

# A Victim of the 'Banality of Evil'

**Saleh al-Jaafarawi: Who he was, and why Israel silenced his voice in Gaza**



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## What Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said at his weekly briefing

TEHRAN – Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei reviewed the latest regional and international developments, including Iran's diplomatic efforts on border security, regional mediation, and nuclear negotiations.

**'Caution needed against Israel's record of betrayal'**

Baqaei said developments across West Asia demand swift and coordinated diplomatic action, stressing that the situation in Gaza remains the most pressing regional issue.

"After more than 700 days of genocide in Gaza, a temporary understanding was reached to halt the regime's attacks. However, based on experience, both the international community and regional countries must remain cautious so that Israel does not once again betray its promises," he warned.

## Iran, Switzerland private sectors seek deeper cooperation in non-sanctioned fields

TEHRAN – Iran and Switzerland's private sectors are calling for stronger collaboration in non-sanctioned industries, emphasizing the key role of private enterprises in shaping future economic ties between the two countries.

In a meeting with Olivier Bangerter, Switzerland's new ambassador to Iran, Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said the two nations can expand partnerships across several industrial areas, particularly where sanctions do not apply. ► Page 4

## Iran, Israel, Arabs, and the policy of regional engagement

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – On Saturday, October 11, the publication of classified U.S. military documents by The Washington Post revealed a crucial aspect for understanding the current security dynamics in West Asia. Despite the high tensions that characterize the region and the public expressions of opposition to Israeli military operations in Gaza from many Arab states, a discreet network of military cooperation has emerged.

Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have maintained a strategic dialogue with Israel, facilitated by the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), aimed at addressing what they perceive as a common Iranian threat. ► Page 2

## Why did Iran choose to skip the Sharm el-Sheikh summit?

*Foreign Minister Araghchi says Iran's officials will not engage with someone that's killed Iranians and continues to sanction them*

TEHRAN – U.S. President Donald arrived in Egypt Monday evening, essentially on a victory lap to celebrate what he claimed no one else could have achieved: a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel, but one that virtually no one believes Israel can be expected to comply with in the long run.

Before landing in Sharm el-Sheikh where he was set to co-chair, with Egypt's President el-Sisi, an international summit on the deal, Trump sent invitations to several countries worldwide. Among these was Iran, a nation the president likely hoped would attend but ultimately declined.

In a post on X, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi explained why he and his colleagues decided not to turn up at the

event. "Iran thanks [Egyptian President Abdel Fattah] el-Sisi for his invitation to attend the Sharm El-Sheikh summit. Despite favoring diplomatic interaction, neither [Iranian President Masoud] Pezeshkineh nor I am able to engage with those who attacked Iranian people and keep threatening and imposing sanctions on us," he explained.

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against

Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

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

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

tary base in West Asia.

After the war, Washington successfully orchestrated the 'snapback' of anti-Iran UN sanctions. The move plunged Iran's currency market into chaos, further escalating inflation rates in a country already battling years of runaway inflation, a direct result of prior sanctions.

"Still, Iran welcomes any initiative that would end the genocide in Gaza and lead to the expulsion of the occupying forces," Araghchi added in his post on X. "Palestinians are completely entitled to enjoy the right to self-determination and all countries have a duty, more than ever before, to support them achieve this legal and legitimate demand." ► Page 2

## The invisible war: Baseless accusations as a weapon against Iran's economy

TEHRAN- In the complex arena of international relations, economic stability is a cornerstone of national sovereignty. For the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of decades of external pressure, the growth of its non-oil exports represents a vital lifeline and a testament to its economic ingenuity.

Yet, a new and insidious front has been opened in the campaign to weaken the nation: a coordinated propaganda effort aimed at systematically destroying the reputation of Iranian products in regional markets. These accusations are not merely irresponsible journalism; they are a calculated form of economic sabotage, devoid of evidence and designed to cripple Iran's legitimate trade. ► Page 4



## Concessions, not military force, help free Israeli captives

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Palestinian resistance movement said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his occupation army failed for two years to free its captives through military means and ultimately had to accept the resistance's terms, acknowledging that the only path to their captives' return was through a prisoner exchange and an end to the war of extermination.

Hamas reaffirmed its commitment to the agreement, saying it had fulfilled its obligations by releasing the enemy's captives, and called on mediators to pressure the Israeli regime to uphold its side of the deal. ► Page 5

## A bridge of shared values: Indonesia's Ani Nigriawati on deepening ties with Iran

TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview with The Tehran Times, Ani Nigriawati, the Director of Public Diplomacy at the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, elaborated on the robust and multifaceted relationship between Indonesia and Iran.

Against the backdrop of the two nations celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations, Nigriawati outlined a forward-looking vision for collaboration. She detailed how cultural diplomacy, academic exchange, a shared commitment to the halal industry, and a common stance on global issues like Palestine are creating a durable partnership built on mutual respect and shared Islamic values. ► Page 3



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Europe in a strategic dilemma, Iran in a position of initiative

Sobh-e-No examined a joint statement by three European countries of Britain, France and Germany calling for the resumption of the stalled nuclear negotiations with Iran and the United States more than a month after the trio triggered a mechanism reinstating the United Nations sanctions on Iran for the first time in a decade. The paper said: The recent statement is actually a symbol of a “defensive” turn in European foreign policy. The leaders of the three European countries know that without returning to the path of engagement with Iran, they can neither manage the energy crisis nor maintain their influence in the Middle East. After two decades of negotiations, sanctions, and resistance, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reached a point where it has been able to change the power equation in the region. Europe is in a position of strategic weakness in confronting Iran, meaning it is neither able to build a global consensus against Tehran nor can it define a policy independent of the United States. However, Iran, relying on its domestic power, active regional diplomacy, and Eastern ties (close ties with China and Russia), is becoming an actor that can no longer be contained by threats or sanctions. In such circumstances, Europe's return to the language of threats is nothing more than repeating past mistakes and admitting the failure of the “smart pressure” strategy; a strategy that has now lost its credibility even within the West.

### Arman-e-Melli: Active diplomacy to prevent war

In an interview with Arman-e-Melli, Qasem Mohebbi, an analyst on international affairs, suggests active diplomacy needed to prevent a war. The analyst says: Currently, given the regional conditions, the ruling elite must seek every way to prevent war. Now, with all the surrounding issues and the 12-day war, Iran's diplomatic paths with the West are still open. Continuing negotiations on the nuclear program are of great importance. Studies show that while we must prepare ourselves for the worst-case scenarios, active diplomacy should still be on the government's agenda. Active diplomacy should be applied to prevent conflict so that we can secure national interests in a win-win game. Diplomatic silence or passivity can mean provide the opportunity to competitors and enemies. Therefore, an active approach in foreign policy is not only necessary to prevent military conflict, but can also pave the way for increasing Iran's bargaining power in the international arena.

## Russia rejects UN-backed sanctions on Iran, says arms supplies will continue legally

TEHRAN – Russia has dismissed the United Nations' recent decision to reinstate sanctions on Iran, declaring that Moscow does not recognize the move and will continue its legally approved military cooperation with Tehran.

Speaking on Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow is “legally supplying Iran with the military equipment it needs,” emphasizing that the cooperation is conducted within international law and under existing bilateral agreements.

The statement came after the United Nations reimposed sanctions and restrictions on Iran on September 27 at the urging of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, who claimed Iran had failed to fulfill its nuclear commitments. The decision effectively revived six previous UN Security Council resolutions — 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, and 1929 — marking the official conclusion of the so-called “snapback” process initiated by the European trio in late August.

The reinstated measures target Iran's nuclear, missile, and conventional arms activities, mandating the suspension of uranium enrichment, prohibiting the transfer of ballistic missile technology, and reimposing travel bans and asset freezes on designated individuals and entities. The resolutions also authorize the seizure of weapons

### Jam-e-Jam: A historic opportunity to overcome sanctions

Mohammad Marandi, an international affairs analyst, explained the potential of the global transition for Iran in an interview with Jam-e-Jam. He says: The activation of the snapback mechanism has been a predetermined project by the West since 2015. Given the pressure of the Zionist regime and Europe's efforts to please the Trump administration, the current stance of the Europeans is a sign of their declining position in global equations. The current situation is a historic opportunity for Tehran; an opportunity in which Iran, by strengthening the BRICS and Shanghai blocs and in the shadow of global economic wars, can neutralize the pressures and take advantage of the declining hegemony of the West. This is why the current situation is not suitable for direct or indirect negotiations with the United States. The Americans should not be given the impression that an attack on Iran will be free of cost. Iran should focus on strengthening relations with BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states, as well as regional countries such as Central Asia, the Caucasus, West Asia, and the Indian subcontinent, in order to curb the sanctions.

### Khorasan: Washington's Iran invitation to Sharm el-Sheikh a planned move to complete Trump's show

In an article, Khorasan discussed the Sharm el-Sheikh summit and Washington's invitation to Iran to attend the summit. It wrote: The announcement of a summit with Donald Trump and more than 20 world leaders in Sharm el-Sheikh, just a few days after the announcement of a ceasefire in Gaza, once again drew attention to the Middle East. But beyond the “peace conference,” this summit looks more like a stage for the restoration of American political power than an effort to achieve justice or lasting peace. Sharm el-Sheikh has actually become a showcase for Washington's symbolic return to the region. A return that is a kind of image engineering and representation of authority. Washington's invitation to Iran to attend the Sharm el-Sheikh summit is a calculated move to complete Trump's show, rather than a sign of a change in behavior or political respect. For the White House, Tehran's presence at this summit—even if it appears as a critic or opponent—is to solidify the image that Trump is seeking: “America's return to the position of the final arbiter of the Middle East.” Iran's presence, if it is without independent initiative and its own narrative design, could inadvertently legitimize Washington's narrative.

and prohibited cargo linked to Iran's military programs.

Russia, however, has rejected the legitimacy of these sanctions, arguing that the European states unilaterally and illegally triggered the snapback mechanism after themselves failing to meet their JCPOA obligations.

Meanwhile, Iran and Russia have moved ahead with implementing their 20-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty, a landmark agreement aimed at expanding cooperation in defense, trade, and energy.

The pact, signed by Presidents Masoud Pezeshkian and Vladimir Putin in Moscow on January 17, 2025, officially entered into force on October 2 after ratification by both countries' parliaments. Under the treaty, the two sides pledged to exchange intelligence, strengthen defense coordination, and assist each other in countering shared security threats.

It also commits both parties to refrain from supporting any state or entity that acts aggressively toward the other.

Despite sweeping Western sanctions, Tehran and Moscow have deepened collaboration across multiple fields, including military procurement.

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

# Why did Iran choose to skip the Sharm el-Sheikh summit?

From page 1 ► Also addressing Iran's absence from summit, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei stressed that a country's regional role “is not measured by mere attendance.”

“Iran's regional influence is far greater than participation in any single event. Over the past two years, Iran has been among the most active countries pressuring the Zionist regime and its allies to end the genocide,” he said, citing Tehran's diplomatic engagements through the UN, the OIC, and regional forums.

The Sharm al-Sheikh summit was designed to formalize the ceasefire and lay out reconstruction and governance steps. It came after two years of U.S.-Israeli genocide in Gaza that killed around 70,000 people, injured many more, and left much of the territory in ruins.

In remarks delivered to the Israeli Knesset before the event,



President Donald Trump arrives on Air Force One at Sharm El Sheikh International Airport on October 13, 2025.

Trump made no mention of the Israeli bloodshed, only thanking Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the “courage” he showed during the war. He added that Netanyahu constantly asked him for weapons during the Gaza onslaught, including some he had “never heard of”. Among the

vast carnage in Gaza, at least 20,000 of them are children.

