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‘Let Him Die’

Palestinian survivors recount systematic torture inside Israel's prisons

Freed Palestinian prisoners wave and cheer as they arrive in Khan Younis on Monday.

Victory for Gaza and the Axis of Resistance

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – It seems this round of war in Gaza has come to an end. Standing firm in position, refusing to be broken, and moving the struggle to a different stage is the measure of victory or defeat for the resistance parties.

Above all, it is a struggle of the will. Those who possess the will are victorious. This is the logic of every resistance. Material losses and human losses are all part of the nature of the battle. They are compensated in a stronger and better way than before. This has been proven in all previous battles, in addition to learning from the many lessons.

As for the Israeli occupation entity, the opposite is true. It did not achieve any of the war's objectives. It could not stabilize its occupation, which was its main aim. It could not take control of the small area of the Gaza Strip. It could not free the hostages except through agreements. It was forced to negotiate until the end.

The resistance was the party it negotiated with. Israel failed to eliminate the resistance, its weapons, its organization, its military and security structure, or all its tunnels. Although the balance of military power entails it should have been able to do so, the resistance disappointed it.

Lebanon between Israeli aggression and international pressure

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Over the past few months, Lebanon has witnessed repeated Israeli air raids targeting economic infrastructure in the South and Bekaa, including bulldozers and excavators.

This reflects a strategy aimed at preventing reconstruction and the return of life to border villages unless Lebanon submits to its political and security demands.

Lebanon's commitment to the ceasefire agreement did not help. Its exclusion from the Sharm el-Sheikh summit confirmed the marginalization of its regional role and its exclusion from the so-called "Greater Peace" plan.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump was keen to demonstrate his support for Israel's position in the Knesset, insisting on disarming Hezbollah and "imposing" peace on its neighbors.

Israel killing civilians despite Gaza truce

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli occupation regime has killed Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip despite agreeing to a ceasefire.

Israeli occupation forces killed at least nine Palestinian civilians in the northern Gazan neighborhood of Shujaiya and near the southern city of Rafah on Tuesday, violating a ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

An occupation regime's drone also dropped explosives east of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, leading to further injuries.

In addition to the deaths, the regime's army arrested 15 people in the town of Nassr, northeast of Rafah, according to regional reports.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem stated that the occupation regime openly violated the Gaza ceasefire agreement by killing civilians across the Gaza Strip.

Qassem confirmed that Hamas is closely monitoring the implementation of the agreed terms, particularly the handover of the bodies of captured Israeli soldiers held by its armed wing, the al-Qassam Brigades.

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IAEA access to Iran's nuclear sites to stay restricted

TEHRAN – The head of the Atomic Energy organization of Iran (AEOI) says the criterion for the country's engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will be the June legislation passed at Iran's Parliament.

"Our relationship with the IAEA will be based on the law adopted by Parliament, and the Supreme National Security Council [of Iran] will be the authority to decide on the matter based on the AEOI's report," said Mohammad Eslami.

"The IAEA should fulfill its legal duty, but it has not even condemned the [US] attack on our nuclear facilities," he added.

On September 9, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi reached an agreement on practical modalities to resume cooperation after a meeting in the Egyptian capital, Cairo. ► Page 2

Germany refuses to deny report of secret pact with Israel

TEHRAN – The German Foreign Ministry and the German embassy in Tehran declined to respond to inquiries regarding a Tehran Times report revealing that Germany signed a secret contract with Israel and deployed troops to the occupied territories during the regime's war against Iran in June.

The German Foreign Ministry ignored messages from the Tehran Times altogether. When contacted for comment, a representative at the German embassy stated that she had notified senior diplomats about the inquiry, but received no response, including regarding whether they would address the matter. ► Page 2

Health minister attending WHO Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation headed by Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi is participating in the Seventy-second session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (RC72) being held in Cairo, Egypt, from October 15 to 17.

Hosted by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, the event brings together health ministers, policy-makers, and regional leaders to address urgent health priorities and longer-term reforms.

