory in this field is also possible with media literacy, collective awareness, and defending the mental and cognitive boundaries of society.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: What will be the consequences of Gaza peace plan for Iran?

Donya-e-Eqtesad dedicated its editorial to the Gaza peace plan and its consequences for Iran. It wrote: We are faced with two different views on the Gaza peace plan. The first view says that peace in Gaza is a prelude to increasing pressure on Iran and preparing the ground for Israel’s military confrontation with Iran in the future. However, the second view believes that with the decline in the influence of the Axis of Resistance in the region, the United States and Israel will have little reason to pay the costs of a military confrontation with Iran, and, as Putin has said, Israel may want to reduce tensions and prevent an escalation of tensions with Iran. Existing evidence and practical movements show that Israel is both preparing for a military confrontation and may be forced to accept a diplomatic agreement with Iran in the coming months under pressure from the United States and its Arab allies in the region.

Javan: Israel lost the war to the world

Javan said: The Zionist regime’s prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu had previously declared that the war would not end without the total destruction of Hamas. But now, after two years of fighting and under the pressure of international conscience—culminating in the walkout of leaders from dozens of countries during his speech at the UN General Assembly—has yielded to ending the war. Meanwhile, after two years of historic resistance, Palestinians celebrated in the streets of Gaza, showing the triumph of the spirit of life over two years of brutality.

clear submarines, and F-35 squadrons deployed to the region.

Since the campaign began, U.S. forces have attacked multiple vessels, resulting in the deaths of several Venezuelan nationals whom Washington accused of drug trafficking. Caracas, however, has rejected the claims as fabricated and part of a broader plan to justify military aggression.

In response to the strikes, the Venezuelan government has declared a national emergency, reinforced its armed forces, and mobilized local militias to defend the country’s sovereignty.

President Nicolás Maduro has vowed that any act of aggression against Venezuela “will face a united regional response,” stressing that the Bolivarian Republic “will never become a colony or subordinate to any foreign power.”

On Thursday, Venezuela formally requested an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss the escalating U.S. hostilities in its territorial waters.

The United Nations on Friday also expressed concern over the growing risks to peace in the Caribbean following the series of U.S. strikes.

Caracas has meanwhile reported U.S. fighter jet overflights near its coasts and the detention of a Venezuelan fishing vessel, while Washington has accused Venezuelan forces of flying two military aircraft over a U.S. Navy ship in international waters.

Iran capable of exporting missiles: Top Iranian Cmdr.

From Page 1 ▶ “They attacked us. We had bare hands. We had nothing, and they didn’t give us anything, either. As the Supreme Leader of the [Islamic] Revolution [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei] aptly said, they even denied us barbed wire,” he noted.

The Israeli regime claimed that it had taken out Iran’s capability to develop missiles and drones during its recent military aggression against the country.

However, Iran has made great strides in recent years in the military area, being able to domestically develop a range of military products, including missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).

Iran’s massive and rapid progress in drone technology and its capabilities to carry out long-range strikes in drone warfare with a high level of accuracy have cemented the country’s growing military might in West Asia.

The cutting-edge drone program has been among the Iranian military’s breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous defensive equipment to make the armed forces self-sufficient in the face of years-long U.S. threats and sanctions.



Iranian ballistic missiles displayed during a ceremony in 2023

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, which are entirely meant for defense.

Iran deployed its domestically-made UAVs, including Shahed drones, in retaliatory attacks against Israel during the regime’s military aggression against Iran back in June.

It also lobbed dozens of missiles at the occupied territories. Air raid sirens were activated as soon as the missiles arrived, forcing settlers to head

back to underground bunkers, where they have been spending most of their time those days.

Israeli media reported massive explosions in the heart of Tel Aviv, indicating that the missiles yet again managed to evade three-tier air defense systems to hit their intended targets.

Some phases of Operation True Promise III were carried out in the central part of the occupied Palestinian territories and Ben Gurion Airport, targeting military facilities and operational support centers of the Zionist regime’s army.

Rumors about assassination of General Qaani denied

From Page 1 ▶ One such account, allegedly affiliated with Mossad and known as “Terror Alarm,” routinely posts a mixture of false and true information online. Its activities are widely viewed as part of Mossad’s psychological warfare efforts, rather than genuine news reporting. The account has published multiple false reports of assassinations so far.

In a recent interview, General Qaani himself dismissed such rumors, saying, “The Zionist regime spreads reports about my assassination so that my friends become worried and try to contact me — allowing them (Zionists) to determine my exact location.”

Brigadier General Esmail Qaani was first reported to have been killed during Israel’s airstrike on a residential building in southern Beirut, which claimed the life of Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah on September 27th, 2024. The IRGC confirmed that one of its top commanders, Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan, was also martyred during the attack.

Sovereignty, history, and geopolitics at the heart of the Persian Gulf

From Page 1 ▶ The recent joint statement by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union (EU) concerning these islands has reignited a debate that has never truly subsided. This is not merely a territorial dispute; it is a confrontation between historical and political narratives seeking to define which claims to sovereignty are legitimate and which are not.

In this context, Iran’s position on the islands is clearly expressed in the statements of Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, posted on the social media platform X: “We strongly condemn the interventionist and unfounded claims expressed in the joint GCC-EU statement, including the repetition of the absurd allegation regarding the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, which have always been Iranian. Iran’s territorial integrity has been sealed and consolidated with the blood of hundreds of thousands of brave young people from this land, and the Iranian nation will not yield to any illusory claimant.”

These words underscore the deep connection between sovereignty, historical memory, and national defense that permeates the Iranian narrative on these islands, illustrating how territorial claims intertwine with national identity and sacrifice.

A history of continuity and

resistance

To understand the present relevance of this dispute, one must look back centuries. For millennia, the Persian Gulf was the stage for successive empires that recognized the strategic importance of controlling islands and maritime routes. Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa were integral to the Persian political sphere, administered and defended both from the mainland and through military presence and navigational control. History demonstrates that sovereignty over these islands is not an abstraction but a continuous exercise of authority combining administration, defense, and maritime governance.

The nineteenth century brought new tensions. British colonial expansion transformed the Persian Gulf into a strategic chessboard: London established protectorates, supported local leaders, and sought to consolidate its influence against other European powers and the declining Ottoman Empire. Yet Iran maintained effective control over these islands, supported by international treaties recognizing their sovereignty. Iranian authority, though challenged, was never significantly interrupted, and the administration of the islands remained continuous.

The decolonization process of the twentieth century and the formation of modern states in the Arabian Peninsula intro-

duced new actors into the region. The establishment of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1971 brought forward claims over the islands based on geographic proximity and previous colonial agreements. Nevertheless, Iran reaffirmed its historical and legal control over Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa through political, diplomatic, and military action. This historical continuity makes the dispute more than a territorial conflict: it is a confrontation between differing conceptions of legitimacy and sovereignty

Eye, a UK-based news website reportedly funded by the Qatari government.

An Iraqi journalist, well-known for her hostile stance towards the Resistance, reported on October 10th that “ten sources in Tehran, Beirut, and Baghdad” had told MEE that Qaani was “under guard” and “being questioned” for his involvement in the “intelligence breach” allowing Israel to assassinate Nasrallah. Other outlets took a step further in their outlandish lies, claiming General Qaani had suffered a “heart attack” during interrogation.

But the commander who had been declared dead, injured, and arrested within a mere two weeks, made a public appearance. Qaani joined his IRGC colleagues and other Iranian officials at the funeral ceremony for General Nilforooshan, looking completely unscathed and at ease. He was captured on film praying quietly and engaging in conversations with fellow attendees, contradicting any claim put forth by Western media in the past days.



Aerial photograph of the Greater Tunb in the Persian Gulf

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Modern international law defines sovereignty not merely as an abstract right but as the capacity to exercise effective control over a territory. In the case of the three islands, Iran has maintained uninterrupted ad-

Meanwhile, several countries have begun manufacturing copies of Iran’s Shahed drone, which are not expensive but efficient and accurate, a leading American daily reports.

In a report, The Wall Street Journal said that different corporations in the United States, China, France and the UK are developing armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) modeled after Iran’s Shahed.

The United States and its allies are “competing to develop low-cost, long-range replica weapons,” it added.

The report also noted that models similar to the Shahed stood out among 18 types of U.S.-made drone prototypes displayed at an event held by the U.S. Department of War this summer.

Those models, it added, included LUCAS and Arrowhead made by SpectreWorks and Griffon Aerospace companies, respectively.

“The Shahed and its knockoffs have become so widespread that corporations such as Griffon and Sweden’s Saab are even selling target-practice UAVs resembling Iran’s munitions,” the report said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Nobel Peace Prize 2025: A fusion of dynamite’s memory, fresh genocide, and coup dream

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh
TEHRAN – For years, many have argued that the Nobel Peace Prize has become a tool of Western states, used to promote opposition figures capable of replacing governments at odds with the West.

That’s why when the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Venezuela’s opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, following similar awards to Iranian, Russian, and Belarusian opposition figures in previous years, it did not come as a big surprise. “A good day for Fascism, a good day for Zionism, a bad day for Peace,” wrote Mick Wallace, a former member of the European Parliament, on X in response to the EU president’s congratulatory message to Machado.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee stated that Machado received the prize for “fighting dictatorship.” By “dictatorship,” it meant to the democratically-elected government of Nicolás Maduro, which maintains close ties with traditional U.S. adversaries such as Iran, China, and Russia.

After winning the award, Machado took to X to dedicate the prize to President Donald Trump. “I dedicate the prize to the suffering people of Venezuela and to President Trump for his decisive support of our cause!” she wrote in English.

Trump has sought the Nobel spotlight since his first term. In the past few months, he has re-



2025 Nobel Peace Prize winner announced

peatedly said that he deserves the award, claiming to have ended several wars during his second term. However, most of his proclamations about ending wars, such as the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict or the Pakistan-India dispute, have been either ignored or frowned upon by the respective countries.