The president also talked about the illegal U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran. “Because of us, the enemies of all civilization are in retreat, thanks to the bravery and skill of the Israeli defense forces and Operation Rising

## Iran, Israel, Arabs, and the policy of regional engagement



From page 1 ► To accurately interpret this regional realignment, it is essential to move beyond simplistic dichotomies. The policies of Persian Gulf Arab states and other neighboring countries are shaped by multiple complex variables: energy security, vulnerability to military escalation, dependence on external allies, and cross-border economic projects.

These factors drive strategies of balance and diplomatic ambiguity. Yet, this relative autonomy has not prevented Tel Aviv from conducting a coordinated campaign to contain—and, where possible, reverse—any political or strategic rapprochement in the region.

### The Israeli campaign: Diplomacy, intelligence, and coercion

Israel's strategy operates on three complementary levels. First, public and corridor diplomacy: political pressure and lobbying aimed at shaping perceptions and preserving security alliances that discourage independent normalization. Persian Gulf states have sought to balance their ties with Washington and Tel Aviv while maintaining channels of communication with Tehran, aware of the systemic risk posed by an open confrontation.

Second, intelligence operations and covert actions: the use of clandestine operations, cyberattacks, and targeted strikes aims to undermine Iran's political and coercive capacities, sending deterrent signals to third parties considering closer ties with Tehran. These practices have clear political effects, raising both the reputational and material costs of any rapprochement.

Third, military coercion and force demonstration: direct attacks or credible threats alter the strategic calculations of states seeking stability and development. Israeli military interventions have reshaped the regional decision-making space, pushing some governments toward more cautious stances regarding initiatives that might be perceived as rapprochement with Tehran.

From an Iranian perspective, these dynamics require a realistic analysis. It is not a question

of ignoring Israel's influence or issuing grandiose proclamations, but of recognizing that the region is a board with multiple vectors of power, and that Israeli maneuvers aim to close off spaces for regional autonomy.

Iran's response combines diplomatic prudence—leveraging internal political fissures and offering credible incentives—with deterrence capacity to limit the effectiveness of containment campaigns. In this way, the strategic ambiguity of Arab states can transform into opportunities for cooperation that strengthen regional stability and autonomy.

Since 2022, the so-called “Regional Security Construction”—the coordinated defense network involving Israeli and Arab officers—has taken shape at strategic bases like Al-Udeid in Qatar, under U.S. supervision. These spaces facilitate the design of joint air defense systems, intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and operational countermeasures to neutralize missile and drone attacks. The focus of these plans is the containment of Iranian military capabilities and those of its allies, from Hezbollah to forces in Yemen.

However, this security architecture, presented as a “tactical shield” against a common threat, is far from being a cohesive structure entirely dependent on Israel. Its actual functioning exists within a broader political field, where national calculations, internal rivalries, and strategic prudence compel each country to preserve its margins of autonomy, even when external pressures constrain independent action. The Arab governments involved, aware of the risks of direct confrontation with Iran, seek to maintain open channels that allow them to manage tensions without relinquishing diplomatic sovereignty.

In this sense, rather than a disciplined bloc under Israel's aegis, the network reflects a flexible, fluctuating coalition sustained by an unstable balance between divergent interests. While Israel seeks to turn it into an instrument to consolidate its regional primacy and isolate Tehran, many

of its Arab partners interpret it as a temporary containment mechanism, a way to gain time and political space while exploring co-existence formulas with Iran. The apparent solidity of this alliance thus conceals a constant tension between dependency and autonomy, between tactical calculation and the pursuit of a more sustainable regional balance.

The paradox dominating the current geopolitical landscape—publicly condemning Israel while maintaining covert military coordination—reflects not only the ambivalence of several Arab governments but also the limits of Israel's project to fragment the regional front and isolate Iran. In an environment where immediate threats outweigh ideological discourses, security becomes the argument used to justify collaboration that ultimately responds more to external pressure than to a genuine convergence of interests.

### Israeli strikes on Qatar and the latter's limited response capacity showed US-mediated networks serve Israeli interests

Arab states that formally condemn Israeli offensives in Gaza on international platforms simultaneously participate in discreet networks of military cooperation and intelligence exchange. These connections, promoted under U.S. mediation and framed under the narrative of “Iranian containment,” operate as ambiguous spaces: they allow minimal coordination but do not translate into an organic alliance or a shared vision of regional order. Israel seeks to consolidate them as a pillar of its supremacy, but many Arab interlocutors continue to value stability and balance, aware that no security equation can endure while excluding Iran.

Far from being a contradiction, this coexistence of condemnation and cooperation embodies a dual-level policy: Arab governments aim to preserve internal legitimacy with societies sensitive to Palestine while managing pressures from Washington and Tel Aviv. Iran, rather than responding with hostility, interprets this ambivalence as an opportunity to deepen indirect communication channels and promote a framework of autonomous regional security based on interdependence rather than subordination.

### The airstrike in Qatar: An alarm for the alliance

Lion,” he said. The American leader then claimed he is ready for a deal. “Iran, we are ready when you are and it will be the best decision Iran has ever made, and it's gonna happen.”

For those that have been chronicling the war in Gaza or Trump's engagements with Iran, none of the proclamations he made at the Israeli Knesset seemed to hold water. Trump was in the middle of negotiations with Iranians when he attacked them in June, and has refused to force Israel to address the rights of Palestinians in the ceasefire deal he brokered.

“What Trump wants is not the end of Israel's manslaughter in Gaza. Nor does he want a peaceful deal with Iran,” wrote Farhikhtegan, a leading Iranian daily published in Persian. “He wants a show where he gets to stand in the spotlight. Attention and praise are his ultimate needs, even in diplomacy.”

In September 2025, the apparent solidity of the alliance was revealed to be fragile when Israel carried out an airstrike in Doha without prior coordination with the host state, targeting positions linked to Hamas. The action was perceived regionally as a flagrant violation of Qatari sovereignty and a reminder that the security architecture led by Tel Aviv does not operate on principles of trust but under a logic of imposition.

Qatar's reaction and the limited response capacity of the shared military systems exposed the structural weaknesses of a network designed more to serve Israeli interests than to ensure collective security. Netanyahu was forced to issue formal apologies—a maneuver driven from Washington to contain the crisis—but the political damage had already occurred. This episode confirmed that the regional alliance designed by Israel is vulnerable not due to technical capacity but because of its lack of political legitimacy and the persistent margins of autonomy that Tehran can still capitalize on.

In response to these dynamics, Iran does not remain on the sidelines. Its articulate and long-reaching diplomacy seeks to build pragmatic alliances with various Arab states, promoting a network of cooperation that challenges the Israeli and U.S. logic of containment. Tehran develops a balancing strategy, aware that regional stability depends on the ability of states themselves to define their interests without external tutelage.

This effort extends beyond political or logistical support to aligned actors; it encompasses a broader agenda centered on sovereignty, shared security, and autonomous cooperation. In response to Israeli campaigns, Iran engages in active diplomacy, leveraging the independence margins of its neighbors to foster ties that move beyond a perpetual confrontation logic.

Thus, Tehran presents itself not only as a pole of resistance but as a strategic interlocutor capable of negotiation and regional projection, emphasizing that Arab countries maintain agency and are not satellites of Tel Aviv.

### U.S. interests and CENTCOM mediation

The United States, a central axis of this Israeli-favored regional architecture, operates through CENTCOM to facilitate operational and technological collaboration among Persian Gulf states and other allies. Its goal is to limit Tehran's influence and ensure the integrity of energy routes vital to the global economy.

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



# What Iran’s foreign ministry spokesman said at his weekly briefing

From Page 1 ▶ He said that despite the suspension of bombings, the scale of atrocities and destruction uncovered in Gaza points to a devastating humanitarian crisis.

Baqaei also accused the Israeli regime of conducting a “coordinated cognitive warfare campaign” to distort perceptions about its military failures.

“Western media have begun confirming what Iranian officials had already exposed. Media outlets have been weaponized to fabricate a false image of Israeli power,” he noted.

Following two years of devastating war and unprecedented human suffering in Gaza, Hamas and Israel accepted a U.S.-brokered ceasefire on October 9 under Donald Trump’s controversial 20-point plan. While the agreement temporarily halts Israel’s military operations and paves the way for prisoner exchange and phased withdrawals, analysts warn that it leaves unresolved the root causes of the conflict and may only postpone another round of violence.

Israel’s war on Gaza has killed at least 67,806 people and wounded 170,066 since October 2023. A total of 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7, 2023 attacks, and about 200 were taken captive.

## ‘Iran ready to help Pakistan, Afghanistan settle disputes’

Commenting on the growing border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Baqaei reiterated Iran’s readiness to help both neighbors settle their disputes peacefully.

“Security and stability in our surrounding region are vital. We have called on both sides to exercise restraint and resolve their issues through dialogue,” he said.

Commenting on recent terrorist attacks in southeastern Iran, Baqaei said Tehran and Islamabad are determined to enhance counterterrorism coordination.

“Iran and Pakistan share a serious will to confront terrorism. We hope joint agreements will soon be fully implemented to prevent such attacks,” he said.

Kabul was shaken on Thursday by two explosions, while another blast struck a market in Afghani-



*Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei speaks at a press conference in Tehran on October 13, 2025.*

stan’s border province of Paktika, further inflaming tensions between Kabul and Islamabad.

The Taliban government accused Pakistan of violating Afghanistan’s sovereignty, condemning the cross-border attacks as a breach of international norms. Islamabad stopped short of denying involvement in the explosions but urged the Taliban to rein in the Pakistan Taliban (TTP), an armed group long blamed for deadly assaults inside Pakistan.

Once close allies sharing strategic interests, Pakistan and the Taliban government have seen their relations deteriorate sharply amid Islamabad’s accusations that Kabul is harboring TTP militants responsible for years of cross-border attacks.

Reports suggest that Islamabad has accused Kabul of allowing militant groups to launch attacks from Afghan soil, while the Taliban has blamed Pakistan for conducting airstrikes inside Afghanistan.

The two neighbors share a 2,600-kilometer (1,600-mile) rugged and mountainous frontier known as the Durand Line, a boundary drawn in 1893 under British rule. The border is officially recognized by Pakistan but rejected by Afghanistan, which insists that any activity along the line requires mutual consent.

The Durand Line, which runs through the historic tribal belt dividing ethnic Pashtun communities, has remained a source of deep political tension for decades.

## ‘European troika’s statement lacks sincerity’

Baqaei dismissed a recent joint statement by the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal—Britain, France, and Germany—as lacking sincerity and originality, accusing them of repeating outdated and politicized positions.

He said the statement merely reiterated “stereotypical and irrelevant” claims that have been raised on multiple occasions.

“The document contains repetitive and baseless assertions. Some points are irrelevant, and the rest show no sign of goodwill or honesty,” Baqaei remarked.

He noted that Europe’s repeated emphasis on preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons was misplaced, since Iran neither seeks nor possesses such arms.

“Ironically, while these countries claim to support diplomacy, it was their misuse of the JCPOA’s snapback mechanism that stalled the diplomatic process and created the current deadlock,” he said.

Baqaei stressed that if the European states want to be regarded as credible negotiating partners, they must demonstrate independence, seriousness, and genuine diplomatic capacity.

“Europe must show that it has the will and decision-making authority to act responsibly—both before global public opinion and world governments,” he said.

## ‘U.S. has a record of aggression, not dialogue’

Commenting on remarks by

the U.S. President Donald Trump, who once again spoke of potential cooperation with Iran during his visit to the occupied territories, Baqaei said Tehran’s experience with Washington has been overwhelmingly negative.

“For decades, and especially in recent months, we have witnessed acts of aggression by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran,” he stated.