The participants will discuss the most important health issues in the region, including polio eradication, health emergencies, immunization programs, palliative care, climate change, as well as the impacts of sanctions on public health, ISNA reported. ► Page 7

“Silk Legacy” exhibition celebrates centuries-old cultural ties between Iran and China

TEHRAN— The National Museum of Iran has opened the exhibition “Silk Legacy: A Review of Iran–China Relations,” highlighting the enduring cultural and historical connections between the two ancient civilizations.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Jebrail Nokandeh, Director General of the National Museum of Iran, said the relationship between Iran and China dates back thousands of years, strengthened by historic trade routes such as the Silk Road, the Lapis Lazuli Road, and the Great Khorasan Road, which linked the two nations through exchanges of goods, ideas, art, and technology. ► Page 6



Tehran ready to cooperate with NAM states to advance shared ideals: Araghchi

TEHRAN – Speaking at the 19th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Kampala, Uganda, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's readiness to cooperate with all member states in advancing the Movement's noble principles, emphasizing solidarity, multilateralism, and resistance to unilateralism.

Araghchi delivered a strong address on Wednesday, emphasizing the need for solidarity among member states in defending international law, multilateralism, and justice. ► Page 3



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Signs of a new change in Middle East

Shargh devoted its headline to Trump's statements at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit and wrote: Trump said in his statements that he would like to lift sanctions on Iran when Tehran is ready to talk. Trump's statements show that he is seeking to instill a new image of the regional order desired by Washington. In fact, his words can be seen as a reflection of the plan that the United States, relying on Arab coalitions, is seeking to redefine the balance of power in the Middle East. Trump's presence in Sharm el-Sheikh is, in fact, reminiscent of the traditional effort to shape a "new security architecture" in which Iran is viewed as disruptive or at least neutral. From this perspective, his insistence on "dialogue under sanctions" is a kind of reproduction of intelligent pressure aimed at forcing Tehran to be involved in a predetermined framework. Washington is trying to create a new equation in which the path of dialogue is pursued through Arab channels. Such a process, if it becomes a reality, could increase political and psychological pressure on Tehran.

Javan: Tehran-Moscow-Baku agreement to develop capacities of the North-South Corridor

Javan reviewed the trilateral meeting of Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan regarding the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). The newspaper argues that the three countries emphasized the expansion of cooperation in the fields of transportation, energy, and customs and decided to take a pragmatic approach to fully exploit the capacities of the North-South Transport Corridor; a route that, if its remaining section in Azerbaijan's territory is completed, could pave the way for a transit boom from Russia to the Indian Ocean. In a situation where the importance of transit routes in the world is increasing, Iran, in cooperation with its regional partners, is trying to make the most of the new corridors and consolidate its geopolitical position in the global transit. The completion of the North-South Corridor brings significant benefits to Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Being at the heart of this route, Iran can become a transit hub in the region and increase its foreign exchange earnings. The completion of this corridor will not only strengthen the economic and political cooperation of the three countries but also significantly enhance their role in the trade equations of Eurasia and South Asia.

Ham Mihan: The missing link of diplomatic initiative

In a note, Ham Mihan criticized Iran's absence from the Sharm el-Sheikh summit and wrote: While the nuclear negotiations and the process of pursuing diplomacy in this important national issue have reached an indisputable deadlock, attending this summit could have sent a different pulse. It could have opened new grounds for pursuing diplomatic path without the need to prepare the ground and spend a lot of time and money to restart a new round of negotiations, especially in the form of extensive pre-negotiation consultations. Whether we are in favor of negotiations with the West or against it, it cannot be hidden that in order to move forward in both directions, we need communication, cooperation, convergence, and the pursuit of dynamic diplomacy in the regional sphere and with neighboring countries. Iran's presence at the meeting could have been key to a new round of cooperation between Islamic states, because Iran's enemies, including Israel, have always depicted Iran as a rival pole and at odds with Islamic countries by promoting the Iranophobia project, and are trying to instill such image.