While Trump was Machado’s rival in the Nobel bid, he is an important asset when it comes to her dreams of overthrowing the Venezuelan government and taking over. She spoke to Trump on the phone after dedicating her award to him. “The person who actually got the Nobel Prize called today, called me and said, ‘I’m accepting this in honor of you, because you really deserved it,’” Trump said in remarks delivered Friday evening.

There are reports that the Trump administration is preparing for a full or partial military invasion of Venezuela.

A ‘peace’ advocate that wants her people dead, and befriends war criminals

Machado has publicly endorsed Trump’s plan for a military invasion of Venezuela and supported recent killing of Venezuelans by U.S. naval forces in the Caribbean. It turns out that the Venezuelan opposition figure has also wrote to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a convicted war criminal, asking him to help invade her country. Apparently seeking to leverage Netanyahu’s influence, given the Israeli lobby’s power in the White House, she pledged to cut ties with Iran (which has cultivated a close relationship with Venezu-

ela in recent years) and relocate Venezuela’s embassy to occupied al-Quds upon replacing Maduro. In her bid to appease Israelis, she has backed the genocide in Gaza as well.

Though many did presume Machado’s Nobel Prize was simply a reward for opposing a government disliked by the West after the win was announced, her subsequent engagements and resurfaced views still made quite a buzz on social media. “How exactly does the Nobel committee define peace?” one X user questioned, with their post garnering over 220,000 views and tens of thousands of likes.

While the award of the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to a supporter of genocide and advocate of harm to her people has prompted widespread disbelief in the past 48 hours, such views are in fact consistently found among opposition figures honored with the prize.

For instance, the 2023 winner, Narges Mohammadi, has long defended crippling sanctions against Iran and refused to condemn the US-Israeli attacks that killed over 1,000 Iranians in June. Similarly, Shirin Ebadi, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her efforts for “democracy” and “human rights,” is another Iranian laureate who has backed anti-Iran sanctions and military action against her nation, much like Machado.



: Pakistan’s permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, speaks during a UN Security Council session at the United Nations in New York on September 20, 2025.

Pakistan and Iran annual bilateral trade is around \$2 billion. Both parties in 2024 promised that their bilateral trade would reach to \$10 billion. It is unlikely to accomplish \$10 billion figure after the snapback sanctions and constraining financial transactions between Pakistan and Iran.

Halting either legal or illegal trade will have a great deal of implication particularly for the Pakistani province of Balochistan. Nearly 70 percent of exchanges here is dependent on Iran’s trade. Sanctions on Iran might squeeze livelihood of the residents of Balochistan, which is likely to benefit insurgents to enhance their recruitment.

Disgruntled youth will become easy prey for them causing security challenges for Pakistan and Iran. The snapback sanctions as far as the regional politics is concerned will further push Iran to the wall and accelerating Middle East tension by fueling Iran’s nuclear defiance potentially withdrawing from NPT and escalating proxy war with Israel.

How does Pakistan legally interpret UNSC Resolution 2231, and what significance does international law hold in shaping its diplomatic response to the snapback sanctions?

The legal stance of Pakistan has already been articulated by Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmed who regarded the snapback as an “obstacle to dialogue” that

Cairo 2025: Atiyeh Sadat Hosseini Makes History

TEHRAN – Atiyeh Sadat Hosseini made history in World Para Powerlifting Championships, winning Iran’s first-ever women’s gold.

She triumphed in women’s up to 61kg category.

“I’m so happy and proud to get the gold here,” said Hosseini who grabbed the gold with her second attempt of 90kg.

Also, Reza Enayatollahi celebrated his 18th birthday in advance, clinching the men’s up to 97kg category with a new Next Gen world record of 195kg in his second attempt.

“I worked hard for 11 years for this result. I believe the key to success is hard work and listening to your coach,” said Enayatollahi who aims for a medal at Paralympic Games.

After two days of exciting Rookie & Next Gen competition, Uzbekistan led the medals standings with 21 medals including 13 gold followed by Armenia and Iran with four top places. Hosts Egypt finish the junior events on three gold medals.

This was the largest ever Rookie & Next Gen World Championships with 120 athletes (36 female and 84 male athletes), aged 20 or younger, competed in 19 events spanned over two days for the first time.

This will be followed by the Elite World Championships, taking place from Oct. 11 to 18 — marking the first time the event is being hosted not only in Egypt but also in Africa. It is also among the biggest championships ever staged in Egypt, following the African Open Championships in 2022 and the World Cups in 2023 and 2024.

Power and Strength

Iranian junior athletes stole the show on the final day of the Rookie and Next Gen competitions. Much like their senior counterparts, Iran’s junior athletes delivered a dominant performance in the heavyweight categories, matching the strength and skill of the Uzbek athletes – who led the first day show.

Atiyehsadat Hosseini, 17, made history winning Iran’s first-ever women’s gold in World Para Powerlifting Championships history, triumphing in the women’s up to 61kg category.

“I’m so happy and proud to get the gold here,” said Hosseini who grabbed the gold with her second attempt of 90kg.

The men followed the suit too with several gold medals on the day in both Rookie & Next Gen category. Many Saeedi clinched the gold medal in men’s up to 88kg category (Next Gen) in style. The 19-year-old began his campaign setting a new world record with 166kg before bettering it with 172kg on his second attempt.

Iran’s fixtures at 2025 IHF U17 World Championship Unveiled

TEHRAN – Iran’s fixtures at the 2025 IHF Men’s U17 World Championship was unveiled.

Iran were drawn in Group C of the Championship along with Argentina, Puerto Rico, and Germany.

Iran will open the campaign with a match against Germany on October 24 and will also face Argentina and Puerto Rico on October 26 and 28, respectively.

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

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

Iran football delegation arrives in Dubai

TEHRAN – Iran national football team delegation arrived in Dubai, the UAE Saturday afternoon.

Team Melli are scheduled to face Tanzania on Tuesday in a friendly match.

Amir Ghalenoei’s side lost to Russia 2-1 in a friendly match held at the Volgograd Stadium.

Iran have already qualified for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and these two matches serve as preparation for the prestigious tournament.

Iran water polo runners-up at 2025 Asian Aquatics Championships

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s water polo team lost to China 16-15 on Saturday in the final match of the 2025 Asian Aquatics Championships.

The match went to a penalty shootout after an 11-11 draw and china emerged victorious 5-4.

Team Melli defeated China (14-9), Hong Kong (22-10), Uzbekistan (28-7), Thailand (21-6), and Japan (19-18) 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 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, India.

Iran crowned champions of 2025 Asian Pahlevani Wrestling

TEHRAN – Iran won the title of the 2025 Asian Pahlevani Wrestling Championship on Friday.

The Iranian wrestlers won four gold medals as well as a silver medal.

Mehdi Veisi claimed the gold medal in the 60kg weight class after defeating his Indian opponent. Rahman Rahimpour seized the second gold, beating his Indian rival in the 70kg. Abdollah Sheikh Azami won the gold in the 80kg, defeating a wrestler from Kyrgyzstan. And Alireza Sahraei claimed Iran’s fourth gold in the 90kg by beating his Kyrgyz opponent.

Also, Mostafa Najafi lost to Iraqi wrestler in the final bout of +90kg.

The competition took place in Urmia, Iran with participation of 180 wrestlers from 17 countries.

Nasiri wins silver at 2025 World Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Alireza Nasiri of Iran claimed a silver medal at the 2025 International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Weightlifting Championships Friday night.

Nasiri lifted 184kg in the snatch and 231kg in the clean and jerk and won the silver with 415kg.

The gold medal went to Uzbekistan’s Akbar Djuraev with (196-232-428). His compatriot Ruslan Nurudinov snatched the bronze with (186-228-414) in the Men’s 110kg weight class.

Iran’s Alireza Moeini had won a silver medal on Thursday in the 94kg class.

The 2025 World Weightlifting Championships took place in Førde, Norway from Oct. 2 to 11.

Barati appointed as member of FIFA Legal Committee

TEHRAN – Ahmadreza Barati of Iran was appointed as a member of the FIFA Legal Committee.

This appointment is subject to the relevant provisions of the FIFA Status and the FIFA Governance Regulations.

Barati also serves as CAS arbitrator, member of AFC Association Committee and member AFC Reform Task Force.

He has previously worked as director of the Legal Department of the Iran Football Clubs’ Union, director of Legal Affairs at the Padel Committee of the Iran Squash Federation and chairperson of the Regulatory & Compliance Committee of the Football Federation of Iran.

Pakistan sees UNSC snapback as setback to dialogue, expert says

Dr. Dost Barrech examines legal, political, and economic challenges posed by UN sanctions on Iran

By Sahar Dadjoo
TEHRAN- As snapback sanctions under UN Security Council Resolution 2231 are reactivated, the impact on regional diplomacy, trade, and security extends well beyond Iran. For Pakistan—a neighbor closely connected to Iran through geography, commerce, and security—the stakes could be somewhat significant.

Situated at the crossroads of South Asia, West Asia, and Central Asia, Pakistan must navigate its relationships with global powers like China, Russia, and the U.S. while maintaining vital ties with Tehran. The Pakistani province of Balochistan, where Iran-Pakistan relations deeply affect local security and trade, plays a crucial role in this dynamic.

To explore Pakistan’s legal and strategic views on the sanctions, the Tehran Times spoke with Dr. Dost Mohammad Barrech, an expert in regional geopolitics at the University of Balochistan and former Research Associate at ISSI. Dr. Barrech provides insights into Islamabad’s stance, its alliances, and the wider regional implications of renewed sanctions on Iran.

In this interview, Dr. Barrech offers a critical analysis of Pakistan’s diplomatic stance, the influence of its key allies, and the broader consequences of renewed sanctions on Iran for regional peace and economic development.

Below is the full text of the interview:

Considering Pakistan’s preference for diplomacy rather than pressure in dealing with Iran’s nuclear program, what is Islamabad’s stance on the reactivation of snapback sanctions under UNSC Resolution 2231?