He emphasized that Iran will approach any future engagement with caution and pragmatism.

“With eyes wide open and based on national interests, the Islamic Republic will decide when and with whom to engage in diplomacy, if such dialogue truly serves the country’s interests,” Baqaei concluded.

## ‘Nobel Peace Prize reflected political bias’

Reacting to the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to an opposition figure in Venezuela, Baqaei said the decision reflected “political bias rather than genuine support for peace.”

“At this rate, even Netanyahu could be next year’s laureate,” he said.

The Nobel committee on Friday awarded the 58-year-old Machado, a Venezuelan politician notorious for advocating American and Israeli military intervention in her country, the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her “tireless work promoting democratic rights.”

The country’s Supreme Court upheld a 15-year ban against her, citing her direct support for US sanctions, involvement in large-scale corruption, and responsibility for massive financial losses suffered by Venezuela’s foreign assets — including the US-based oil refiner CITGO and the Colombia-based chemicals firm Monómeros.

## ‘Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan deepen regional cooperation’

Baqaei said Monday’s meeting between Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan reflects the three countries’ commitment to strengthening regional security, transportation, and trade ties.

## Iran to compete at Dubai’s football tournament

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will compete in a four-team tournament during the FIFA International Window in mid-November.

Featuring Iran, Egypt, Uzbekistan, and Cape Verde, the event promises a concise yet meaningful test ahead of the 2026 World Cup cycle. Iran open against Cape Verde on Nov. 13, with the winners meeting in the final and the losing sides clashing for third place.

Beyond results, the tournament is framed as an essential opportunity to build international experience, experiment with tactical setups, and strengthen collective cohesion on the global stage.

The competition follows recent regional fixtures, including Iran’s 2-1 setback to Russia and an upcoming clash with Tanzania in Dubai, underscoring the team’s ongoing preparation and adjustment period.

By pitting diverse styles from Africa and Central Asia against Europe’s and Africa’s rising teams, the Dubai event serves as a valuable stress test for depth, versatility, and resilience.

Coaches will likely use this short window to assess emerging talents, integrate new tactics, and refine rotation plans while preserving core fitness and momentum. As a crucible for development, the Dubai tournament aims to sharpen Iran’s readiness and confidence ahead of more rigorous World Cup qualifiers, where every point counts.

## Iran’s Jafari snatches silver at 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championship

TEHRAN – Amir Jafari Arangeh of Iran claimed a silver medal at the 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championship underway in Cairo, Egypt on Monday.

He finished in second place at the in the men’s up to 72kg category with a 581kg total lift.

Malaysian powerlifter Bonnie Gustin defended the title for the third time and took his fourth gold medal. He finished in first place with 672kg.

The bronze medal went to English powerlifter Mark Swan, lifting 427kg.

Athletes from 70 nations have begun the quest for medals and LA28 qualification as Egypt hosts the first edition of the Para Powerlifting Worlds.

## Iran match will help us to improve, Tanzania coach Seleman says

TEHRAN – The Tanzania national football team, Taifa Stars, has departed for Dubai ahead of their international friendly match against Iran, scheduled for October 14, as part of the official FIFA international calendar.

Speaking before the team’s departure, head coach Hemed “Morocco” Seleman described the friendly as a vital test for his side, emphasizing its importance in rebuilding confidence and improving overall team performance ahead of upcoming competitions.

“It is true that we have not done well in the two World Cup qualifying matches against Niger and Zambia, which we lost, including one at home,” said Morocco. “But that cannot discourage us. We must look ahead, especially with AFCON 2027 on the horizon. This match will help us assess our squad, raise our standards, and start preparing early.”

The Taifa Stars have endured a challenging run in recent fixtures, having failed to secure a win in their last three World Cup qualifying games. The team drew 1-1 against Congo Brazzaville, suffered a 1-0 loss to Niger, and were

again defeated 1-0 by Zambia earlier this week.

Those results effectively ended Tanzania’s hopes of advancing to the World Cup play-offs, as they currently sit third in Group E with 10 points. Despite this setback, Morocco remains optimistic that the upcoming friendly against Iran will serve as a turning point for his side.

The coach also stressed the need for tactical discipline and mental resilience as the team looks to restore its competitive edge on the continental stage.

The international friendly in Dubai is expected to provide the technical bench an opportunity to evaluate new players and strengthen team chemistry ahead of future qualifiers and tournaments.

## Serge Aurier allowed to play for Persepolis

TEHRAN– Ivory Coast defender Serge Aurier can finally play for Persepolis after recovering from his injury.

After Ayoub El Amloud parted ways with Persepolis at the end of last season, the Iranian club hired Aurier as Moroccan defender’s replacement in the summer window.

The former Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain defender joined Persepolis after being approved by the coaching staff but was diagnosed with hepatitis B.

An initial test indicated that Serge Aurier is not allowed to play for the club.

Now, after his recovery, his ITC card has been issued and with medical staff confirming his recovery from the injury, he will be available for selection.

## AFC countdown to Asia’s best international player

TEHRAN – The Asian Football Confederation names Iran’s Mehdi Taremi among Asia’s global football talents.

With two days remaining until the 2025 AFC Annual Awards, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has highlighted Iran national team striker Mehdi Taremi as one of Asia’s outstanding global football icons.

Taremi is among the three final nominees for the AFC’s Best International Player of the Year, alongside Lee Kang-in of South Korea and Takefusa Kubo of Japan.

On its official website, the Confederation described the trio as “three top talents, one prestigious crown — who will be named Asia’s best international player?”

Mehdi Taremi currently plays as a striker Greek side for Olympiacos FC.

Lee Kang-in is an attacking midfielder or winger for Ligue 1 club Paris Saint-Germain and the South Korea national team.

Kubo plays as a right winger for La Liga club Real Sociedad and the Japan national team.

## Iran to participate in three-team tournament

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s football team will take part in a three-team football tournament in Shillong, India.

The event will be held from October 24 to 27 in the Indian city.

Team Melli Banovan will face Nepal on October 24 and meet India three days later.

Iran ranks 70th in the FIFA Women’s World Ranking, while India and Nepal are 63rd and 89th, respectively.

Iran prepares for the 2026 AFC Women’s Asian Cup, where it has been drawn in Group A along with host Australia, South Korea and the Philippines.

The competition will be held in Australia from March 1 to 21.

## A bridge of shared values: Indonesia’s Ani Nigeriawati on deepening ties with Iran

From Page 1 ▶ Below is the full text of the interview:

**In multilateral forums such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation or the Non-Aligned Movement, what role can cultural and public diplomacy play in advancing shared goals of Iran and Indonesia?**

Cultural and public diplomacy can play significant roles to advance shared goals between two (or more) member states in multilateral forums. Indonesia and Iran are both active Members States of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), established in Bandung, 1955, and also Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) since its inception in 1969. These two forums share huge resemblance in adhering to the principle of safeguarding and protecting the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony.

One of the interests include promoting cooperation in social, cultural, and information fields among the Member States, in accordance to the OIC Charter. Within the social and cultural cooperation framework, the OIC Resolution No. 11/51-C on Promotion of Cooperation Among OIC Member States in the Cultural Domain and Supporting Cinematographic Production has been adopted at the 51st Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC (Istanbul, June 2025).

In line with this, Indonesia conducted the Arts Lumiere Indonesia Festival: Muslim World Movie Screening 2025, a movie festival with a theme of “Stories of Peace,” in which Iran took huge part of collaboration through their participation of 15 movies portraying Islamic values of peace, humanity, women and youth, local traditions, and tolerance.

**What opportunities exist for joint initiatives in higher education, academic exchange, and scientific cooperation between Iranian and Indonesian universities?**

Opportunities for joint initiatives between Iranian and Indonesian universities are abundant and growing, supported by various government and university-level commitments from both countries.

The Ministries of Higher Education and Science of both Iran and Indonesia actively promote bilateral ties in higher education, focusing on benefits from potential collaborative partnerships to conduct joint research projects in the fields of industry, medical equipment, vaccines, artificial intelligence (AI), and biotechnology.

There is also strong enthusiasm for student and faculty exchange programs to deepen academic ties as well as enhance cultural understanding between the people. Indonesian universities, such as Universitas Brawijaya and UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, already have formal partnerships with Iranian institutions to expand exchange opportunities and joint academic ventures. We also have hundreds of Indonesian students pursuing studies in Iran across various disciplines such as social sciences, humanities, and medical sciences.

Particularly in health and medical sciences, Sister University Collaboration MoUs were signed between Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) and the Health Polytechnics Indonesia in Pontianak, Sorong, Surabaya, and Yogyakarta, coinciding with the Indonesian Ministry of Health delegation’s visit to Tehran in January 2024.

On scientific cooperation, since the estab-



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lishment of MoU on science and technology, the two countries have formed a Joint Science and Technology Committee that coordinates activities such as symposiums, mobility programs for researchers, and academic networking. Both countries are committed to exploring and advancing cooperation in cutting-edge fields such as nanotechnology, bioengineering, stem cell research, and cognitive sciences, reflecting our shared dedication to scientific progress and mutual development.

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



## The invisible war: Baseless accusations as a weapon against Iran's economy



From Page 1 ▶ This malicious strategy was starkly illustrated in a recent incident involving the Sultanate of Oman. On October 1, certain Omani media outlets began circulating a grotesquely baseless speculation: that the deaths of two people in Oman were caused by consuming Iranian mineral water. The story spread with the velocity of digital wildfire, threatening immediate damage to a key export sector.

The Iranian government responded with swift and firm diplomacy. The Omani chargé d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Abdul-Rasoul Shabibi, head of the Second Persian Gulf Department, lodged an official protest. He rightly pointed out the profound inappropriateness of the media's actions, revealing that reliable information confirmed the deaths were the result of a criminal family matter motivated by revenge—a tragedy that had absolutely no connection to Iranian drinking water. To use such a personal tragedy as a pretext to tarnish the brand of an entire nation's exports is not only unethical but also a blatant disregard for the long-standing, friendly relations between the two countries. The incident serves as a perfect case study in how a local, non-related event can be weaponized to inflict maximum economic damage.

This was not an isolated case. Just two months prior, in early August, the international magazine The Economist launched its own salvo in this invisible war. In a deeply biased article, it framed Iran's legal and routine exports of fruits and vegetables to the UAE as "smuggling." The publication went further, absurdly blaming the Iranian government for the UAE's own domestic agricultural challenges and alleging that Iran repackages food exports to circumvent sanctions—a practice that, even if proven true, is neither illegal nor unethical when a nation of 90 million people is fighting for its economic survival against an unjust regime of collective punishment.

Analysts correctly view this as a coordinated effort to stifle Iran's hard-won revenue streams. Having adapted to heavy sanctions

on its oil sector, Iran's success in boosting non-oil exports is a significant achievement. The language used—labeling wholesome produce as "forbidden" and their trade as "corrupting"—is deliberately chosen to create a health and moral panic where none exists. The reaction inside Iran, a mix of raw anger and bitter laughter, was a natural response to such transparent propaganda.

The campaign, however, did not stop there. A week later, a Western-funded Persian-language broadcaster platformed The Economist's report, amplifying the false narrative to a direct audience. In a now-viral clip, the anchor escalated the rhetoric, outrageously claiming that Iran's agricultural exports "threaten regional food security" and openly discussing how to "disrupt" this legitimate trade. This transition from biased reporting to an open call for economic interference reveals the true intent: to justify further actions against Iran's economy under a fabricated pretext.

Together, these episodes form a disturbing pattern. The baseless mineral water scare in Oman and the fabricated narrative around "forbidden" fruits in the UAE are two facets of the same weapon: misinformation. The goal is to create a cloud of suspicion over every Iranian product that crosses a border, to frighten consumers, and to pressure regional partners. It is an attempt to achieve through slander what other methods have failed to accomplish: the economic isolation of Iran.