Khorasan: China's economic resilience can serve as model for Iran

Khorasan analyzed China's economic resistance in the face of the American pressure. It said: The technological war between China and the United States is a competition to define a share in the new world order. China's experience proves that within a sanctions-constrained environment, a state can strategically synthesize natural resources, technical expertise, and economic statecraft to repurpose restrictions as instruments of power. The message for Iran is also clear: confronting sanctions is not just economic. It also requires a smart combination of industrial policy, diversity of foreign relations, and technological independence. In this regard economic transparency and real planning for a knowledge-based economy as soon as possible are among the primary requirements. It should be noted that sanctions are not the end of the road; they are the beginning of a strategic game in which the winner is the one who turns limitations into opportunities with patience, planning, and intelligence. The technological confrontation between China and the United States and Beijing's experience in the face of external pressures is an instructive model for Iran to strengthen its economic resilience against sanctions by following smart policies.



The daughter of Asqar Hashemi-Tabar, an Iranian nuclear scientist assassinated by Israel in June, awoke from a coma after being injured in the same attack that killed her father and mother. While she was in the hospital, she received a visit from the daughter and widow of Dariush Rezayi-Nejad, another nuclear scientist assassinated by Israel years ago.

Germany refuses to deny report of secret pact with Israel

From page 1 ► German troops were involved in Israeli war efforts in the 12 days the Zionist regime targeted Iran's military, nuclear, and civilian infrastructure, according to information obtained by the Tehran Times. Berlin received financial compensation for the involvement, but asked Israel to keep the co-operation secret. It is unclear whether the parliament (Bundestag) was made aware of the deal.

"The fact that Germans helped the Zionist regime kill the Iranian people is not surprising," said Ebrahim Rezaei, spokesman for the Iranian parliament's foreign policy committee. "Germany, Britain, and France have taken a path of hostility against Iranians. The revelation through the Tehran Times that Germany deployed troops to the occupied territories during the 12-day war



Photo taken outside the German embassy in Tehran

is just another piece in the puzzle."

Rezaei added that Europeans are attempting to regain their lost relevance on the international stage, and therefore are

willing to do anything Americans and Israelis ask, even if it's not in their own interests. "The snapback was another European move done at the behest of the United States. With the ac-

tivation of the snapback, Europe lost its standing regarding Iran's nuclear issue. We will no longer discuss anything nuclear with them."

The collaboration with Israel marks the second time Berlin has joined hands with foreign aggressors against Iran. Germany also provided Iraq's Saddam Hussein with chemical weapons to use during his invasion of Iran in the 1980s. During Israel's latest war on Gaza, which has been described as a genocide and has taken the lives of at least 70,000 Palestinians, Germany was one of the regime's most strident supporters, both militarily and diplomatically.

"The world will not forget that Germany stood by Netanyahu and Israel in their killings of thousands of innocent men, women, and children," the lawmaker stated.

IAEA access to Iran's nuclear sites to stay restricted

Nuclear chief says parliamentary legislation will guide engagement



Photo shows an Iranian nuclear facility in Esfahan before it was struck during U.S.-Israeli attacks

From page 1 ► It came after the Iranian Parliament unanimously passed legislation requiring the administration to suspend all cooperation with the IAEA following the Israeli-U.S. aggression, which targeted three of the country's nuclear sites in a clear violation of international law and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On September 19, the 15-member UN Security Council failed to

adopt a resolution that would have prevented the reimposition of UN sanctions on Iran after the E3 triggered the "snapback" mechanism.

Tehran was accused of failing to comply with the nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iran rejected the "illegitimate" move by the European Troika, saying the United States had already pulled out of the deal. Teh-

ran also accused the European trio of siding with illegal sanctions instead of honoring their own commitments.

One month after the signing of the Cairo Agreement — once hailed as a step toward restoring technical cooperation and mutual confidence — the deal has effectively been suspended. Recent remarks by Araghchi and other government officials indicate that the latest political and security developments, particularly the activation of the "snapback" mechanism by three European countries, have rendered the agreement practically inoperative.

The Cairo Agreement, signed after three rounds of intensive, aimed to create a new framework for technical and oversight cooperation. It was essentially a diplomatic effort to prevent further escalation following the Iranian Parliament's resolution requiring the government to suspend voluntary cooperation with the IAEA.