Pakistan has already voted in favor of a UNSC resolution to stop reimposition of sanctions on Iran. Islamabad believes diplomacy and intimidation do not go together and the region has already facing multiple crises and

such destabilization actions will further cause chaos.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN states that “As an immediate neighbour and friend of Iran, we do not favour any action which risks destabilizing a region that is already mired in multiple crises. This region cannot afford further tensions,” he said. Pakistan knows that Iran is an important neighbor any kind of destabilization would have spillover effects on the region.

Though Trump is obsessed with getting Nobel Prize for peace believing that he has resolved seven disputes across world. Then why does he choose coercion over diplomacy vis-à-vis Iran?

In what ways do Pakistan’s close ties with China and Russia shape its views on the snapback sanctions, especially when compared to its relationships with Western countries?

I reckon Pakistan is pursuing a hedging strategy by maintaining balanced approach to have strategic ties with China, Russia and United States. It is a rational approach in the 21st century to maintain hedging strategy by not keeping all eggs in the basket of one party. In the evolving regional politics Pakistan has appeared as a crucial player due to its position as a flexible state. Politics is the art of navigating possibilities with flexibility.

Though Pakistan, China and Russia share converging interests regarding re-imposition of snapback sanctions under UNSC Resolution 2231, Pakistan can also not alienate Washington. It is very delicate position for Pakistan: on one hand, the country has a strategic relation with the U.S., on the other hand, Iran is immediate and important neighbor.

What impact does the rein-statement of snapback sanctions have on Pakistan-Iran relations, particularly regarding trade, border security, and broader regional cooperation?

Pezeshkian inaugurates 250MW of new solar power plants across Iran

From Page 1 ► Out of the new projects, 238 MW are large-scale solar plants across 12 provinces, while 22 MW consist of small-scale rooftop systems.

These facilities were built through private sector investment alongside financing from the National Development Fund and domestic banks, representing a total investment exceeding 75 trillion rials (about \$150 million).

In early September, Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SAT-BA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Administrations to develop small-scale renewable power plants of up to three megawatts in rural areas.

The MOU was signed by Masoud Nosrati, deputy interior minister and head of the municipalities organization, and Mohsen Tarztab, deputy energy minister and head of SAT-BA. It aims to provide rural administrations, cooperatives, and unions with a framework to establish renewable power plants and sell electricity under long-term contracts.

Under the deal, SATBA will support projects through guaranteed power purchase agreements of up to 20 years, as well as alternative investment models including electricity sales on the Iran Energy Exchange and barter mechanisms.

Govt. extends industry support package by 1 month

TEHRAN – Abdollah Mohajer Darabi, a member of the board of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), announced a one-month extension for implementing the government's industrial support package, following approval from President Masoud Pezeshkian.

In a note published by ICCIMA Online, Mohajer Darabi emphasized that Iran's economic resilience depends on empowering the private sector.

He said the extension was confirmed by the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade during a recent meeting between business leaders, industry veterans, and the president.

He noted that although the government moved quickly after the recent 12-day war to mitigate its economic fallout, poor execution and insufficient consultation with the private sector had weakened the effectiveness of the relief package.

Mohajer Darabi stressed that while temporary measures such as the current extension are helpful, they are not enough to strengthen

SATBA will also introduce solar and wind potential maps to guide investors, coordinate with local power distribution companies to ensure grid connection, and provide a list of qualified contractors across provinces.

The municipalities organization will promote SATBA's priority projects among local stakeholders, identify suitable sites for development, and encourage rural cooperatives and communities to invest in renewable generation. It will also help facilitate access to low-interest financing from partner banks.

The memorandum also covers oversight of project implementation, technical training for operators, and long-term management of renewable power plants in villages.

Iran is turning to knowledge-based companies to help tackle its growing energy imbalance by promoting clean power generation, according to the head of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO).

Speaking at a contract signing ceremony between a high-tech Iranian firm and an industrial manufacturer, Farshad Moqimi, Chairman of IDRO's Executive Board, emphasized the strategic role of knowledge-based enterprises in developing innovative solutions such as expansion turbines for clean electricity generation.

the private sector without long-term policy stability.

"Frequent shifts in macroeconomic decisions and repeated policy mistakes undermine the private sector's ability to plan for sustainable growth," he said.

He added that predictable government behavior is key to improving coordination between the state and the private sector, praising Pezeshkian's commitment to holding regular joint meetings and the establishment of a joint ICCIMA-Central Bank taskforce to review monetary and foreign exchange policies.

Mohajer Darabi also called for reduced bureaucracy and regulatory barriers in trade and exports, arguing that easing procedures could potentially double Iran's non-oil exports even under sanctions.

"The private sector is not facing a crisis—it is facing a super-crisis," he wrote. "National solidarity is essential when external threats exist. The government must avoid impulsive, un-consulted decisions and end the internal 'sanctioning' of legitimate Iranian businesses."

TEDPIX gains 24,600 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 24,624 points to 2.9 million on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

The head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the capital market's share in the national financing system is going to increase to 50 percent over the next five years, positioning it as a key engine of economic activity, employment, and industrial growth.

Hojatollah Seyed said the organization's 14th development plan includes targeted measures to stimulate production, starting with fiscal incentives embedded in the national budget.

He outlined two additional pillars of the government's production strategy: implementation of the Law on Supporting Production and a five-part economic development plan currently being drafted by the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO).

Seyed said new investment funds have been created within the capital market to support production, including Murabaha bonds aimed at financing small- and medium-sized enterprises.

He said the Securities and Exchange Organization is targeting a "50-50" financing model, balancing bank loans and capital market resources, over a four- to five-year horizon. "Initial public offerings in project-based companies have already begun, and infrastructure for Murabaha bond issuance is in place," he said, noting a surge in applications from producers seeking bond issuance licenses.

In late March, the official outlined the five major plans for enhancing efficiency and transparency in the capital market in the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21.

Seyed outlined five initiatives for the capital market this year, which include expanding the market through initial public offerings (IPOs), especially company-project listings, and increasing the capital of listed companies.

He expressed hope that the number of companies in the capital market would exceed 1,000 this year (currently there are over 700 companies).

Entrepreneurs and private companies are encouraged to take advantage of capital market opportunities, he emphasized.

He continued by explaining the second initiative: enhancing transparency, efficiency, and timely information dissemination in the capital market.

Economy Ministry pushes bold customs overhaul to speed up trade flow

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – In response to the country's evolving economic conditions, Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance has launched a comprehensive initiative to streamline customs procedures and deliver on its pledge to reduce cargo clearance time to three days. The plan includes both regulatory revisions and a new legislative proposal soon to be submitted to Parliament.

The initiative comes as part of the government's wider strategy to mitigate the impact of renewed foreign restrictions following the activation of the "snapback" mechanism. Officials say the new customs reforms aim to ensure the steady flow of essential goods, production inputs, and industrial materials, while preventing disruptions in supply chains.

The Ministry has established a special committee chaired by Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh, bringing together representatives from the Customs Administration, the Organization for Investment and Economic Assistance, and other key economic bodies. The committee's main focus is on facilitating imports of essential goods, removing customs barriers, and improving the investment climate.

Targeting a chronic issue: cargo congestion at ports and customs houses

One of the core issues under review is the persistent backlog of goods in Iran's ports and customs facilities — a structural problem that has slowed trade and increased costs for businesses. Research conducted jointly by the Ministry, ICCIMA, and the Parliamentary Research Center shows that the main cause of delays lies not in foreign exchange shortages but in overlapping permits, bureaucratic duplication, and the lack of a unified digital platform among agencies.

To address this, the Ministry is implementing short-, medium-, and long-term reforms designed to cut red tape and increase transparency. Among the priorities is the establishment of a "single trade window" that will allow importers to complete all clearance procedures through an integrated digital system.

Three-day clearance goal and digital transformation

The centerpiece of the reform package is the Ministry's promise to achieve "three-day clearance" for goods. To reach this target, new regulations are being introduced to reduce the average clearance time from around



12 days to just three. The Ministry is also developing a real-time tracking system that will monitor shipments from the moment of order registration to their release from customs.

This integrated platform — jointly designed by the Ministry of Economy, the Central Bank, and the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade — is scheduled to become fully operational by the end of the Iranian year 1404 (March 2026).

From legislation to execution: modernizing the customs system

Many of the bottlenecks stem from outdated laws misaligned with modern trade realities. The Ministry plans to submit a new bill to Parliament addressing these gaps. The preliminary framework includes eliminating redundant permits, delegating parts of customs operations to the private sector, and simplifying foreign exchange verification.

If passed, the reform could significantly reduce administrative visits, enhance transparency, and boost the ease of doing business in Iran's trade environment.

Smart customs and private-sector participation

Digitalization is central to the reform agenda. The Ministry is promoting "smart customs" through automation and the use of artificial intelligence for risk assessment and cargo classification. In parallel, it seeks to empower the private sector to participate

in warehouse management, expedited clearance services, and even cargo evaluation.

Officials also stress the importance of aligning foreign exchange and customs policies to remove procedural overlaps between the Central Bank and customs offices. This alignment is expected to shorten currency verification times and facilitate faster imports.

A coordinated economic response to external pressures

The reform drive forms part of a broader government response to the snapback mechanism. The Central Bank has been tasked with maintaining monetary stability, the Planning and Budget Organization with fiscal discipline, and the Ministry of Economy with implementing customs, taxation, and business financing measures.

The Ministry's approach embodies the principle of "antifragility" — strengthening the economy not just to withstand shocks but to evolve and become more efficient under pressure. Through regulatory reform, digitalization, and inter-agency coordination, the Ministry aims to transform customs from a traditional bottleneck into a driver of resilience and competitiveness.

If fully executed, the "three-day clearance" plan could mark one of the most significant achievements in Iran's trade modernization — turning customs into a symbol of agility and efficiency rather than bureaucracy.