In condemning these actions, it is crucial to recognize them for what they are—not mere media inaccuracies, but acts of economic warfare. The resilience of the Iranian people and the quality of their products are undeniable. The international community, and particularly Iran's regional neighbors, must see through this transparent campaign and reject the poison of baseless accusations. The path to prosperity and regional stability is built on cooperation and fair trade, not on lies designed to destroy a nation's economic livelihood.

## Capacity of power plants built by industrial sector reaches 2,800 MW

TEHRAN – The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said the total capacity of thermal power plants developed under its supervision reached 2,800 megawatts (MW) by late September.

According to IMIDRO, the expansion of power generation capacity in the industrial sector continues under Article 4 of the law on removing barriers to the electricity industry, with several new units coming online in recent months.

In the first half of the current Iranian year (March–September), new operational units included the first 183-MW gas unit of Kaveh South Kish Steel's power plant, the second 183-MW gas unit of Almahdi Aluminum, the 183-MW plant of Negin Makran Petrochemical developed by South Aluminum Corpora-



tion, and the first 25-MW gas unit of Bafgh Iron and Steel's power plant.

Together, these newly commissioned units added 574 MW to the country's industrial power generation capacity in the first six months of the year, bringing the cumulative total for mining and industrial power plants to 2,800 MW.

## 50,000 tons of farmed shrimp to be produced in Iran by late Mar. 2026

TEHRAN – Iran expects to produce between 45,000 and 50,000 tons of farmed shrimp this year (ends in late March 2026), up from 40,000 tons in the previous year, according to the Fisheries Organization of Iran.

Mehrdad Mohammadi-Doust, director general of the office for shrimp and marine aquatics at the organization, said Hor-

mozgan province remains the leading region in shrimp farming.

He noted that a total of 16,106 hectares of shrimp farms have been cultivated across five coastal provinces this year.

Harvesting has already begun and will continue through early December.

# INSTC seen as a path to greater regional integration, Iran's transport minister says

From Page 1 ▶ She expressed confidence that the outcomes of the meeting would serve as a roadmap for enhancing transport and energy linkages across the region.

Sadegh underlined the importance of both hardware and software infrastructure development within the INSTC framework, stressing that sustained cooperation was essential to realizing the corridor's full potential.

Referring to the joint target set in the first Baku trilateral statement, she said the three nations should work toward achieving 15 million tons of cargo transit through the corridor by 2030.

To reach that goal, she pro-



posed drafting an action plan within the next three months to be signed by the leaders of Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia at their next summit.

On infrastructure progress, the minister noted that con-

struction of the 160-kilometer Rasht–Astara railway is underway with Russian support. About half of the required land has been cleared, and the remaining section will be handed over to the Russian contractor by the end of

this year.

Sadegh added that under a bilateral agreement with Azerbaijan, full operation of the Astara rail terminal is expected by the end of 2025.

She also pointed to the ongoing expansion of the 107-kilometer Jolfa–Kalaleh road and the construction of the new Kalaleh–Aghband border bridge, which is set to be completed by the end of this year.

Reducing congestion and delays at border crossings is another key priority, Sadegh said, noting that boosting border capacity and streamlining procedures will bring the three countries closer to their shared transport and trade targets.

## Iran, Switzerland private sectors seek deeper cooperation in non-sanctioned fields



TEHRAN – Iran and Switzerland's private sectors are calling for stronger collaboration in non-sanctioned industries, emphasizing the key role of private enterprises in shaping future economic ties between the two countries.

In a meeting with Olivier Bangerter, Switzerland's new ambassador to Iran, Samad Hassanzadeh, head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said the two nations can expand partnerships across several industrial areas, particularly where sanctions do not apply.

Hassanzadeh noted that Iran's free trade zones offer attractive investment opportunities for Swiss companies. "Iran's economic and industrial capacity enables cooperation not only in economic fields but also in cultural, academic, and social domains," he said.

Despite sanctions, Iran has made notable progress in advanced technology, knowledge-based industries, petrochemicals, polymers, and medical manufacturing, Hassanzadeh added, underscoring that both sides should identify mutual capacities and

facilitate business interactions between their private sectors.

The ICCIMA chief invited Swiss delegations to attend upcoming Iranian trade and industry exhibitions, highlighting potential cooperation in water treatment, recycling technologies, and downstream copper industries, where Swiss expertise is well recognized. He said Iran's abundant mineral resources, including precious metals and decorative stones, could open new avenues for Swiss investment.

Hassanzadeh also expressed Iran's willingness to cooperate with Switzerland in social responsibility and humanitarian projects, including joint investment in hospitals and medical centers. He emphasized that sanctions should not hinder academic and economic exchanges. "The private sectors of both countries can play a pivotal role in shaping balanced economic relations and strengthening cooperation in all fields," he said.

**Switzerland invited to train Iranian digital economy experts**

## Completing value chain, main axes of development: NPC head

TEHRAN– The managing director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said: "Completing the value chain and focusing on small-scale industries with limited water requirements are the main axes of development in this industry, and currently, several gas and industrial companies in the south of Fars province are investing."

Hassan Abbaszadeh said on Sunday at the opening ceremony of the Shiraz Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Exhibition, referring to the industrial history of Fars province: "This province is the birthplace of the country's petrochemical industry, and about 60 years ago, Iran's first petrochemical unit began its operations in this region."

He announced the utilization of Fars province's gas capacity to supply the feedstock required by the petrochemical industry and added: "Shiraz Petrochemical is one of the first complexes that played an effective role in the development of the petrochemical industry and today, by producing diverse products, it has maintained its leading position."

In late August, the official said that lack of technical know-how, stable feedstock, investment, execution experience, and a suitable business environment are among

the main obstacles to completing the petrochemical value chain.

Abbaszadeh told the third Iranian Petrochemical Value Chain Conference that the seventh five-year development plan emphasizes targeted expansion of value chains.

He said NPC aims to raise the industry's installed capacity from 96.6 million tons to 131 million tons by the end of the plan (2027), while setting quantitative targets for each chain.

The sector produced around 75 million tons in 2024, with sales of 42.3 million tons worth about \$23.8 billion in domestic and export markets, he said.

Utilization of nominal capacity stood at 78 percent, with about 22 million tons idle capacity linked mainly to unstable feedstock supply, representing nearly \$17 billion in sunk investment.

Abbaszadeh stressed the importance of securing sustainable feedstock, particularly in propylene, which accounts for around 70 percent of input for value chain projects. He warned against channeling all propylene into polypropylene production, noting sufficient supply will soon exist and urging diversification into other chains.

He highlighted the need to

adopt global technical standards, citing tougher regulations on plastics, and said careful selection of licensed technologies was essential to avoid marketing problems.

Abbaszadeh also pointed to limited execution experience and investor reluctance to enter value chain projects, saying real private-sector companies willing to take risks were better suited.

He underscored the importance of market studies, noting that specialty products face tougher sales challenges than bulk petrochemicals.

He added that Iran's business environment has not fully adapted to value chain projects, although regulatory changes such as a tiered feedstock discount mechanism have begun to improve conditions for investors.

The official had previously hailed the petrochemical sector's exponential growth as a key achievement in the oil industry's value chain, emphasizing its role in curbing crude sales.

Abbaszadeh had described the downstream expansion of the petrochemical industry over the past 46 years as the most significant accomplishment in the oil sector's value chain.

Highlighting the significance

Isa Mansouri, head of the ICCIMA Research Center, said Switzerland could serve as a vital bridge between Iran and Western economies, extending its traditional diplomatic role into trade and investment.

He added that as the EU diversifies its raw material supply chains, Iran could become a strategic link between Asia and Europe, particularly if Switzerland helps facilitate this transition.

Mansouri highlighted Iran's efforts to expand its digital economy, a sector less constrained by sanctions. He said under the Seventh Development Plan, Iran aims to train 500,000 digital economy specialists, with ICCIMA responsible for educating 5,000 advanced experts.

"We are ready to cooperate with Swiss institutions and international agencies to host specialized TOT courses in Iran or Switzerland," he said.

He emphasized that skill-based and technical training faces fewer restrictions and could serve as a long-term investment in bilateral cooperation.

**Swiss envoy vows to boost bilateral trade**

Ambassador Olivier Bangerter said his top priority is to strengthen Iran–Switzerland relations and support Swiss companies operating in Iran. He acknowledged that while trade between the two countries has gradually increased over the past five years, challenges remain in currency access, intellectual property rights, and visa policies, which now grant one-year instead of three-year visas.

"Swiss companies are eager to expand their activities in Iran," Bangerter said, expressing confidence that with continued dialogue, such issues can be resolved.

of this progress, he said: "With all due respect to other segments of the oil industry, petrochemicals represent the true embodiment of the value chain, preventing crude sales and creating added value. While the upstream sector has also seen notable developments, its growth is not comparable to that of petrochemicals."

Despite past advancements, Abbaszadeh believes that insufficient attention has been given to completing the petrochemical value chain. "The next step is to move toward higher value-added products rather than semi-processed outputs," he stated.

He further pointed out that under Iran's Seventh Development Plan, the country's petrochemical capacity is set to rise to 131 million tons annually. "For the first time in a five-year development plan, specific targets have been set for completing value chains, marking a strategic shift in industry policy," he added.

According to Abbaszadeh, the plan aims to complete four major value chains—methanol, propylene, ethylene, and aromatics. He affirmed that NPC's annual programs are aligned with this objective, stressing that the company is fully committed to achieving the plan's targets.



# A Victim of the ‘Banality of Evil’

*Saleh al-Jaafarawi: Who he was, and why Israel silenced his voice in Gaza*

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Hannah Arendt’s phrase “the banality of evil” describes the terrible ordinariness of a system that makes atrocity routine. In Gaza this October, the phrase revealed itself in flesh and blood.

Saleh Al-Jaafrawi — 27, a freelance reporter who had become, in the two-year Israeli genocidal campaign, one of Gaza’s most visible witnesses — was shot dead in Sabra days after a ceasefire.

Reporters say he was wearing a press vest and was killed by members of an Israeli-backed armed militia operating inside Gaza. This is not the roar of a bombardment; this is the soft machinery that keeps criminality functioning when the world briefly looks away.

Saleh’s life was a testimony. He broadcast from bombed neighborhoods and hospitals, filmed children amid blackouts, and translated rubble into names and faces the world could not ignore.

Saleh’s last public words were simple and urgent: gratitude to the millions who protested, helped, and amplified Gaza’s suffering — and a warning: “The military war has ended, but many other struggles will unfold in the coming days.”

Those lines were not elegy but instruction: the fight for truth and memory does not end when the bombs slow. It endures in the quieter battles over who may testify, who may live, and who may be erased.

That erasure is strategic. The



deliberate use of proxy militias or collaborator networks to settle scores, intimidate communities, or silence critics turns cruelty into policy with plausible deniability.

When a regime outsources killing to local proxies, it maintains the appearance of distance while still harvesting the daily dividends: a fractured society, terrorized civilians, and the quiet elimination of inconvenient witnesses.

Israel’s own recent admissions about empowering local actors to weaken Hamas strip away any illusion of disorder. What might once have been dismissed as chaos now reads as a deliberate tactic.

The regime’s systematic targeting of journalists has reached a point where the numbers themselves constitute evidence of intent. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists’ September report, at least 235 reporters and media workers have been killed since October 7, 2023 — the high-

est toll ever recorded against the press in any modern conflict. This figure includes journalists slain not only in Gaza but also in Yemen, Lebanon, and Iran.

In 2024 alone, Israel was responsible for 85 of the 124 journalists killed worldwide, making that year the deadliest in the Committee’s four decades of documentation.