At the time of signing, Araghchi warned that the continuation of

the agreement depended on the absence of any hostile actions against Iran, emphasizing that if the snapback mechanism were triggered or previously lifted UN Security Council resolutions reinstated, Iran would consider the accord null and void. Only a few weeks later, that warning materialized.

In his remarks to reporters on the sidelines of a Wednesday cabinet meeting, Eslami also said that Iran will continue its peaceful nuclear activities. "Under the NPT, Iran has the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear program. This is an undeniable right of the Iranian nation and it will be preserved," he stated.

For the IAEA to regain access to Iran's nuclear sites, new negotiations must be held among Iran, the IAEA, and the United States. Iran has said it is willing to take measures to build confidence that it does not intend to develop nuclear weapons, but it has made clear that talks will not take place while Washington persists in imposing sanctions and issuing threats.

Government enacts comprehensive law to regulate civilian drone operations

TEHRAN — Iran has introduced a sweeping new law regulating the production, registration, and operation of civilian drones, aiming to establish greater security oversight and legal accountability over their use nationwide.

The legislation—formally titled the Comprehensive Law on the Regulation of Civilian Remote-Piloted Aircraft (Drones)—was approved by the Iranian Parliament on September 27, 2025, and later endorsed by the Guardian Council on September 30. It was officially conveyed to the government by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on October 8.

Comprising 22 articles and 17 notes, the law sets out a unified legal framework for the registration, licensing, and insurance of civilian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). It also defines key operational terms such as "owner," "operator," "user," and "flight operation," while outlining specific roles for security and regulatory institutions.

Under the new regulations, the operation of drones linked to security agencies—including the Ministry of Intelligence, the IRGC Intelligence Organization, and the Law Enforcement Command—will follow directives approved by the Supreme National Security Council.

A 13-member working group, chaired by the Secretary of the National Security Council, will over-

see the law's implementation and coordinate inter-agency monitoring to ensure full compliance.

Licenses for the manufacturing, repair, training, and operation of civilian drones must be approved jointly by the Ministry of Defense, the IRGC Intelligence Organization, and the Civil Aviation Organization. Any unauthorized production or operation is classified as a criminal offense.

The law encourages the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology to promote domestic manufacturing, support the transfer of dual-use technologies, and facilitate the export of Iranian-made civilian drones.

Imports of drones and related components, meanwhile, will be permitted only when no local equivalent exists or when required for developmental purposes.

All drone owners are required to obtain an official ownership certificate containing technical specifications and a unique identification number.

Drone operations will be restricted to certified operators using registered aircraft, and all flight plans must be logged in a centralized system to be established within three months by the Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company. Security and intelligence agencies will have direct access to this database.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran condemns Israel's violation of Gaza truce terms

TEHRAN —Iran has condemned recent Israeli strikes against Palestinians, calling for a halt to Tel Aviv's atrocities.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei decried the attacks, which left at least 10 people killed and wounded, as well as the Israeli destruction of olive orchards and burning of homes in the West Bank the desecration of the al-Aqsa mosque by extremist Israeli settlers, calling on the guarantors of the recent Gaza ceasefire to be answerable and force the Israeli regime to stop its crimes.

He recalled that the Tel Aviv regime has a permanent habit of reneging on its commitments and taking advantage of declared ceasefires to press ahead with its crimes against Palestinians.

The spokesman warned against any inaction by the guarantors of the truce vis-à-vis the Israeli regime's acts of aggression against the people of Gaza.

Israeli have killed at least ten Palestinians in fresh attacks across the Gaza Strip since Tuesday morning, in what marks the first major violation of the ceasefire agreement. Israel also launched a drone strike on southern Khan Younis, killing at least one Palestinian.

The renewed violence underscores Israel's disregard for the fragile truce, raising doubts about the durability of the ceasefire and

deepening Gaza's humanitarian crisis. It also heightens regional tension at a time when international mediators are pressing for a lasting halt to hostilities.