POGC completes well pressure equalization project at SP to cut restart time, costs



TEHRAN – The Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) has successfully completed and commissioned a well pressure equalization system across South Pars offshore platforms, significantly reducing the time and cost of restarting gas wells after shutdowns, according to a company statement.

Alireza Sarmadi, POGC's director of production and operations, said that previously, restarting wells often faced long delays due to high pressure differences across downhole valves.

"Before installing the pressure equalization system, restarting wells in some phases could take 12 to 24 hours.

Now, in platforms equipped with this system or self-equalizing downhole valves, the return to production takes less than two hours," he said.

He added that reducing downtime not only prevents financial and environmental losses but also saves significant volumes of methanol used during startup operations.

Saleh Lari-Mojarad, deputy head of engineering at the production and operations department of POGC, said the achievement was made possible through coordination among production, maintenance, engineering, inspection, safety, and logistics teams.

"This year, during major maintenance operations, well restarts were completed in the shortest possible time with maximum operational efficiency," he noted.

According to POGC, 29 gas platforms in South Pars have undergone major maintenance so far this year, all completed successfully and on schedule, while work on the remaining platforms is still in progress.

South Pars, located in the Persian Gulf and jointly shared with Qatar's North Field, is the world's largest gas field. It holds an estimated 14 trillion cubic meters of gas, accounting for roughly 40 percent of Iran's total gas reserves and about 8.0 percent of global reserves. The field spans 9,700 square kilometers, with

3,700 square kilometers on Iran's side.

Development of South Pars is divided into 24 phases, each designed to produce around 1.0 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day along with associated condensates, sulfur, and other by-products. The field supplies the bulk of Iran's domestic gas demand, including power generation and industrial consumption, and serves as a major source for petrochemical feedstock and gas exports.

Efforts such as the well pressure equalization project are part of Iran's broader strategy to enhance efficiency, reduce operational costs, and maintain stable gas production from the aging South Pars platforms, which form the backbone of the country's energy security and export capacity.

Back in August, the managing director of South Pars Gas Complex (SPGC) announced that the company has adopted advanced technologies at its refineries to enhance efficiency, cut emissions and improve product quality, marking a significant step toward sustainable production and environmental protection.

According to Shana, Gholam-abbas Hosseini stressed the importance of modern technology in Iran's gas sector, saying the deployment of high-tech equipment and innovative solutions in South Pars refineries has brought a fundamental transformation in achieving sustainable output.

"These technologies have

not only significantly improved process efficiency but also reduced environmental pollutants and enhanced product quality," Hosseini said, adding that they have played a key role in ensuring national energy security and strengthening the regional economy.

He noted that the continuous efforts of technical and engineering teams to optimize operations in full compliance with environmental considerations demonstrate the complex's commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development.

Located in Assaluyeh and Kangan on the Persian Gulf coast, the South Pars Gas Complex is one of the world's largest gas processing facilities. It comprises more than a dozen refineries that process gas from the South Pars field — part of the giant offshore reservoir shared with Qatar. The complex produces over 600 million cubic meters of sweet gas per day, along with significant volumes of gas condensate, sulfur, propane, butane and ethane, which serve as vital feedstock for Iran's petrochemical sector.

South Pars accounts for a major share of Iran's natural gas output and plays a critical role in supplying fuel for domestic consumption, electricity generation and industrial use. In recent years, the complex has also launched flare gas recovery projects aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions, further underscoring its role as a leader in clean technology within the oil and gas industry.

Gaza truce’s fault lines: Disarmament, sovereignty, and power

From page 1 ▶ A senior Hamas official declared that disarmament under President Donald Trump’s plan is “out of the question,” emphasizing that the proposed weapons handover is “non-negotiable.”

The Palestinian group insists that disarmament cannot be divorced from lifting the blockade and restoring political rights. This position reframes the ceasefire as a contest over sovereignty and legitimacy as much as over immediate security.

But while the rhetoric exposes the deep divisions, the ceasefire’s durability will hinge on a few critical flashpoints. Three immediate fault lines threaten to unpick the truce.

First, prisoner exchanges: Israel’s initial list of roughly 250 detainees slated for release omitted Palestinian leaders such as Marwan Barghouti, a move that has provoked public outrage and risks undermining the swap’s legitimacy.

Second, security control: The Israeli military has only partly withdrawn and retains positions that permit enduring oversight of corridors and crossings, showing how partial pullbacks can preserve strategic dominance even during a formal pause.



Third, the same senior Israeli officials responsible for two years of devastating bombardment and what international observers have labeled genocidal tactics remain firmly in charge, repeating the same threats and rhetoric.

Their calls for mass displacement and control over Gaza’s future have reinforced Palestinian distrust, signaling that reconstruction could again be used as a tool for coercion and demographic manipulation rather than genuine recovery.

The humanitarian ledger sharpens every political question. Independent tallies and Gaza health au-

thorities place Palestinian deaths at more than 67,000 and record extensive destruction of homes, hospitals, and farmland; returnees confront rubble, unexploded ordnance, and collapsed services.

As far as what comes next, three scenarios now shape expectations. The first and most probable is fragile stasis: phased captive-prisoner exchanges and constrained aid produce months of uneasy calm while Israel maintains decisive security leverage and Palestinian political grievances calcify.

The second is a monitored pause: donors mobilize funds to clear rubble and restore infrastructure, but

international trusteeships and technocratic boards effectively sideline Palestinian governance.

The third, and most dangerous, scenario is rapid collapse: a deadlock over disarmament or high-profile prisoners could give Israel an excuse to resume large-scale attacks.

Israeli forces could rearm and escalate under the guise of “security threats,” as Netanyahu’s far-right coalition leans on hawkish policies to survive, the prime minister faces potential prison if removed, and segments of the political establishment and public demand accountability for the October 7 operation.

History warns of the risk: during the first ceasefire under Trump, Hamas honored its commitment to release captives, yet Israel broke its pledges and launched renewed strikes, showing how quickly calm can give way to aggression.

Turning a pause into a durable peace requires choices the current arrangement has left unresolved. Therefore, the ceasefire risks becoming an interlude that spares lives in the short term while preserving the political architecture that produced the violence.

“Gaza is not just a humanitarian crisis; it is a crime against humanity”: Argentine physician

Carlos Trotta, a member of Doctors Without Borders, says colonization is “geographical” and “mental”



By Silvina Pachelo

BUENOS AIRES – The Tehran Times has interviewed Carlos Trotta, an Argentine doctor and volunteer with Doctors Without Borders, who has dedicated his life to accompanying those suffering the most extreme consequences of inequality, violence, and injustice.

From rural hospitals in the province of Buenos Aires to the devastated neighborhoods in the United States, including contexts of extreme poverty in the Bronx, Trotta has followed a path marked by the tension between technical excellence and the need for a humanistic perspective, capable of recognizing the patient not only as a medical case but as a human being affected by vulnerability and oppression.

His decision to go to Gaza, during Operation Cast Lead in 2008, was not an isolated act but the culmination of a trajectory combining medical practice, social commitment, and a profound ethical sense. There, he was a direct witness to the systematic dehumanization of the Palestinian population, the violence exerted under the guise of political legitimacy, and a blockade that not only limits access to basic resources but seeks to break the spirit of an entire community.

In the interview, Trotta reflects on medicine as accompaniment and resistance, denounces the manipulation of information by the media, and offers a raw analysis of international politics that masks the brutality of decades-long conflict. His account forces us to look beyond headlines, to listen to the voices of those who suffer, and question ourselves as a society: How do we respond to injustice when it is right in front of us?

Here is the text of the interview:

What led you to decide to provide medical services in Gaza?

I have to be a bit self-referential here, although I don’t really enjoy it. Looking back, I realize that I was closing a circle. My first years after finishing medical school in Buenos Aires were spent in Rural Medicine, working at a hospital in the Ingenio El Edén. I was just over 20 years old and faced a very harsh social reality: during the sugar harvest, workers from Bolivia arrived in cattle wagons, in terrible health conditions.

I understood that my technical training alone was insufficient to address these problems. I continued seeking technical excellence: I was a surgical resident in San Martín, worked for four years at a top-level clinic in the United States, including the Bronx, where inequality and poverty were brutal. All this led me to seek a more humanistic vision of medicine: to accompany the patient, not just treat them. Doctors Without Borders allowed me to combine technical assistance with testimony and accompaniment.

The answer to why I got involved in this is simple: why not? Medicine cannot be limited to technical skill; if you don’t incorporate a social, political, and humanistic perspective, you will fall short.

In December 2008, during Operation Cast Lead, you arrived in Gaza. What was the contrast between what you imagined and what you found?

I was watching the images on television and, driven by a mix of impulse and responsibility, I called Doctors Without Borders to offer myself as a vascular surgeon. Within just 72 hours, I was on my way to Jerusalem, my mind full of uncertainty and no idea what awaited me. Initially, I thought my contribution would be purely technical, focused on surgeries and medical procedures, but I soon realized that the most im-

portant thing went far beyond medicine: it was human accompaniment, being present amidst the pain, offering a hug, a word, a gesture that says “you are not alone.”

What I found was heartbreaking and, at the same time, familiar: the destruction of schools, mosques, hospitals, United Nations offices, systematic killings... A reality that, despite the years, has not changed; what we see today is the continuation of what already existed back then. Gaza is predominantly young: nearly two-thirds of its inhabitants are under 25, but many appear prematurely aged by constant stress, daily violence, and hopelessness. This reality hits hard, shakes you inside, and forces you to ask yourself again and again how we respond as human beings to the suffering of others, and how much our indifference perpetuates these injustices.

How do you perceive the difference between media coverage and the reality you experienced?

Dehumanization is key. If you present the Palestinians as fanatical, ignorant, or terrorists, the public accepts any cruel measure without questioning it. We see this in many places: dehumanize to act without guilt. The manipulation of information is part of the strategy to make the brutality invisible and minimize the idea of genocide.

Without being a political analyst—because I’m not—you start to read and testify about what you have witnessed, which is one of the hallmarks of Doctors Without Borders. You go to places where you can accompany and provide technical assistance, but above all, you testify and say, sometimes without accusing, “I was in this place and I saw this. You do what is right.” That is what I try to do.