When those who document atrocities are targeted, the archive of evidence withers; impunity finds room to grow.

What followed Saleh’s death was a moral X-ray of the internet age: the complicit silence of the Western commercially-controlled mainstream media echoed alongside dirges and funeral processions, as well as screenshots circulating of Israeli users posting with glee over his murder.

To revel in the killing of a 27-year-old Gazan journalist — visibly marked with “PRESS” and who had already survived two years of Is-

rael’s genocidal campaign — is to revel in the annihilation of witness itself. That spectacle of gloating is not incidental; it exposes a social permission to erase, to distort, and to render the unbearable ordinary.

That public exultation is not incidental; it signals a social license to erase, to distort, to render the unbearable ordinary. Such dehumanization is not an afterthought; it is the prelude and the justification for elimination.

We must treat his murder as more than an isolated tragedy. The legal and moral demand is simple and urgent: independent, international investigations into attacks on journalists; protective measures for reporters and media workers; and scrutiny of a murderous regime that converts a ceasefire into a quieter season of reprisals.

Arendt’s warning was not that evil would always appear flamboyant, but that it would triumph whenever ordinary institutions and people failed to notice, name, and act.

Saleh asked the world to stay with Gaza. His final words were both thanks and instructions. If we believe in truth — and in the proposition that a free press is the first line of defense against forgetfulness — then to honor him is not only to lament; it is to insist: document, investigate, protect, and spread Saleh’s message.

Otherwise, the lull will not be a peace at all, but merely a pause in which memory is buried and the banality of evil resumes its work.

nam War and led to massive civilian casualties; two Nobel Committee members even resigned in protest. This historical case stands as a textbook example of “unconventional peace,” which undermined the prize’s credibility.

Barack Obama is yet another case: his 2009 award was described as an “advance prize” granted for intention and hope rather than achievement. Many deemed it premature, and later, his administration’s record in military and foreign policy drew criticism from those who had expected tangible results. Even by American accounts, his government oversaw the highest number of military operations since George W. Bush — proving that his peaceful rhetoric and real-world actions were profoundly at odds.

Finally, there is Shirin Ebadi, whose selection, many argue, was purely political and an opportunistic use of the “peace” label. Her later positions and defense of aggressive interventions in Iran, critics say, have aligned her more with advocates of confrontation than with true examples of non-violence.

In recent years, the name of Donald Trump has also been floated by various individuals and groups as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize — a proposition that seemed more absurd than serious. A man who should rightly be called the GLOBAL WARMAKER styled himself the “President of Peace.”

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

## The Nobel Peace Prize has lost its meaning

By Minoo Khaleghi

**Jurist and researcher in international relations**

TEHRAN - The Nobel Prize, established under the will of Alfred Nobel in 1901, was meant to be awarded annually to “the person or organization that has done the most or the best work for the benefit of humanity” in relation to peace. Yet from the very beginning, the interpretation of its criteria has rested in the hands of the Norwegian Committee, and its decisions — especially in politically sensitive cases — have repeatedly stirred controversy.

This history shows that the “standard of peace” has never had a clear definition, and that today’s political interpretations of “efforts for peace” have stripped the prize of its original meaning.

From Aung San Suu Kyi to Shirin Ebadi, and now the current laureate Maria Corina Machado (Maria Corina Machado), the list of choices reveals that the criteria have become increasingly political and power-driven. These selections have more often legitimized radical, politicized, and even militaristic actions than celebrated genuine and institutionalized peace.

They are, in truth, those who have sought not peace itself, but peace through war! — and such peace can never hold true meaning.

Indeed, if “peace through war” is to be accepted as meaningful, then there is no longer any

such thing as human or moral peace.

There are countless clear examples of contradiction between the title of “peace” and the deeds of those who have received this prize:

Aung San Suu Kyi, born into a prominent Burmese family, was long recognized in exile and house arrest as a symbol of non-violent resistance and received the Nobel Prize in 1991. Yet after coming to power, her government’s handling of the violence by the military and armed groups in Rakhine State and the Rohingya crisis became the subject of extensive international reports. The UN Fact-Finding Mission (2018) documented widespread human-rights violations and the military’s role in them — a historical stain and a bitter irony for someone once honored as a champion of peace.

Suu Kyi, once the emblem of non-violent struggle, was later condemned for her government’s conduct toward the Rohingya minority and its complicity in state repression. Her record raises a fundamental question: how can the label of “peace” be placed upon a person or government that, in the end, acted weakly — or even in concert — in the face of mass persecution and human-rights violations?

Another example is Henry Kissinger, recipient of the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize, whose selection immediately provoked outrage. Critics held him responsible for policies that prolonged the Viet-

## Concessions, not military force, help free Israeli captives

From page 1 ▶ The movement emphasized that, despite the occupation regime’s attempts to kill its own captives during bombardments, the resistance had taken every measure to keep them alive.

Hamas also declared the release of its “heroic prisoners”, including those serving life sentences, was a result of “the bravery and steadfastness” of Palestinians in Gaza.

“The liberation of our heroic prisoners, especially those serving long or life sentences, is the result of our people’s steadfastness and a pledge kept by the resistance,” Hamas said a statement.

It added, “The cause of the prisoners will remain a top national priority until the last Palestinian captive is freed and the occupation is ended.”

Hamas also condemned the continued mistreatment, torture, and killings of Palestinians held

in Israeli jails.

The Prisoners’ Media Office announced that dozens of buses carrying freed Palestinians from Gaza departed for the Gaza Strip, while other buses arrived in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank.

According to the director of the office, a number of long-term prisoners, some jailed for decades, are among those released. However, 154 freed Palestinians will be forcibly deported by the regime’s authorities.

He added that the occupation regime had attempted to backtrack on the terms of every agreement, but Palestinian resistance groups insisted on the release of specific names included in the deal. “We made improvements to the prisoner lists, especially for those from the Gaza Strip.”

In Khan Younis, southern Gaza, large crowds gathered to welcome the released Pales-

tinians, waving flags of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Similar scenes unfolded in Ramallah, where crowds assembled at the city’s Cultural Palace to receive those freed.

At the same time, Israeli occupation forces sought to prevent public celebrations in al-Quds (Jerusalem) and the West Bank.

Lawyer Siraj Abu Arefa, from the Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Jerusalem, said the regime’s intelligence body summoned the families of Palestinians due for release under the exchange deal, forcing them to sign restrictive conditions.

These conditions included bans on gatherings, public celebrations, or displays of joy. Each freed Palestinian, he said, would be escorted home by the regime’s intelligence vehicles to ensure compliance.

During the wait for Palestinians held in the notorious Ofer Prison west of Ramallah, a young

man was shot and wounded by live Israeli fire.

The WAFA news agency reported that occupation troops stormed the home of Ayman al-Kurd, released under the Gaza ceasefire deal, and assaulted his brother, causing fractures and bruises to his nose and foot. Soldiers also damaged property and warned families of freed prisoners against holding celebrations.

Legal scholars and experts have said that Palestinian prisoners should be regarded as hostages because their imprisonment serves political and coercive purposes rather than justice.

Thousands have been kidnapped by Israeli occupation forces in Gaza and the West Bank without charge or trial under the regime’s system of “administrative detention,” in clear violation of international law.

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

## Lebanon between Gaza truce and fiery messages

An upcoming confrontation or a moment of repositioning!



By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—West Asia is entering a pivotal stage following the ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip brokered by US President Donald Trump. However, what appears to be the end of a bloody phase in the Strip opens the door to a highly sensitive phase for Lebanon.

While Gaza entered into a three-stage truce, Lebanon was hit by a concentrated Israeli airstrike in the Musaylih-Zahrani area, sending a political and military message that was not without direct threats.

Unusually, Lebanon officially moved for the first time to file a complaint with the UN Security Council, considering the bombing a flagrant violation of Resolution 1701.

This sudden move, although belated, carries two implications: first, a belated realization of the seriousness of the coming phase, and second, an attempt to reassert the state’s sovereign role in the face of field developments led by Israel and blessed by Washington.

The Israeli colonial entity, for its part, did not wait long after the Gaza truce. It used warplanes, not drones, confirming its desire to raise the threat level and gradually change the rules of engagement.

According to some observers, what happened in Gaza does not mean the end of the battle, but rather preparation for the next confrontation, namely Lebanon.

Here, a dangerous paradox emerges: the closer Israel gets to a truce with one party, the more it turns its gun on a new party.

Even more worrying is the convergence of the American and Israeli visions regarding Lebanon.

Although Trump seeks to portray himself as a peacemaker, he implicitly supports a “controlled” escalation against Hezbollah, as part of a broader strategy to undermine Iran’s clout in Lebanon.

This convergence may give Israel broad leeway in southern Lebanon, especially with the White House focused on other international issues and the weak international sympathy with Beirut.

On the other hand, Hezbollah is not standing idly by; the recent Imam Mahdi Scouts’ massive

event was not merely a cultural activity, but rather a message of internal and organizational strength, confirming that Hezbollah remains present in the streets and capable of conducting activities despite pressure, sanctions, and the blockade. The clearest message was: anyone who thinks Hezbollah is finished should reconsider their calculations.

Indeed, it appeared as if it were announcing the beginning of a new phase of recovery and preparation, not only for a response, but also for a domestic political and security repositioning.

The simultaneous Iranian and Saudi moves in Lebanon open the door to contradictory scenarios.

Tehran, through its security leadership, is sending signals to regulate Hezbollah’s relationship with the state and affirming its commitment to its alliance with Nabih Berri, the Parliament speaker.

Riyadh, in turn, is encouraging openness on the Lebanese issue, as demonstrated by the Syrian foreign minister’s visit to Beirut.

These moves suggest that regional parties still view Lebanon as a vital arena for manoeuvring, but without a clear vision.

Meanwhile, Lebanon faces two difficult choices: either engage in a conditional—and potentially costly—regional settlement project, or prepare for a military confrontation that could erupt at any moment, under the pretext of deterring Hezbollah.

In both cases, the Lebanese government faces an existential test. Action in the Security Council is a step, but it is not enough.

What is required is a national plan to reinforce unity at home, regulate the relationship between the government and the resistance, and prevent any internal or external party from monopolizing Lebanese decision-making.

Lebanon is no longer a neutral zone; it is now at the heart of the conflict, albeit undeclared!

Indisputably, the post-Gaza phase is not peace, but a moment of transition. Lebanon now stands between two fires: the fire of Israeli escalation and the fire of narrow domestic choices. The next phase will be pivotal in determining the country’s direction for decades to come.

## Hamas asserts control in Gaza

Hamas is reasserting control of parts of Gaza not occupied by Israeli forces as the ceasefire takes hold – amid continuing uncertainty about security in the territory if the group is disarmed.

Hamas’ internal security forces were pictured on the streets of Gaza City on Saturday, and there have been multiple reports of clashes between the group and clans opposing it in recent days.

“A number of collaborators and informants were apprehended and arrested in Gaza City, after it was proven that they were involved in spying for the enemy,” as well as “participating in the assassination of several resistance members,” the Palestinian Home Front, a Telegram channel affiliated with Hamas, said Sunday.

“The security services and the resistance are conducting a wide-scale field campaign across all areas of the Gaza Strip, from north to south, to locate and arrest collaborators and informants,” it said.

A video distributed by Hamas-affiliated Telegram channels on Saturday showed an alleged collaborator being beaten in an unknown location.

Other social media videos showed armed and masked Hamas personnel walking through a street market in Gaza City, and the Hamas-run interior ministry shared images of officers with rifles and baseball caps that read “police” in Gaza City interacting with locals.

The Hamas-controlled interior ministry has declared a week-long amnesty to begin Monday for members of criminal gangs “not involved in bloodshed or killings.”