Israel also announced that the Rafah crossing would remain closed through Wednesday, restricting the flow of critical humanitarian aid into Gaza in contravention of the ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

On Tuesday, Israeli authorities declared they would not uphold ceasefire provisions related to aid delivery, alleging without evidence that Hamas had breached the deal over the return of the bodies of deceased Israeli captives.

The Palestinian Resistance movement earlier explained that retrieving all the bodies could take additional time, given the difficulties of finding bodies in Gaza's rubble.

As part of the truce, Hamas handed over the remains of four dead Israeli captives on Monday, along with all 20 living captives previously held in Gaza. The transfer of the remaining 24 bodies is also expected, though the timing remains uncertain.

Supporting Hamas's statement, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) acknowledged that recovering the bodies would take considerable time.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran ready to cooperate with NAM states to advance shared ideals: Araghchi

From Page 1 ► Expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Uganda for their “warm and generous hospitality,” Araghchi praised Uganda’s effective leadership of the Movement, highlighting its “tireless efforts to promote NAM’s goals and unity among its members.”

Reaffirming Iran’s long-standing commitment to the ideals of the Non-Aligned Movement, he said that “lasting global peace and stability can only be achieved through diplomacy and cooperation,” warning that “unilateral actions and coercive measures threaten peace and erode trust between nations.”

The Iranian Foreign Minister criticized recent efforts by the United States and European members of the UN Security Council to misuse the Council’s mechanisms in order to reinstate terminated resolutions against Iran — a move he described as a “clear violation” of UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

“From Iran’s perspective — shared by many Security Council members — any attempt to revive these terminated measures is groundless and illegitimate, amounting to nothing more than political extortion,” Araghchi said.

He urged fellow NAM members to “stand firm by the Movement’s principles” and reject such “invalid and illegal maneuvers,” emphasizing that collective resistance against coercion would demonstrate that “independent nations will not bow to bullying or unilateral pressure.”

Turning to the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, Araghchi strongly condemned what he



Foreign ministers and heads of delegations pose for a group photo at the 19th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kampala, Uganda on October 15, 2025.

called “the most brutal genocidal campaign” against the Palestinian people over the past two years.

He noted that more than 70,000 Palestinians have been killed and that the Gaza Strip has been reduced to rubble, accusing the Israeli regime of committing atrocities “with the full support and complicity of the United States and other Western states.”

“The perpetrators must be held accountable and brought to justice,” he said, calling for immediate efforts to end the genocide, withdraw occupying forces, allow humanitarian access, and rebuild Gaza.

Araghchi stressed that “no solution to the Palestinian issue will succeed without recognizing the Palestinian people’s right to

self-determination,” adding that their continued struggle against “occupation, apartheid, and colonial subjugation” is both legitimate and lawful.

He also condemned Israel’s recent act of aggression against Iran in June, describing it as further proof that “the regime recognizes no moral or legal limits.” He urged the international community to “document and expose Israel’s crimes” and to “utilize every legal mechanism available to bring the perpetrators of war crimes and genocide to justice.”

Concluding his remarks, the Iranian Foreign Minister called for greater unity among Non-Aligned Movement members.

“Today, more than ever, NAM countries must act in solidarity, reject unlawful measures such as coercive sanctions, and

uphold the rule of international law,” Araghchi said. “The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to cooperate with all member states to advance the Movement’s noble principles.”

Araghchi arrived in Kampala early Wednesday to attend the 19th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held under the theme “Deepening Cooperation for Greater Global Prosperity.” Foreign ministers and senior diplomats from more than 120 member countries are participating in the two-day event.

The Non-Aligned Movement was formally established in 1961 during its first summit in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, attended by 25 countries including Egypt, India, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, and Ghana.

Ceasefire or a new beginning?

Iran must rectify military after 12-day war and guard against non-military plots

Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN – The end of the twelve-day war between Iran and Israel brought about a fragile calm across the region, yet beneath the silence lies another reality. What has been described as a “ceasefire” is, in truth, not the end of a confrontation but the beginning of a new, multifaceted struggle.