Beyond a political analysis, this is more than a humanitarian crisis: it is a crisis of humanity. If we do not react to what we see live, if we do not act upon the figures and the facts, we are clearly failing as human beings.

You joined a flotilla to Gaza. How was that experience?

The flotilla was an act of resistance and denunciation. The blockade of Gaza is not only physical but also social and psychological. Our mission was to make it visible, bring minimal aid, and demonstrate international solidarity. Governments prevented the departure of ships, deported participants, and repressed those who had already arrived.

However, visibility is inevitable: Gazans document with their cell phones the brutality that is evident and cannot be hidden. This fight for visibility is crucial. It shows that we cannot look the other way.

For me, it was very important as part of the resistance, as part of the denunciation of what is happening, to highlight the blockade to which the Palestinian population, specifically in Gaza, is subjected—a blockade by land, by air, and also intimate. To show this blockade, to demonstrate the need to bring solidarity and, if possible, at least minimal materials necessary to alleviate the population’s needs to some extent.

But the flotilla is interesting because it is a movement that governments do not undertake. We, as part of civil society, express that something is not right and attempt to show it concretely, not just academically, but even by putting our bodies on the line.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Lebanon foils high-risk Israeli terror operation in major security success

From page 1 ▶ This reflects a shift in the nature of Israeli policy, which has gone beyond targeting Hezbollah or its military centers to encompass a broader spectrum of Islamic and nationalist groups that reject normalization and are aligned with the Resistance.

Meanwhile, the main detainee (a Syrian-Ukrainian) is in the hands of Hezbollah, and may be exchanged with Israel for the release of Hezbollah prisoners, according to investigative journalist Radwan Mortada.

From a security perspective, the revelation of the involvement of multinational elements shows the sophisticated recruitment method Israel has adopted in managing its networks, moving away from traditional methods.

Espionage is no longer limited to gathering information; it has evolved to include direct security operations, assassinations, and bombings.

In other words, the enemy now operates “field arms” capable of carrying out complex attacks deep inside Lebanon.

More seriously, the network was armed with advanced equipment, demonstrating the extent of logistical and intelligence support provided by the Israeli enemy.

This suggests that the Israeli regime intended to change the rules of the engagement or impose new facts on the ground.

However, the remarkable coordination of Hezbollah with the General Directorate of General Security, the army and the Intelligence Directorate in tracking down this spy network demonstrates the high level of coordination and security competence of official institutions.

This security achievement cannot be separated from the regional context. Since October 8, 2023, Lebanon has been experiencing intermittent military tensions on the



southern border.

Amid this tension, any internal security breach has a double impact, as it could contribute to turning Lebanon against the resistance, or push the country toward security chaos that would justify a broader aggression.

The repeated dismantling of spy networks (more than 30 arrests in recent months) demonstrates the extent of the enemy’s plots.

Approximately 4,700 violations have been recorded since the signing of the ceasefire agreement late

last year.

Had the terrorist plot been carried out, thousands of those attending the ceremony to mark the martyrdom of Hezbollah’s two secretaries-general would have been martyred. It would have caused a collective genocide, not to say an ethnic cleansing of the Resistance community!

Unfortunately, however, a complicit government will not capitalize on this achievement for the benefit of Lebanon before the international community and its bold envoys!

Driven by Venezuela’s oil riches, Trump intensifies clash with Maduro government

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Tensions between Caracas and Washington are mounting amid the White House’s continued push for regime change in Venezuela.

The United Nations Security Council held a rare session on Friday following deadly U.S. military strikes against Venezuelan boats in the southern Caribbean, which claimed the lives of 21 people. UN officials warned that the attacks have increased regional tension and could threaten peace.

Russia and China strongly condemned Washington at the session. Russia’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, told the 15-member UN council the “boats that people were on were simply fired upon in the high seas without a trial or investigation.” Nebenzia added that this was done “according to the cowboy principle of ‘shoot first’.” And now we’re being asked to retroactively believe that there were criminals on board.”

America waged the aggression under the pretext of drug smuggling. Venezuelan officials, however, view the strikes as provocative and a violation of sovereignty.

The Venezuelan ambassador told the meeting that, based on the U.S. military build-up in the region and Washington’s “belligerent action and rhetoric,” his country was “facing a situation in which it is rational to anticipate that in the very short term an armed attack is to be perpetrated against Venezuela.”

On October 9, the permanent representative of Venezuela to the UN wrote to the Security Council stating that the “ulterior purpose” of the U.S. actions continues to be to “advance its policies of regime change.”

Caracas has also reported overflights by U.S. fighter jets near its shores and the detention of a fishing boat in Venezuelan waters, while Washington claimed that two Venezuelan military aircraft flew over a U.S. Navy vessel in international waters.

According to the New York Times, President Maduro’s government has tried to open the door to better relations with the United States offering to allow American companies to invest in Venezuelan oil and other mineral wealth, to cut back on energy contracts with Russia, China, and Iran as well as offer preferential contracts to American businesses.

But the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has rejected these moves and cut off diplomacy last week, according to the NYT. Other news outlets suggest the U.S. wants nothing less than Maduro’s government removal, a total political takeover disguised as a “return to democracy.”

Analysts say this proves what many in Latin America already know: Washington’s obsession with Venezuela is not about freedom or human rights. It’s about oil, power, and control. Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves in the world and a government that refuses to bow to foreign interests.

This is not the first time America has attempted to overthrow Venezuela’s government. In addition to the 2002 coup against Hugo Chavez, openly supported by U.S. officials, there were attempts during Trump’s first term. Both Democratic and Republican administrations have waged a campaign of sanctions and economic pressure against Venezuela.

These sanctions have frozen billions of dol-

lars in Venezuelan assets and hampered its oil industry. They have caused shortages and inflation, punishing ordinary Venezuelans while Washington blames the crisis on Maduro’s government.

For many Venezuelans, this is nothing new. They see a pattern that goes back decades. Every time a Latin American country asserts independence or nationalizes its resources, Washington tries to bring it back under control.

Despite years of economic pressure and international attacks, President Maduro remains deeply popular among large sections of the population. His supporters credit him for protecting Venezuela’s sovereignty, maintaining social programs, and standing firm against what they call “imperialist blackmail.”

Amid the U.S. threats, President Maduro has placed the armed forces and the 4.5 million-member Bolivarian Militia on alert, vowing to defend every inch of national territory.

Mass demonstrations have filled the streets of Caracas and other cities in recent weeks. Workers, students, and community organizations have rallied in defense of the Bolivarian Revolution. Their message is clear: Venezuela will not accept a puppet government installed by the United States.

Analysts suggest that the United States is likely to continue its pattern of interference and coercive actions amid its military buildup near Venezuela.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

South Korean envoy visits West Azarbaijan, discusses tourism ties

TEHRAN — South Korea’s ambassador to Iran, Kim Jun-pyo, has paid a visit to West Azarbaijan, discussing ways to expand cultural and tourism ties with the northwestern Iranian province.

West Azerbaijan province in Iran has expressed its readiness to welcome South Korean investors and expand cultural and tourism activities with South Korea, officials said following a recent diplomatic meeting.

The Korea’s envoy met with Morteza Safari, Director General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of West Azarbaijan, in Urmia, IRIB reported on Friday.

The meeting was also attended by Qasem Karimi, head of the Urmia Chamber of Commerce, and a representative of Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the news agency added.

Safari highlighted the province’s unique potential in tourism, history, and natural attractions, emphasizing its preparedness to organize familiarization tours for South Korean

travel agencies.

He also announced the province’s openness to South Korean investment in the tourism sector and presented the ambassador with the English version of the book “Investment Opportunities in West Azarbaijan’s Tourism Sector,” which outlines 104 tourism opportunities. Additionally, the ambassador received a copy of “West Azarbaijan: A Gallery of History and Nature.”

Ambassador Kim expressed his interest in strengthening cooperation with West Azarbaijan across various sectors, particularly tourism.

West Azarbaijan is bordered by Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan’s Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, as well as the Iranian provinces of East Azarbaijan, Zanjan, and Kordestan. It is separated from Armenia by Turkey’s short border with the Azerbaijan Republic. The province covers an area of 39,487 km2, or 43,660 km2 including Lake Urmia.

Gol Ghaltan ritual registered in a village in Fars province

TEHRAN-- The cultural event called Gol Ghaltan (literally meaning rolling in flowers) in Karadeh village of Khafar district, Fars province, has been registered in national tourism calendar.

Head of Khafar Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Ali-Asghar Taheri said that after completing the documentation steps, the cultural-religious ritual of Gol Ghaltan has also been registered under the number 104161141 on the Intangible Heritage List, IRNA reported.

This event, which has a long history, is held every year to coincide with the daffodil harvest season and local festivals, and has managed to attract the attention of many domestic and foreign tourists, he added.

Soaking up babies with petals as one of the most important cultural and religious rituals in this region, plays a significant role in introducing the city’s tourism and handicraft capacities.

Taheri added that holding this event annually and simultaneously with the daffodil harvest provides a good opportunity to showcase local products, handicrafts, and souvenirs of Khafar and is effective in attracting tourists and boosting the region’s

Special plan for historical texture of 3 Kermanshah’s ancient cities under compilation

TEHRAN—Kermanshah province has three ancient cities of Kermanshah, Sonqor, and Nowdeshah and special plan for historical textures of these cities is under compilation to revive and promote them.

Deputy Head of Kermanshah Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department Kiumars Khani told ISNA that a total of 180 ancient cities have been identified across the country.

Given that in recent years the historical textures of these cities have been exposed to destruction and, on the other hand, strict restrictions have been imposed on private owners’ construction in these fabrics, it has been decided that a special plan for the protection and revitalization of the historical fabric of cities within a period of five years in historical cities will be developed and implemented by the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development in cooperation with municipalities and with the approval of Cultural Heritage Department , he said.