But Hamas’ control of Gaza has been challenged by several clans in recent months, especially in the south. Some of those groups have received protection from the Israeli military.

Social media channels affiliated with Hamas reported clashes in the Sabra area of Gaza City between a prominent family and security forces during which Muhammad Imad Aql, the son of a senior Hamas military commander, was killed.

Hamas forces surrounded the Dughmush family’s neighborhood on Friday night. Sources told CNN that several members of the family had been killed, and a large number of masked, armed men had been deployed around the Jordanian hospital in Gaza City.



## Golestan Palace implements smart water and solar energy management plans

TEHRAN — Golestan Palace, one of Tehran's oldest and most historically significant palace complexes, is taking major steps toward sustainable resource management by introducing smart irrigation and exploring solar energy use.

On Monday, the director of the Golestan Palace World Heritage site announced the launch of an intelligent irrigation system designed to protect the palace's valuable green spaces and ancient trees while optimizing water consumption.

"This smart irrigation system will effectively manage water use and safeguard the plants within the complex," the director said.

"It is specifically designed to provide sufficient water for the gardens, especially the centuries-old trees, while achieving significant water savings."

In addition to water management, Golestan Palace has begun a study to assess the feasibility of utilizing solar energy to supply electricity to parts of the palace complex. This initiative is part of a broader effort to



optimize energy consumption in the palace complex, which is Tehran's sole UNESCO site.

Located in the historic center of the Iranian capital, the initial scheme of Golestan Palace was originally formed during the Safavid dynasty (1501–1736). The palace's most distinctive features date from the 19th century when it served as the royal residence of the Qajar dynasty (1789–1925). Today, the complex includes eight main palace buildings, mainly used as museums, surrounded by gardens and outer walls.

## Panel of Haft-Rang Gol-o Morgh tilework unveiled at Shiraz Expo



TEHRAN – A panel of Haft-Rang Gol-o Morgh tilework, showcasing the unique artistic heritage of Shiraz, was officially unveiled at the Shiraz Expo 2025, which runs from October 12 to 15 at the permanent International Exhibition Center in the southern Iranian city.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Hojjatollah Ayyoubi, who is a senior advisor to the tourism minister, and presides over the international office of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, along with Behzad Moridi, director-general of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts of Fars province, and a number of local artisans.

The artwork reflects the distinctive Shiraz school of tilework, emphasizing the iconic

Gol-o Morgh (Flower and Bird) motif, a traditional Persian painting style where the flower represents the beloved and the bird the lover. The design incorporates perspective lines and spiral twists, with delicately elongated birds rendered in a limited yet innovative palette of gold, silver, and lapis lazuli.

According to sources, this novel use of colors is a world first and symbolizes the creativity and authenticity of Shiraz's tile-making art.

Haft-Rang (seven-colored) tilework, a historic Persian technique dating back to the Ilkhanate era, is renowned for its intricate glazing methods that keep colors distinct through special ink lines. While traditionally featuring seven colors, Shiraz tiles are noted for their superior glaze quality and unique chemical composition, distinguishing them from other regional styles.

The Shiraz Expo 2025 is aimed to highlight the economic, industrial, cultural, and technological capabilities of Fars province. Hosting over 500 booths across 20,000 square meters, the four-day event features manufacturing, technology, handicrafts, investment projects, and agricultural products.

## Gathering of classic cars held in Tabriz in memory of Master Shahriar

TEHRAN-- A large event of historic and classic Mercedes-Benz cars was held in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan province, with the aim of honoring the literary and cultural status of contemporary Persian poet Mohammad Hossein Behjat Tabrizi (Shahriar) with the presence of historic car enthusiasts, tourists and families.

According to Miras-e Arya (CHTN), this cultural-automotive event was organized by the East Azarbaijan Automobile and Tourism Vehicle Department and in cooperation with the Province's Historic Vehicle Association in the parking lot of the Ranik Automobile Complex in Tabriz.

A total of 60 classic Mercedes-Benz cars were put on display in this event. Cars, each with a unique design, original paintwork, and unparalleled technical originality, attracted the admiring gaze of visitors.

The enthusiastic presence of people, fami-

lies, and enthusiasts of old and nostalgic cars gave a special touch to the atmosphere of the event and was widely reflected in local media and social networks.

This program was held with the aim of preserving the country's cultural and automotive heritage, promoting the culture of maintaining and restoring historic vehicles, and strengthening the automotive tourism. It was also an excuse to remember the cultural and artistic position of Master Shahriar, the national poet of Iran and a symbol of Azarbaijani identity and literature.

Organizing such programs by the East Azarbaijan Historic Vehicles and Automobile Association is carried out within the framework of the missions of Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) in developing thematic tourism, promoting safe and family travel, and linking culture, art, and history with the tourism industry.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Ngorongoro Conservation Area

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area spans vast expanses of highland plains, savanna, savanna woodlands and forests.

The UNESCO-designated property embraces highland plains, savanna, savanna woodlands and forests, from the plains of the Serengeti National Park in the north-west, to the eastern arm of the Great Rift Valley.

The area was established in 1959 as a

multiple land use area, with wildlife coexisting with semi-nomadic Maasai pastoralists practising traditional livestock grazing. It includes the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest caldera, and Olduvai Gorge, a 14km long deep ravine. The property has global importance for biodiversity conservation in view of the presence of globally threatened species such as the black Rhino, the density of wildlife inhabiting the Ngoron-

# Promoting a 'safe and beautiful Iran' is key to tourism development: minister

TEHRAN — Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, underscored the importance of presenting an accurate and positive image of Iran on the international stage as the first step toward developing the country's tourism industry.

Speaking at a gathering of tourism managers and officials on Monday, he said that Iran is one of the most secure nations, but sometimes the Western media portray a false image of Iran, Miras-e Arya (CHTN) reported.

"We must always highlight the term 'safe Iran' so that the reality of our country is accurately reflected."

He emphasized the necessity of developing a desirable tourism governance model, and said: "We must plan for the future of this industry with a long-term perspective."

"We need a favorable tourism governance model that can determine the direction of the industry's development for at least the next 20 years."

This model should be designed by utilizing the capacity of elites and experts in various fields so that the role of tourism as one of the pillars of the country's cultural economy can be further strengthened on the path to realizing the smart governance, he added.



Pointing to the valuable experiences of Deputy Tourism Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpei, he said: "Mr. Mohseni Bandpei is a capable manager familiar with the country's administrative system, and has a successful management record. I am sure that with his presence, the future of Tourism Department will be brighter and promising."

Pointing to the formation of tourism content production movement across the province, he said that fortunately, the process of producing targeted content in the field of tourism has begun in 31 provinces of the country.

The first joint product between media and artistic activists has also been completed, and its results are promising, he said, adding that coordination between provincial public relations and

Tourism Department must be strengthened so that the flow of information can be more coherent and professional.

Referring to the international conditions and the need for scenario planning in the field of tourism, he said: "In the current situation, we must examine different scenarios and have a specific version for each one. This measure guarantees the sustainability and readiness of the tourism industry in any situation."

He also explained the priorities for attracting foreign tourists: "Our four main axes include the neighboring countries, Central Asia and the Caucasus, the Persian Gulf countries, and densely populated Muslim countries. These regions have special geopolitical and cultural importance for Iran."

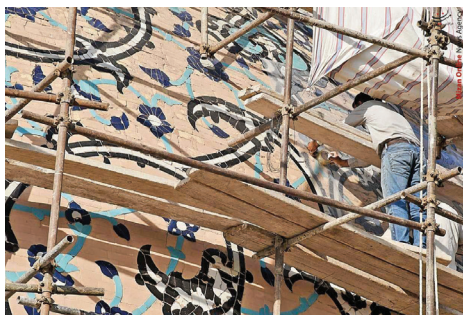
Emphasizing the need to pay attention to the quality of tourism services, Salehi Amiri noted: "We must move away from quantity and think about the quality of travel. Supervision of accommodation centers, hotels, and tourism services must be strengthened. Also, the government's transition from ownership to handing over affairs to a capable private sector is our main approach."

Referring to the role of Iranians abroad in tourism development, he added that Iranians living abroad have the greatest capacity to introduce and promote the country's culture and attractions.

The ground must be provided for building trust and facilitating their travel to the homeland in order to strengthen their cultural and economic ties with the country, he added.

In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of paying attention to the ministry's human resources and said: "Our three main strategies for employees include improving their status, improving their livelihoods, and strengthening job security. These three axes are seriously on the ministry's agenda, and their realization is one of our management priorities."

## Restoration school launched in Tehran



TEHRAN – A restoration school has been launched at Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, aimed at exploring material science and introducing modern analytical techniques related to cultural heritage conservation.

During the opening ceremony held on Sunday, Reza Rahmani, head of a satellite institute for the protection and restoration of cultural and historical works, emphasized the critical role of specialized training in revitaliz-

ing the country's immense cultural heritage.

"Our mission is founded on advancing professional education and transferring practical knowledge. We aim to build a bridge between theoretical understanding and hands-on experience, establishing practical training as the lifeblood of cultural heritage preservation," Rahmani said.

Highlighting the institute's accumulated expertise, Rahmani described cultural heritage as "the beating heart of national identity," with applied education acting as the lifeblood sustaining its vitality. He also expressed readiness to collaborate with universities and scientific centers to organize more focused and skill-oriented courses, ensuring a sustainable link between academic learning and practical capabilities.

Farmaz Rostami-Cherati, executive director of the restoration school, outlined the program's focus on "material science exploration and familiarity with modern analyses relevant to cultural heritage." The curriculum

introduces specialists to the latest scientific technologies for analyzing materials, compounds, and advanced analytical methods.

Key topics include the role of scientific tools in environmental management and museum artifact studies, laboratory techniques for maintaining optimal conservation conditions, and material identification of historical objects, Rostami-Cherati explained.

He added that innovative analysis methods such as X-ray diffraction (XRD) and X-ray fluorescence (XRF), applications of biological and genetic sciences in archaeometry, as well as advancements in protective materials and gemology, are among the core subjects.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots, such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 29 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## Excavations underway at Ardabil's ancient site



TEHRAN—Excavations are underway at Qeshlaq Tappaci site in Ardabil province with the goal to compile the cultural characteristics of the Neolithic era in the northwestern Iranian region, as well as to present the time period of these cultures within the framework of Iranian archaeological chronology.

According to Miras-e Arya (CHTN), Ghader Ebrahimi, head of the archaeology team, said that the east of Azarbaijan region is considered one of the unknown, anonymous, and abandoned regions in archaeology in the field of archaeological studies pertaining to the prehistoric Iran.

Despite the high environmental capacities and capabilities of this region, few studies that have been conducted which have not yet been able to properly explain the prehistoric cultural frameworks of this region, he added.

He emphasized that although the excavation in this began with excavations of French archaeologist Jean-Jacques de Morgan in the unique cemeteries of this region at the same time as the beginning of archaeological excavations in ancient Susa, a specific cultural sequence framework has not yet been developed in Iranian archaeology for this region.

The excavation of the Qeshlaq Tappaci site is an attempt to fill part of the gap in the studies of this region during the New Neolithic period, he added.

Ebrahimi stated that this site is one of the few sites belonging to the Neolithic period in Ardabil province, adding: "Qeshlaq Tappaci is a small settlement belonging to the New Neolithic period that was formed on a completely natural hill."

Unfortunately, in recent years,

due to the widening of the Bile Savar transit road, more than half of this site has been completely destroyed by road construction equipment, and today only a small part of the Neolithic settlement in the western corner of the site remains., he added.

Ardabil province, situated in northwest Iran with a population of 1.28 million and comprising 12 counties, is considered a significant destination for domestic and international tourists due to its natural, historical, religious,

and economic attractions.