He continued that for this purpose, a special plan for the preservation and revitalization of the historical texture of the city of Sonqor has been developed in recent months, and phase zero studies have been conducted for the cities of Kermanshah and Nowdeshah, and it is planned that plans for these two cities will also be developed.

Khani reminded that in the special plan for the protection and revitalization of the his-

torical texture of the cities, a set of incentive solutions has been considered with the aim of revitalizing and strengthening residence within the historical texture.

He added that there are 300 hectares of historical texture across Kermanshah city, in which 80 historical houses have been identified.

The official explained that houses dating back to before 1964 are considered historic houses in the city’s historical texture and should be protected.

Kermanshah is a region celebrated for its profound historical and cultural significance. Set against the backdrop of the Zagros Mountains, Kermanshah has been an important center of civilization since ancient times.

The province boasts remarkable archaeological treasures, including the monumental rock reliefs of Taq-e Bostan and the ancient inscriptions at Bisotun, which are UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Beyond its historical allure, Kermanshah features breathtaking natural landscapes, such as the serene Sarab-e Niloofar Spring, the dramatic Quri Qal’eh water cave, and the picturesque Parishan waterfall.

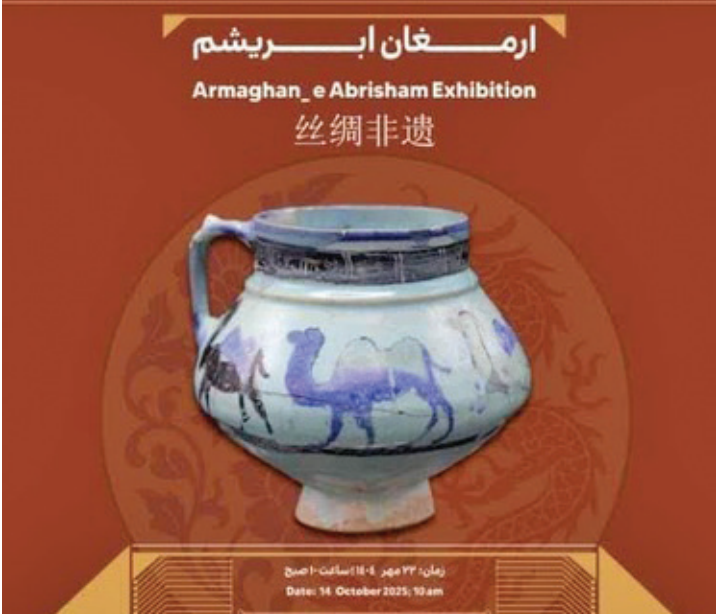
With its blend of historical marvels and natural wonders, Kermanshah offers a rich tapestry of experiences that continue to captivate visitors and highlight Iran’s diverse heritage.

Tehran to host exhibit dedicated to Iranian, Chinese arts

TEHRAN — An exhibition, featuring a selection of archaeological and artistic treasures from Iran and China, will officially open at the National Museum of Iran on Tuesday, October 14.

Organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism in cooperation with the National Museum of Iran, the exhibition, which is titled Armaghan-e Abrisham (“Silk Gift”), is set to showcase artifacts spanning from ancient historical periods to the Qajar era, sourced from the National Museum, the Golestan Palace World Heritage site, Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili complex, and the Isfahan Museum of Decorative Arts.

The opening ceremony will



be attended by Zhong Peiwu, the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Iran, along with some people from Iran and China’s scientific, cultural, and political communities. The event will take place in the Islamic Era Museum’s conference hall within the National Museum.

In addition to the exhibition launch, several publications will be unveiled, including a special issue on ancient Iran-China cultural relations, the Parseh Archaeology Journal, and the exhibition’s official catalog.

According to organizers, the exhibition aims to highlight the longstanding cultural exchanges between Iran and China through the lens of art and history.

Iranians top list of pilgrimage tourists to Iraq



Visitors look at Erbil’s main square from a nearby citadel in Iraq

TEHRAN — Iranians remain the largest group of religious tourists visiting Iraq, particularly to the holy city of Karbala.

“Iranians rank first among inbound tourists to Iraq, especially during the Arbæen pilgrimage, followed by visitors from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, European countries, and the Gulf states,”

ILNA news agency quoted the head of Karbala’s tourism organization as saying on Saturday.

The official, according to ILNA, emphasized that Karbala offers more than religious attractions, citing recreational and historical sites such as Khan al-Atshan and Khan Nakhila, which, with active cooperation from Iranian tour-

ism stakeholders, could develop into broader tourist destinations.

Talking on medical tourism, for which Iran has traditionally been a main destination for Iraqi nationals, the official added that currently many Iraqi medical tourists are increasingly opting for Turkey and India over Iran due to cost concerns.

Nearly 8 million Iranians traveled to Iraq last year for pilgrimage to the sacred Shia sites, compared with 3.5 million Iraqis who visited Iran, the Iranian news agency said.

Over the past couple of years Iran has made efforts to balance inbound and outbound tourism with Iraq, aiming to reach an annual exchange of 10 million tourists between the two countries.

A key challenge lies in Iraqi pilgrim visits to Iran and their access to medical tourism services. “Iraqis traveling to Mash-

had for the shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) must pay around \$100 for a one-way ticket and some \$300 for return, which is prohibitively expensive,” the Iraqi official said, urging Iranian authorities to regulate flight ticket pricing.

He further criticized the high costs of medical services in Iran for Iraqi medical tourists, noting many pay exorbitant fees for treatments in Tehran and Mashhad. “Companies in Turkey and India now offer much cheaper and reasonable medical services to Iraqi patients,” he said.

He recommended establishing a formal Iran-Iraq health tourism company to provide affordable and regulated medical services to Iraqi visitors, preventing the loss of these tourists to competing countries.

Tehran-Kashan rally attracts 75 vehicles to promote responsible travel

TEHRAN— A tourist car rally from Tehran to Kashan kicked off on Thursday morning with 75 vehicles departing from Shahrak-e Ekbatan in Tehran, concluding on Friday in Matinabad, Kashan, organizers said.

The tourism rally was aimed to promote a culture of safe, responsible, and family-oriented travel, according to the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran.

The event drew families, nature enthusiasts, and road trip lovers, emphasizing land-based tourism, respect for local communities, and preservation of the historical and cultural fabric of rural areas.

After officially starting in Tehran, participants traveled toward Isfahan province, gathering in the Matinabad region, which is known as one of Iran’s notable natural and desert tourist destinations. The rally was supported by dedicated teams and the active involvement of the Touring and Automobile Club.

Throughout the journey, adherence to traffic laws and safe driving practices was strongly encouraged. Participants enjoyed natural landscapes along the route while en-



gaging in cultural and educational programs focused on sustainable and responsible tourism.

Beyond its recreational and family aspects, the rally symbolized social cohesion, community spirit, and the promotion of group travel culture. It also provided an opportunity for younger generations of tourists to better understand the importance of environmental protection, cultural heritage conservation, and positive interaction with local communities.

Kashan, located on the route connecting

Tehran to major destinations like Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd, is known for its rich history and surrounding scenic villages. Among its highlights are the lavishly decorated traditional houses of Brujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi, which remain popular attractions for travelers.

In addition, Kashan embraces some archaeological gems. Most importantly, the Tepe Sialk yielded interesting pottery pieces, metal tools, and domestic implements made from stone, clay, and bone that date from as early as the 4th millennium BC.

The name Kashan is tightly bound to the UNESCO-designated Abyaneh, which is situated around 90 km in a southward direction. The ancient village is known for its gorgeous architecture, traditional clothing specifically from the inhabitants, and its old dialect of Persian that dates from the Sassanid era. Abyaneh is truly a living piece of history. Its people’s ways of life and traditions have survived almost unchanged for hundreds of years. It would be an unforgettable day trip for Kashan.

Ilam Handicrafts Exhibition begins in Iraq’s Wasit province

TEHRAN— Ilam Handicrafts Exhibition began in the Iraqi province of Wasit on Friday, with the participation of 15 Iranian artists and producers in this field.

Abbas Mirzad, the deputy governor general of Ilam province, said that holding the Ilam Handicrafts Exhibition in Wasit province provides a good opportunity to introduce Iranian art and culture and develop economic cooperation between the two countries, IRIB reported.

He also said that the week-long exhibition aims to introduce the artistic and cultural capacities of Ilam province and other provinces of Iran, develop the

market for handicraft products, and strengthen cultural ties between Iran and Iraq.

Mirzad added that various fields including kilim, jajim, leather bags, leather mosaic, mat weaving, chit, traditional dolls and knitwear, pottery, jewelry, wooden items, and copper utensils have been exposed to the public and interested parties.

Referring to the visit of a cultural delegation from Ilam province to Wasit province and the city of Kut, he added that during this visit and in a meeting with Wasit officials, discussions were held on trade, tourism, and student issues.

He said that the discussions were also held and decisions were made regarding exports and imports, and it was also suggested that a memorandum of understanding be concluded between the two sides to be reviewed during the governors’ upcoming visit and to provide the basis for joint communication and trade development.

The officials of Wasit province have been invited to travel to Ilam province on familiarization tour and become familiar with Ilam potentials and capacities, he added.

Mirzad continued that the handicraft is the common lan-

guage of all cultures, adding that the presence of artists in such events leads to promotion of cultural collaborations and better introduction of Iranian original art across the regional nations.

He said that during the 14th Government, special attention has been paid to promoting foreign markets for handicrafts. A total of three exhibitions have so far been held in Iraq: one in Sulaymaniyah and two in Wasit province.

Mirzad expressed the hope that such events will pave the grounds for promoting cultural, economic and tourism cooperations between the two nations.

Iranian universities increase by 20% in THE rankings

TEHRAN – The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 has placed 101 Iranian universities among the top institutions, up from 85 universities in 2025.

The 2026 rankings include 2,191 ranked universities from 115 countries and territories. There are 99 new entries compared with last year.

The THE World University Rankings are the only global performance tables that judge research-intensive universities across all their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.

The latest methodology includes 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons, trusted by students, academics, university leaders, industry, and governments. One of the metrics (study abroad) currently has zero weight, but it is planned to be included in the future.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology are among the top Iranian universities, with a global ranking of 351-400.

Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tehran are jointly placed second, ranking 401-500 globally. Shiraz University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked third collectively, with a global ranking of 501-600.

Twelve other universities are ranked 601-800 worldwide, including Alborz University of Medical Sciences, Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Golestan University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan University of Technology, Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, University of Tabriz, and Urmia University of Medical Sciences.

In the University rankings 2026, Oxford retains the number one spot for the tenth consecutive year, driven by a strong research environment score. Princeton rises to joint third place and is the only US university to achieve its best-ever finish this year. China has five universities in the top 40, up from three last year, but top universities remain steady. Hong Kong occupies a record six spots in the top 200 as a result of improvements in teaching metrics. India now has



the second-highest number of ranked universities for the first time, behind only the US.

Latest rankings

The 2024 World University Rankings (WUR) report by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has included 72 Iranian universities, up from 69 in 2023. A total of 426 universities from 31 Islamic countries are listed in the ranking, where Turkey, with 102 universities and Iran, with 72 universities, and Pakistan, with 39 universities, are placed first to third, IRNA reported.

Among the top universities of Islamic countries, Saudi Arabia ranks 172. Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Egypt jointly rank 401-450, Qatar ranks 451-500, and Turkey, the UAE, and Lebanon rank 501-600.

Tehran University's ranking has changed from 501-600 in 2023 to 401-500 in 2024. The University is placed first in the country. Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks second. The university's global ranking is 501-600, up from 601-700 in 2023.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences' ranking has also improved from 801-900 in 2023 to 601-700 in 2024, ranking third in the country. Sharif University of Technology and Tarbiat Modares University are placed fourth and Fifth, respectively.

Shanghai University ranking 2025 has placed six Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide, down from 9 in 2024. Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran are among the top 500 universities in the world, ranking 401-500 globally. Tarbiat Modares University ranks 701-800.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Sharif Uni-

versity of Technology rank 801-900. Iran University of Medical Sciences ranks 901-1000. The July edition of the Webometrics world ranking has included 64 medical universities from Iran, unchanged from January's edition, 11 of which have advanced in the ranking compared to the January edition.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (485) is the only university ranked among the top 500 institutions in the world, Mehr news agency reported. Among Iranian universities, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, and Yazd University of Medical Sciences have improved their rankings by 1002, 961, and 948 positions, respectively.

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

The Times Higher Education (THE) has included 34 universities from Iran among the top universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDGs), up from 33 universities in 2024. Iran University of Medical Sciences, with a global ranking of 301-400, is placed first in the country.

Alzahra University, Kerman University of Medical Sciences, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401-600) are placed second. Iran University of Medical Sciences ranks 48th in good health and well-being as well as reduced inequalities, and 62nd in quality education goals.

Alzahra University and Kerman

University of Medical Sciences rank 85th and 89th in gender equality, respectively. Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranks 30th in good health and well-being.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Shahid Beheshti University rank 46th and 60th in industry, innovation, and infrastructure. The 22nd edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (WUR), 2026, has placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, unchanged from the 2025 ranking.

University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 322, ranks first among the Iranian universities. Sharif University of Technology (ranking 375) and Amirkabir University of Technology (456) are placed second and third.

Iran University of Science and Technology (496), Isfahan University of Technology (571), University of Tabriz (578), Shiraz University (701-710), Shahid Beheshti University (741-750), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951-1000) are other top universities included in this year's ranking.

The Round University Ranking (RUR) 2025 has placed 36 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world, up from 32 universities in 2024. Islamic Azad University, with a global ranking of 93, is placed first in the country.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (125), University of Tehran (202), Iran University of Science and Technology (355), Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (371), Sharif University of Technology (389), University of Tabriz (422), Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences (440), Qazvin University of Medical Sciences (445), and Shahid Beheshti University (454) ranked second to tenth.

SOCIETY

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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Intl. conference on information, knowledge technology slated for December

TEHRAN – The 16th international conference on information and knowledge technology (IKT 2025) is scheduled to be held in Tehran from December 23 to 25.

The Iranian Association of Information and Communication Technology will hold the conference at Amirkabir University of Technology, IRNA reported.

The conference aims to develop knowledge and information technology, share expertise, and the latest scientific findings, and lay the basis for decision-making in the information and communication technology sector.

It will be centered around Theoretical Foundations, Algorithms, and Innovation in Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications, and Machine Learning, which covers topics such as natural language models, large language Models (LLM), deep learning, big data analysis, generative AI, business intelligence, and decision support systems.

Digital Transformation in Industry, Economy, Society, and Family; Smart Banking and Financial Systems; Cryptocurrencies, Education in the Age of AI; Ethical and Legal Issues; Privacy Protection; Data-Driven Decision-Making; and Digital Governance and Justice-based and Sustainable Development are among other topics of the conference.

It will also focus on Information Transmission and Processing Technologies and Cybersecurity, including topics such as network virtualization, 6G networks, edge computing and fog computing, real-time data analysis, quantum processing and cryptography, as well as self-healing software.

The event will also host scientific meetings, lectures, specialized roundtables, educational workshops, competitions, and an award ceremony.

On the sidelines of the conference, innovative, knowledge-based products will be displayed.

Status of ICT in Iran

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT in the country. All activities related to the information and communica-

tion technology industry are directly related to the ministry.

The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector in order to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people's lives.

The successful designing, building, and launching of a satellite shows the growth of the national technology and scientific power of a country.

Space technology has been considered a tool to expand prosperity, peace, scientific-cultural development, and economic progress in human societies.

Different nations of the world exploit this technology in some way based on their capacity, capabilities, and efforts.

Currently, 13 universities and a research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology are offering aerospace majors, thus Iran has a high capability in training specialists and experts in the aerospace sector and is a leading country in the region.

Access to telecommunication services in rural areas of the country had improved over the period as the overall number of villages with access to communication services rose to 52,182, around 93 percent of all villages, while 47,837 villages had access to home landline services.

Moreover, the number of Iranian mobile users reached nearly 135.890 million, according to the CRA, which put the mobile phone penetration rate in the country at 161.67 percent.

The figures showed, however, that fixed broadband adoption in Iran had stalled at 14 percent, with nearly 11.921 million customers having access to the Internet via those services.

This statistic shows that fixed broadband internet has grown by less than 2 percent compared to last year, and mobile internet has experienced a growth of 10 percent. However, it can be said that the speed of mobile internet expansion is 5 times the speed of fixed internet.

‘Developed Iran’ to focus on water, clean energy

TEHRAN – The second international event titled ‘Developed Iran’ will be held with a focus on water, electricity, and renewable energies on November 5.

It will bring together Iranian knowledge-based companies, investors, and foreign ambassadors, IRNA reported.

The main topics will include the expansion, renovation, and improvement of power plant efficiency based on national capacities, development of renewable energies and distributed generation infrastructure (small-scale power plants), improvement of efficiency in water extraction and consumption with a focus on reducing energy consumption, the sustainable use of unconventional water resources, including (high-salinity wastewater and sewage effluent), as well as the role of digital technologies such as arti-

ficial intelligence and the Internet of Things for energy optimization and management.

Iran to boost renewable power capacity

Attending the 29th meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Iran's representative underlined the country's commitment to the expansion of renewable energy sources via taking various measures.

These include growing solar and wind power production capacities and implementing strategies to improve energy efficiency across residential and industrial sectors, IRNA reported.

Iran plans to expand its renewable energy capacity to 7,000 megawatts by the next Iranian calendar year, which begins on March 21, 2026, up from current levels, Jafar Mohammadzadeh, an energy official said.

Oral, dental health campaign underway in elementary schools

TEHRAN – The health ministry kicked off a national oral and dental campaign in elementary schools on Saturday to raise awareness about the fundamental role of oral and dental health in overall health.

Other organizations, including municipalities, the education ministry, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), will collaborate to instill good oral health care habits in children, IRNA reported.

The campaign is being held with the theme of ‘Don't forget two times two, brushing your teeth for two minutes twice a day’.

It also aims to promote children to floss their teeth once a day, eat a healthy diet with

less sugar, and visit the dentist regularly. The campaign highlights the importance of permanent teeth, which erupt at the age of 6, as well.

World Oral Health Day (WOHD) is celebrated every year on March 20 to empower people with the tools and knowledge to prevent and control oral diseases, which affect nearly 3.5 billion people worldwide.

It encourages people to look after their oral health by adopting a good oral hygiene routine and managing risk factors.

The theme of the 2025 campaign, ‘A Happy Mouth is A Happy Mind,’ highlights the important connection between oral health and mental well-being.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran starts five-year tobacco-free national plan

A national plan aiming to protect people from secondhand smoking in 63 cities and 63 villages over the course of five years has just piloted in the central city of Qom.

Following Article 8 of the Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization to protect people from tobacco use and reduce its side effects, Iran declared Qom city as the country's first ‘tobacco-free city’.

This five-year program will eventually launch in 63 cities and 63 selected villages of the country, however, it is probably can cover the whole cities, Behzad Valizadeh, head of the National Secretariat of Tobacco Control said.

برنامه ۵ ساله شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات اجرایی شود

رئیس دبیرخانه کشوری کنترل دخانیات گفت: این برنامه یک برنامه پنج ساله است که از سال ۱۳۹۸ به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و تا سال ۱۴۰۴ ادامه خواهد یافت و در نهایت ۶۳ شهر و ۶۳ روستای منتخب کشور عاری از دخانیات خواهند شد.