Ardabil, the provincial capital, has been selected as the 2023 ECO Tourism Capital by the Economic Cooperation Organization. Situated on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well known for its abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble. It is freezing in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year.

(Source: UNESCO)

dynamics, collectively extending over a span of almost four million years to the early modern era. This evidence includes fossilized footprints at Laetoli, associated with the development of human bipedalism, a sequence of diverse, evolving hominin species within Olduvai gorge, which range from Australopithecus such as Zinjanthropus boisei to the Homo lineage that includes Homo habilis, Homo erectus and Homo sapiens; an early

form of Homo sapiens at Lake Ndutu; and, in the Ngorongoro crater, remains that document the development of stone technology and the transition to the use of iron. The overall landscape of the area is seen to have the potential to reveal much more evidence concerning the rise of anatomically modern humans, modern behavior and human ecology.



# UNICEF, WHO support vaccination programs in Iran

TEHRAN – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have supported the health ministry in procuring needed vaccinations and will help introduce new vaccines into the national immunization program.

One of UNICEF's top priorities is to support the country in adding new vaccines to the immunization program to protect children against more diseases and reduce their mortality, ISNA quoted Mohammad Eslami, an official with UNICEF, as saying.

He made the remarks on Sunday, while addressing a workshop on immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases in Kerman province, ISNA reported.

Despite sanctions, UNICEF is doing its utmost to provide the vaccines needed and to assist the Ministry of Health to ensure that no child is left behind, the official added.

Highlighting the importance of cold chain systems, Eslami said the main objective is to provide cold chain equipment to preserve the potency of the vaccines.

Currently, the cold chain conditions in the country are good, and the Ministry of Health, with the support of UNICEF, is providing new, standard cold storage facilities to install in areas without out cold chain system.

UNICEF has also provided 17 standard refrigerated vehicles for transporting vaccines, at a safe temperature range, to different parts of the country, he added.

The official went on to say that families and children should learn about the key role of vaccination in preventing life-threatening diseases. Therefore, teaching target groups is among UNICEF's main activities that will be implemented this year, Eslami



further noted.

For his turn, Omid Zamani, an official with the WHO, lauded the country's achievements in immunization programs and said vaccine coverage in Iran is around 97 percent, which is satisfactory.

However, in some border areas and areas inhabited by migrants, children and adults may not have adequate access to vaccination. So it is essential that the country accurately identifies and covers these areas, as well, he said.

Referring to Rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines added to the national immunization program last year, the official said that in the next five years, three more vaccines will be introduced to the national immunization program.

### Vaccines supplied by UNICEF, WHO

Since the beginning of 2025, UNICEF has procured large consignments of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), rabies, pentavalent, and rotavirus vaccines to immunize children against life-threatening diseases.

The vaccines were procured at the request of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME).

Over 1 million doses of rota-

virus vaccine were delivered on August 21 and 23, with earlier supplies in May. This vaccine protects children from severe diarrhea, a major cause of child illness.

On August 23, 15,000 doses of rabies vaccine arrived, with another 74,400 expected by the end of September. Rabies is a deadly disease spread through the bite of infected animals.

More than 255,000 doses of the pentavalent vaccine also arrived on August 23. This single shot protects babies against five dangerous diseases, including diphtheria, Hib, whooping cough, hepatitis B, and tetanus. It's usually given to babies in their first year, as part of their regular vaccination schedule.

On August 3, a shipment of 465,000 doses of the Pentavalent vaccine landed in the country.

These deliveries, following the 12-day conflict in June, highlight UNICEF's close cooperation with the Iranian government and global partners like the GAVI Alliance. Together, they aim to ensure every child in Iran has access to life-saving vaccines, even in times of crisis.

On July 30, the latest batch of PCV, including 200,250 vials, arrived in Iran. This followed an earlier shipment in April that

included PCV and the Rotavirus vaccine.

These efforts were made possible with support from the GAVI Alliance, a global organization that helps improve access to vaccines in low- and middle-income countries.

In August 2024, the WHO achieved a significant milestone by successfully facilitating the procurement of 2.79 million Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVMs) for the Islamic Republic of Iran's oral polio vaccine program.

This strategic move, which was funded by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, marks a substantial leap forward in strengthening the country's national immunization efforts.

The shipment of VVMs, temperature-sensitive devices crucial for vaccine storage and transportation, arrived through Imam Khomeini International Airport.

The consignment was received jointly by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute and the WHO Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran. These VVMs were procured from a reputable international supplier.

Ali Es'haghi, Director General of the Razi Vaccine & Serum Research Institute affiliated with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, indicated that the collaborative achievement was the result of concerted efforts across multiple levels.

VVMs play a pivotal role in maintaining vaccine potency and effectiveness. Placed on the vaccine vials, these devices ensure that vaccines remain within the optimal temperature range during storage and transportation. By safeguarding the health of children, they contribute significantly to the global effort to eradicate polio.

offered loans and other facilities for childbearing.

"I believe that women's involvement in top management and decision-making positions is their right and a key to the development of the country.

My goal is to increase the share of women in managerial positions in the country based on meritocracy and justice.

I recognize the right of women's political participation, and I will promote the status of women's affairs in the administration," President Masoud Pezeshkian had said during election campaigns.

Addressing the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference, held in Bangkok in 2024, Behrouz-Azar said, "Iran has always focused on programs that empower women, particularly those who are heads of household, economically and socially. Actions taken by the country have always aimed to promote women's status by observing the principles of the constitution and Islamic teachings."

## Disasters are not anymore natural; invest in resilience

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Disasters are not natural but the result of wrong decisions and mismanagement; funding for disaster risk reduction today will contribute to safety and resilience in the future.

Floods, devastating storms, droughts, forest fires, dried-up wetlands, and earthquakes are examples of natural hazards that occur all over the world. Still, it is the increased intensity of hazards that is not considered natural.

Concerning the significance of the issue, in 1984, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction started to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

Held every 13 October, the day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

Iran is a disaster-prone country that has faced almost all types of hazards, from earthquakes and floods to droughts, landslides, and dust.

About 33 out of the total 50 types of natural disasters known in the world have so far occurred in the country.

The diversity of disasters has adversely affected the country's resilience, highlighting the need for disaster risk management more than ever.

Environmental resilience requires coor-

dination between human development and ecological capacity. Policymaking and resource exploitation should not exceed the limits of ecosystems.

However, over the past few decades, some development activities have been inconsistent with the capacity of the environment and ecosystems; land use change, overexploitation of water and soil resources, and mismanagement of forests and natural resources have lowered the ability of ecosystems to recover and cope with disasters, making human societies more vulnerable.

Moreover, the impacts of disasters are far greater on low-income groups, those living in marginalized areas, and rural communities. Resilience is, above all, a social and justice-oriented issue; the involvement of local communities, universities, and the private sector in decision-making processes will contribute to the development of sustainable preventive strategies.

In the current Iranian year, which started on March 21, 540 trillion rials (around 483 million dollars) have been allocated to boost resilience in the country.

In April, the international project of managing natural disasters and enhancing resilience to climate change impacts was officially inaugurated by representatives from the Department of Environment (DOE), the Embassy of Japan, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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

## Iranian researchers discover new species of fish in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN –A research team from Tarbiat Modares University has discovered a new species of sillaginid fish, naming the species *S. persica* for its type locality in the Persian Gulf.

The team, comprised of Hashem Khandan Barani, Mohammad Sadegh Alavi-Yeganeh, and Mehdi Ghanbarifardi, obtained newly described species directly from local fishermen and through fishery surveys conducted along the coast of Bushehr city in the northern Persian Gulf, Iran.

Currently, there are 39 recognized valid species within the family Sillaginidae. Five of these species have been documented in the northern coast of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea, Iran: *S. Sihama*, *S. Arabica*, *S. Attenuata*, *S. Indica*, and *Sillaginopodys chondropus*.

*Sillago persica* is a new species that has been distinguished from *S. Sihama*. The description of this new *Sillago* species from the northern Persian Gulf, along the coast of Iran, highlights the need for further investigation into its ecology, distribution, and abundance patterns. Such information is essential for the effective implementation of management practices and the conservation of ecologically and economically important sillaginids in this region, the researchers said in an article published in ZooKeys.

The holotype and paratype specimens have been deposited in the Aquatic Animals collection at the Department of Marine Biology, Tarbiat Modares University, Nur, Iran (TAC1245F).

## Standards: the universal language of quality and trust

TEHRAN – Ali Jalali, former Secretary and Board Member of the Iranian Scientific Standards Association, has highlighted the importance of standards in sustainable development, public safety, and commercial transparency.

In an interview with ISNA on the occasion of World Standards Day, he emphasized the need for enhanced training and stronger oversight by the National Standards Organization across provinces to promote a national culture of standards.

### What is World Standards Day, and what is the philosophy behind its establishment?

World Standards Day is observed on October 14th each year. It serves as a reminder of the value of agreement, order, and quality in human life. In 1946, representatives from 25 countries met in London to create a global framework for harmonizing standards, which led to the founding of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

The day honors millions of professionals and engineers who, through the development and implementation of standards, lay the foundation for industrial development, fair trade, and consumer safety. Standards are the universal language of development; without them, no industry can compete globally.

### What do standard marks on products signify, and what are their technical bases?

Standard marks are a language of trust between producers and consumers, indicating that a product or service complies with specific technical

and quality requirements. These standards can relate to either products or management systems.

According to ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/IEC 17030, management system marks are valid only if issued by competent bodies under legal supervision. Accreditation bodies under ISO/IEC 17021 must maintain impartiality, technical competence, and independence. ISO/IEC 17030 also provides the framework for conformity marks on products, emphasizing that no mark should be used without formal evaluation.

### What are the common violations regarding ISO marks in Iran?

Unfortunately, some companies place ISO marks or phrases directly on their products, even though ISO refers to the organization's management system, not the product's quality itself. Printing an ISO 9001 mark alone on a package is a violation.

Each ISO mark must include the name of the issuing body, certificate number, scope, and validity date, and may only be used in brochures, websites, or organizational documents.

Even for ISO 22000, which relates to food safety management, placing the mark or its phrase on a product is prohibited; it may only appear in documents or on a website with the statement: "This product is produced in an organization certified to ISO 22000." Incorrect use of these marks misleads consumers. This violation is not unique to Iran and can occur worldwide.

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

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Relief foundation plans to provide 200,000 jobs for the deprived

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation plans to create 200,000 jobs in order to facilitate income generation for the deprived, as soon as the required budget is provided, Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki, deputy director of the Foundation has said.

He went on to say that some 70,000 job opportunities will open up through entrepreneurs who started their own businesses using the Foundation's loans.

Currently, there are about 400,000 entrepreneurs in the country, he said, adding, only if each of them employ 10 job seekers, the country's unemployment problem will be solved.

## ۲۰۰ هزار فرصت شغلی برای مددجویان کمیته امداد امام ایجاد می شود

معاون اشتغال و خودکفایی کمیته امداد امام خمینی (ره) گفت: در صورت تأمین به موقع منابع مالی می توان با توجه به برنامه ریزی های انجام شده ۲۰۰ هزار فرصت شغلی تا پایان سال ایجاد کرد.

حجت الله عبدالملکی روز جمعه در گفت وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: از این تعداد فرصت شغلی ۷۰ هزار مورد از طریق راهبری شغلی کارآفرینان ایجاد خواهد شد.

وی با اشاره به اینکه هم اکنون ۴۰۰ هزار کارآفرین حرفه ای در کشور فعالیت دارند، تصریح کرد: به لحاظ راهبری اگر هر یک از ۴۰۰ هزار نفر کارآفرینان حرفه ای موجود در کشور بتوانند برای ۱۰ نفر بیکار اشتغال ایجاد کنند، می توان گفت که در مجموع چهار میلیون فرصت شغلی ایجاد می شود که به صورت کامل مسئله بیکاری حل خواهد شد.





OCTOBER 14, 2025

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Be not like the hypocrite who, when he talks, tells lies; when he gives a promise, he breaks it; and when he is trusted, he proves dishonest.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:50 Evening: 17:48 Dawn: 4:47 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:11 (tomorrow)

## Gaza, Syria, Ukraine: Bayeux press awards hail courage under fire

The annual Bayeux Awards for war correspondents were announced at an emotional ceremony in Normandy on Saturday evening. The Palestinian photojournalist Saher Alghorra won first prize for photography, while journalists from RFI and France 24 received accolades for their work on Syria. Reports on Ukraine and Sudan were also among the prizes.

Alghorra (Zuma Press), who is still in Gaza, was recognized for his series “Trapped in Gaza: Between Fire and Famine”. Last year, he won Bayeux’s young reporter award, RFI reported.

His work on the plight of civilians trapped in the Palestinian territory by the Israeli military campaign also saw him pick up the 2025 Humanitarian Visa d’Or award at Visa pour l’image festival in Perpignan in September.

Gaza was the focus of the other two recipients for this category with Ali Jadallah (Anadolu Agency) in second place and Jihad Alshrafi in third. Jadallah’s image of Israeli fire raining over Deir al-Balah in Gaza also won the Public’s Choice award.

In the print journalism category, Wolfgang Bauer (Zeit Magazin) from Germany won first place for “The Forgotten,” about the only hospital still able to perform surgery in Sudan’s capital, Khartoum.

Second place in the print category went to Declan Walsh’s “Sudan on Fire” published by The New York Times. His article also won the honorary Ouest-France-Jean Marin prize.

Third place went to Alexander Clapp for “Cocaine, bananas, and tongueless children: behind the scenes of the world’s latest narco-state Ecuador” for The Economist.

The Video Image Award went to Edward Kaprov (Lila Production for ARTE Reportage) for “Donbass, Between Life and Death,” a poignant account of the war in Ukraine.

Presided by American journalist Jon Lee Anderson, the international jury of the 32nd edition of the Bayeux Calvados-Normandy Award combed through hundreds of entries to choose winners in the ten categories.



*Palestinians stand on a road as black smoke and flames rise over a building following the Israeli attacks in Deir al-Balah, Gaza on June 6, 2024.*  
© Ali Jadallah / Anadolu Agency

“This has definitely been one of the strongest journalistic offerings I have seen since I have come to the Prix Bayeux,” Anderson said after seeing the numerous entries.

“We evaluated an incredible array of material that included many examples of real journalistic excellence, and it came from all over the globe. We had vigorous debates which were always stimulating and ultimately rewarding. I am tired, but feel very satisfied by the process we have engaged in, and I trust that the public will agree with our choices,” Anderson said.

During the ceremony, tributes were paid to journalists killed recently in the line of duty. Aida, the partner of French photojournalist Antoni Lallcan, who was killed on October 3, in Donbass, eastern Ukraine, in a Russian drone attack, sent a message saying she “already misses the joy of living” of the “talented” reporter who died at the age of 37.

The Bayeux Award aims to raise public awareness of the profession of war reporter. It takes place during one week each year, in October, including several exhibitions, a book fair, a media forum, discussion evenings, movie screenings and youth-oriented events to participate in education to media. The event focusses on journalism and reporting about a conflict or post-conflict situation, or about an event related to the defense of freedoms and democracy.

## Cartoon of Day



Gaza

**Cartoonist:** Alaa Allagta from Palestine

## Iran participates in Iraq Gaming Expo

TEHRAN – Iran participated in the Iraq Gaming Expo 2025 (IGEX), the first national exhibition dedicated to video games in Iraq.

The Iranian gaming delegation at the event, held from October 9 to 11 in Baghdad, included game developers, officials, and media activists from Iran’s gaming industry, Bazinegar reported.

Settled at their pavilion, the Iranian representatives introduced the country’s creative achievements, capabilities of Iran’s digital industry, and young talents to international and Middle Eastern audiences.

Iran’s presence at the expo shows the determination of the young and creative generation to play a significant role on the global stage. It provided a unique opportunity to introduce the rich culture, stories, and hidden talents of the country through the progressive art-industry of video games, especially within the region’s countries.

The IGEX exhibition is considered one of the major gaming events in the Middle East, and Iran’s participation marked a significant step forward toward wider recognition of this growing ecosystem.

One of the Iranian games presented at IGEX 2025 was “Enlight: Tale of Nora” developed by Mahva Studio. Another highlighted game was the online multiplayer title “Videl” from Sourena Games.



*A view of Iran pavilion at the expo.*

“Enlight: Tale of Nora” is an independent Iranian PC game. It combines puzzle-solving with platform gameplay. It challenges players to overcome obstacles and environmental puzzles using both intelligence and dexterity.

The story follows Nora’s adventurous journey: a great conflict between light and darkness, a war that never ceases. A pure light once gifted to the land by a wise elder now faces the shadows of greed and envy from those jealous of the sacred tree, its followers, and guardians. This time, the young Nora seeks the aid of the Roshana (Enlight) tree and the power of pure light

to restore brightness, hope, and life to the forest—driving back the armies of darkness from her homeland and its oppressed people.

A playable demo of the game was available at Mahva Studio’s booth during IGEX 2025. Designed in the puzzle-platformer genre, the game blends the logical appeal of puzzles with the thrill of navigating two- and three-dimensional environments—a mix that has long had a devoted fan base.

“Videl” is the First Iranian cross-platform online game, an online arcade shooter that’s fast,

colorful, and downright chaotic! Two teams of five players clash to dominate the vibrant streets of Fun Town, blasting away with guns and grenades while the rest of the city watches like a hilarious circus of mayhem. It’s loud, explosive, and full of popcorn!

In this game, players should forget about military tactics or uniforms as there are no heroes here. This is a mafia family feud, starring a bunch of eccentric, wild characters, each with their own bizarre backstory — and two brothers ready to set the whole world on fire for control of the streets and their father’s legacy.

## Iranian director to restage “The Midnight Library”

TEHRAN- Iranian director Mohammad Malekshahi plans to restage a loose adaptation of the fantasy novel “The Midnight Library” written by Matt Haig at Malek Theater in Tehran in the near future.

The performance was previously staged in January and April at the same venue and became one of the most-watched plays of the year.

Sheida Khaliq and Mohammad Shabanpor are the main members of the cast for the play, which is based on a script written by Mojtaba Golestani and Nima Nafe.

Originally published in 2020, the novel follows a 35-year-old English woman unhappy in her dead-end life who is given the opportunity to experience lives she might have had if she had made different choices.

When Nora Seed finds herself in the Midnight Library, she has a chance to make things right. Up until now, her life has been full of misery and regret. She feels she has let everyone down, including herself. But things



are about to change.

During the night she tries to kill herself but ends up in a library managed by her school librarian. The library is between life and death with millions of books filled with stories of her life had she made some decisions differently.

The books in the Midnight Library enable

Nora to live as if she had done things differently. With the help of an old friend, she can now undo every one of her regrets as she tries to work out her perfect life. But things aren’t always what she imagined they’d be, and soon her choices place the library and herself in extreme danger.

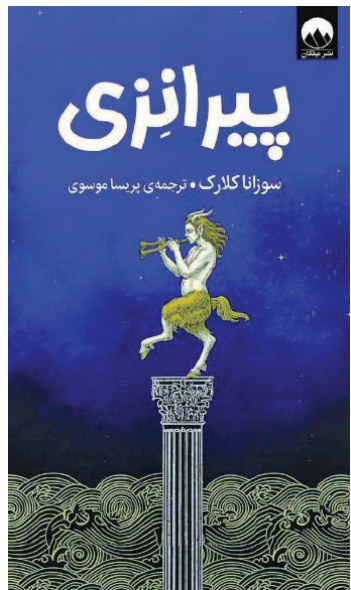
Before time runs out, she must answer the ultimate question: what is the best way to live?

“The Midnight Library” was shortlisted for the 2021 British Book Awards “Fiction Book of the Year”.

Matt Haig, 49, is an English author and journalist. He has written both fiction and non-fiction books for children and adults, often in the speculative fiction genre.

His other novels include “How to Stop Time,” “The Humans,” “The Radleys,” and “The Life Impossible”. He has also written books for children, such as “A Boy Called Christmas” and the memoir “Reasons to Stay Alive”.

## “Piranesi” comes to Iranian bookstores



TEHRAN- A Persian translation of English author Susanna Clarke’s novel “Piranesi” has recently been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Parisa Mousavi.

Published in 2020, “Piranesi” is Clarke’s second novel, following her debut “Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell,” which was released sixteen years prior. The novel has garnered significant attention, not only for its intricate and imaginative world-building but also for its unique narrative structure, which is presented as a journal written by the enigmat-

ic protagonist, Piranesi.

The novel’s central premise revolves around the concept of the House, a seemingly infinite, world-encompassing mega-structure that has captivated the imagination of readers worldwide. This labyrinthine structure is composed of interlocking halls and vestibules, each adorned with an array of unique and fascinating statues. The upper levels of the House are filled with clouds, while the lower levels are characterized by a vast, glassy sea that stretches out to the horizon.

Piranesi, the protagonist, is a mysterious figure, known only by his nickname, which is revealed through the narrative of his journal entries. As the reader delves deeper into the world of the House, it becomes apparent that Piranesi’s reality is one of isolation and solitude, where the boundaries between reality and fantasy begin to blur. Through his journal entries, Piranesi grapples with the complexities of his existence, confronting the enigmatic forces that shape his world and the mysterious presence of the Tides, which seem to hold sway over the House’s very fabric.

One of the most striking aspects of “Piranesi” is its unique narrative structure, which is pre-

sented as a journal written by the protagonist. This approach allows Clarke to explore the inner workings of Piranesi’s mind, revealing the intricacies of his thoughts and emotions as he navigates the ever-changing landscape of the House. Through this narrative device, Clarke masterfully weaves together themes of identity, isolation, and the human condition, creating a rich tapestry of emotions and ideas that continue to resonate with readers.

Piranesi’s literary merit extends far beyond its imaginative world-building and innovative narrative structure. The novel also delves into the complexities of the human experience, exploring the themes of loneliness, the power of the imagination, and the fragility of existence. Through Piranesi’s story, Clarke sheds light on the human condition, revealing the ways in which we find meaning and purpose in a seemingly meaningless world.

In 2021, “Piranesi” was awarded the prestigious Women’s Prize for Fiction, a testament to Clarke’s skillful storytelling and the novel’s enduring appeal. With its captivating narrative, vivid world-building, and thought-provoking themes, “Piranesi” has cemented its place

as a modern classic of speculative fiction. As readers continue to discover the enigmatic world of the House, they are invited to embark on a journey of self-discovery, one that will leave them questioning the very nature of reality and the human condition.

In February 2022, “Piranesi” was adapted into a radio drama for BBC Radio 4. The adaptation was broadcast as a series of ten episodes, each lasting approximately 15 minutes, allowing listeners to immerse themselves in the mysterious world of the House through this engaging audio format.

In June 2024, it was announced that the renowned American stop-motion studio Laika had secured the rights to adapt “Piranesi” into an animated feature film. The project is set to be directed by Travis Knight, known for his work on acclaimed films such as “Kubo and the Two Strings” and “The Nightmare Before Christmas”.

This novel’s unique narrative structure, coupled with its thought-provoking themes and imaginative world-building, has captivated readers worldwide, leaving a lasting impact on the literary world.