مهندس بهزاد ولی زاده با بیان این مطلب اظهار داشت: ابتکار شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات بر اساس ماده ۸ کنوانسیون کنترل دخانیات سازمان جهانی بهداشت به منظور محافظت از مردم در مواجهه با دود دست دوم دخانیات و کاهش عوارض آن از سال ۱۳۹۸ به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و از مرداد سال جاری هماهنگی های لازم جهت اجرای آن در ۶۳ دانشگاه علوم پزشکی سراسر کشور انجام شده است.

TEHRAN TIMES



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The sin which makes you sad and repentant is more liked by Allah than the good deed which turns you arrogant.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:51 Dawn: 4:46 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:09 (tomorrow)

Palestinian poet chronicles Gaza’s life and loss

Gaza-based poet Yahya Al Hamarna’s debut book, “My Voice Cannot Be Bombed,” is written from within the catastrophe that the people of Palestine are experiencing.

Two years into Israel’s assault on Gaza, more than 67,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 170,000 injured, entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble, and over 90% of the territory’s population displaced, Atmos reported.

Al Hamarna’s poems document the violence inflicted on the Palestinian people with unflinching clarity, while tracing the persistence of daily rituals: the steeping of tea, the fleeting joy of a football match. These details, set against the machinery of annihilation, speak to the paradox of life under siege: devastation intertwined with endurance.

The scale of destruction in Gaza has been so vast that the United Nations Commission concluded Israel’s actions constitute genocide. Independent investigators and aid groups warn of famine conditions as Israel’s blockade starves Palestinian civilians and the Israeli government targets infrastructure and weaponizes access to food and water. In the face of such destruction, testimony itself becomes a form of resistance.

Yahya Al Hamarna is a Palestinian refugee and political science student majoring in international relations and diplomacy. He is a writer and artist who seeks to express human rights and justice issues through words and his pen. He believes that “a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step” and he is steadily moving towards a future that holds within it hope.

“My Voice Cannot Be Bombed” is a searing collection of poems written amidst the ongoing genocide in Gaza. In his luminous debut, Al Hamarna documents the brutalities of war alongside the fragile rituals of everyday life—studying, walking to the park, reading

poetry, and mourning.

From the cramped intimacy of displacement tents to the imagined serenity of university lectures and Real Madrid matches, Al Hamarna crafts a poetics of survival: one that refuses despair and erasure, insisting on the presence, collective memory, and unconquerable dignity of the Palestinian people.

Through diaristic reflection, stark testimony, and vivid lyricism, Al Hamarna’s work resists the machinery of occupation with quiet force. With grace and fury, My Voice Cannot Be Bombed speaks from the rubble and into history.

“I finished most of the text in a displacement tent, during a long journey that lasted more than 22 months,” Al Hamarna said.

“During this time, I moved between Rafah and Khan Younis, then back to Gaza, then a new displacement to western Gaza. Every time I began to adjust a little, shelling would force me to leave,” he added.

Often by the glow of his phone when fuel and electricity were cut off, sometimes by candlelight, Al Hamarna persisted. Through explosions, rubble and dust, he worked on My Voice Cannot be Bombed – a book that reflects not only his life, but also his condition as a refugee in his own city.

A student at Al-Azhar University – one of several higher education institutions damaged or destroyed by Israeli air strikes in recent years – Al Hamarna’s studies in international relations and diplomacy were repeatedly disrupted. He hopes to resume his bachelor’s degree online next month, with the ambition of pursuing a master’s degree in the future.

Thanks to the support of friends abroad, the book was published by Iskra Books, a non-profit, independent scholarly publisher run by volunteers.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Iranian short flick “Like A Secret” wins at India’s Pink City International Short Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film “Like A Secret” by Saeed Zamanian won an award at the 12th Pink City International Short Film Festival, which came to an end today in Jaipur, India.

Competing with 57 other short films from around the world, the Iranian flick received the award for the Best Child Artist Female for Taranom Ahangar, Honaronline reported.

In “Like A Secret,” Baran, a nine-year-old girl, suffers severe trauma due to a bitter family incident and her mother’s neglect.

She experiences horrifying nightmares both in her sleep and while awake, living on the edge between dreams and reality. Baran strives to find someone she can trust and confide in, someone to share her secret with.

Elnaz Shakerdoust, Sepideh Dastineh, Mansour Nassiri, and Sahel Namvar are also in the cast of the short film.

“Like a Secret” has previously been selected as a finalist at the 10th Oaxaca Film Festival in Mexico and Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film Festival in the U.S., and also won the Best Short Screenplay Award at the Florence Film Award in Italy.

Saeed Zamanian, 40, is a screenwriter and director. He is a graduate of the master’s degree in directing the theater from the Faculty of Fine Arts, the University of Tehran.

He has also completed film classes at the Youth Cinema Association, and has since produced three independent titles. He has already received several international awards.

Cultural initiative “Twelve” launched to support charity through art, poetry

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- “Twelve,” a cultural and artistic multimedia project, has been launched to support the charitable efforts of the Kahrizak Charity Foundation, the organizers announced during a press conference held in Tehran on Saturday.

All proceeds from the project will be allocated to support the foundation’s initiatives, Hamed Mokhtarani, the creature of the project said.

The initiative, which began approximately four years ago, features twelve ghazals from Rumi’s “Divan-e Shams-e Tabrizi”, selected by Iranian philosopher and poet Seyyed Hassan Amin and read by esteemed voice actor Nasrollah Medghalchi.

The project has evolved into a multi-faceted performance that includes musical interpretations and live performances, complemented by twelve calligraphic paintings inspired by each selected poem.

Prominent figures in Persian literature, including Shafiei Kadkani, have contributed to this endeavor, which also includes a documentary capturing the es-

sence of the project.

This interdisciplinary venture aims to celebrate Persian literary heritage, particularly the poetry of Rumi, and promote cultural diplomacy on an international scale. The project comprises a music album, a documentary, and calligraphy paintings.

Mokhtarani has created twelve musical tracks based on the “Divan of Shams Tabrizi”, with lyrics carefully selected and edited by distinguished scholars. The compositions feature the ney and piano, performed by Mokhtarani himself and esteemed musician Rasul Kerchi.

In addition to the musical component, Mokhtarani has designed twelve calligraphy paintings, each corresponding to a musical piece. Crafted with acrylic and fine brushwork on large canvases measuring 200 by 330 centimeters, these artworks visually embody the mood and meaning of each poem, utilizing a minimalist black-and-white palette.

The project also encompasses a documentary featuring insights from 27 prominent literary scholars and cultural figures, sharing their perspectives

on Rumi’s legacy, presented with English subtitles. Furthermore, two music videos and promotional trailers have been produced to introduce “Twelve” to a global audience.

This initiative marks a significant cultural milestone, showcasing Iran’s artistic talents and reaffirming the country’s rich literary and artistic heritage on the world stage. As Mokhtarani affirms, “Our duty is to preserve this invaluable cultural legacy for future generations.”

Mokhtarani emphasized that the unveiling of the artworks and album is scheduled for Friday at Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex in Tehran, where a week-long exhibition will take place.

Notably, 100 percent of sales from this exhibition will be donated to the Kahrizak Charity Foundation, he added.

The project will also feature performances in various historic sites across Tehran, including Sadabad and Golestan Palaces, with a public performance at the Esteghlal Hotel and a grand unveiling at Milad Tower, he mentioned.

Following these events, the tour will extend to major cities such as Isfahan, Shiraz, and Tabriz, with plans for international tours in European and Asian countries, he noted.

The album “Twelve” featuring Medghalchi’s voice and Mokhtarani’s compositions, is designed to resonate deeply with listeners, evoking empathy and connection with Rumi’s poetry. This multimedia project aims to contribute even a fraction to the appreciation of Persian poetry.

Persian audiobook of “Zorba the Greek” released

TEHRAN – The Persian audiobook of the 1946 novel “Zorba the Greek” written by Nikos Kazantzakis has been released.

In Iran, the novel was first translated into Persian by Mohammad Ghazi and published in 1978 by Kharazmi Publication and has since been reprinted many times.

Now, the audio version of this classic work has been produced by Maahava Institute in collaboration with Kharazmi Publication. The production features multiple voice actors, and is available across all audiobook platforms, ISNA reported.

The voice cast includes Mehdi Pakdel, Reza Omrani, Sepideh Malmir, Komeil Soleymannpour, Hami Ghanbarzadeh, Iman Esfahani, Mahmoud Lavasani, and Parisa Malekzadeh, among others.

“Zorba the Greek” is the tale of a young Greek intellectual who ventures to escape his bookish life with the aid of the boisterous and mysterious Alexis Zorba. The novel was adapted into the successful 1964 film of the same name directed by Michael Cacoyannis, as well as a stage musical and a BBC radio play.

Alexis Zorba is a fictionalized version of the mine worker George Zorbas. The novel was adapted into the Academy Award-winning 1964 film, starring Anthony Quinn as Zorba and Alan Bates. The film won three Academy Awards.

The book has been adapted many more times in languages other than English, including a 1972 German-language telemovie, and a 1987–88 ballet, “Zorba il Greco,” by Mikis Theodorakis produced at the Verona Arena.

The classic novel explores the struggle between the aesthetic and the rational, the inner life and the life of the mind.

It is the story of two men, their incredible

friendship, and the importance of living life to the fullest. Zorba, a Greek working man, is a larger-than-life character, energetic and unpredictable. He accompanies the unnamed narrator to Crete to work in the narrator’s lignite mine, and the pair develops a singular relationship. The two men couldn’t be further apart: The narrator is cerebral, modest, and reserved; Zorba is unfettered, spirited, and beyond the reins of civility. Over the course of their journey, he becomes the narrator’s greatest friend and inspiration and helps him to appreciate the joy of living.

Zorba has been acclaimed as one of the most remarkable figures in literature; he is a character in the great tradition of Sinbad the Sailor, Falstaff, and Sancho Panza. He responds to all that life offers him with passion, whether he’s supervising laborers at a mine, confronting mad monks in a mountain monastery, or embellishing the tales of his past adventures.

“Zorba the Greek” explores the beauty and pain of existence, inviting readers to reevaluate the most important aspects of their lives and live to the fullest.