In international politics, a ceasefire often occurs when one side needs time to recover and reposition. This time, it seems that Israel and its Western allies are the ones who need that time more than Iran.

Recent Israeli conflicts in West Asia – from Lebanon to Gaza – have shown that ceasefires rarely signal genuine peace. They are usually pauses in a cycle of confrontation. Cannons may fall silent, but the battles continue on other fronts: in media, in economics, in international organizations, and in the realm of psychological warfare.

Iran now stands at the heart of such a transition. The military war has ended, but pressures persist in new forms – economic threats, targeted sanctions, and narrative warfare in global public opinion.

What Iranians should expect

The twelve-day conflict demonstrated that Iran’s military deterrence has reached a level that even its adversaries cannot ignore. Yet lasting power is not built solely through military might.

Today’s national power rests on three interconnected pillars: intelligent security, a sustainable economy, and social cohesion. A weakening of any of these elements destabilizes the entire structure of power.

Effective defense, defined as intelligent security, extends beyond the military domain, encompassing cyber defense,

intelligence, and early-warning systems that complement hard deterrence. The war underscored the importance of a sustainable economic power and economic independence, necessitating a policy shift toward export-oriented production, reduced dependency on vital imports, and stronger domestic investment. Finally, power endures only when it carries social legitimacy, making the rebuilding of public trust through transparency, justice, and civic participation an essential component of reconstructing power, also known as social authority.

In Washington and Tel Aviv’s calculus, military confrontation is merely one instrument within a broader strategy of pressure.

Iran’s economic resilience and social cohesion are the main U.S.-Israeli targets after the 12-day war

Analyses emerging from Western think tanks following the twelve-day war reveal that the ceasefire is seen as a chance to recalibrate and tighten these pressures.

From reactivating the “snapback” mechanism at the UN Security Council to reviving regional anti-Iran coalitions, the goal is to contain Iran’s recovery from within.

At the same time, media campaigns, legal maneuvers in international forums, and psychological operations are being deployed to reshape perceptions about Iran—both domestically and abroad.

Trusting in the West’s proclaimed peace intentions would therefore be a strategic miscalculation.



History shows that, in the logic of hegemonic powers, “peace” is merely a temporary name for a renewed offensive. From Iraq to Syria, from Libya to Lebanon, each ceasefire has simply changed the form of the struggle, not its essence.

The reconstruction test

Iran now faces the challenge (and the opportunity) of comprehensive reconstruction. While the twelve-day war tested the country’s military deterrence, the post-war era will test its economic resilience and social cohesion.

In the aftermath of conflict, the economy becomes the decisive front, serving as the second pillar of deterrence. Real deterrence exists only when a nation can withstand economic pressure while maintaining growth. To achieve this, Iran must transform its economic approach from reactive to proactive, which includes reforming the taxation system and reducing tax evasion, supporting knowledge-based industries and export-oriented production, and facilitating domestic investment while expanding regional trade partnerships.

Intelligent engagement with emerging blocs such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will further diversify Iran’s economic relations and reduce reliance on Western markets. Ultimately, power reconstruction without economic

reconstruction is merely a façade of strength.

Beyond economics, the media front represents another crucial battle of narratives. In the age of communication, wars are fought as much through narratives as through weapons. Iran’s adversaries have sought to distort perceptions—both of the recent conflict and of Iran’s domestic reality—through global media campaigns. Countering this requires an active, multi-layered media strategy involving intelligent storytelling of national achievements, a strategic presence in international media across multiple languages, and training a new generation of journalists and analysts with both national and global perspectives. Victory in the media arena will not come from mere rebuttals but from Iran’s ability to set the agenda—to define the terms of the global conversation rather than reacting to them.

Furthermore, Tehran now has the chance to institutionalize a new concept in its foreign policy: active peace. This does not mean passivity, but rather represents a balance between military preparedness and diplomatic innovation. Under this approach, Iran must demonstrate that it can produce security without aggression and play a constructive role in regional stability without compromising its independence.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran’s victory over Tanzania fails to silence critics

TEHRAN – Iran’s 2–0 win over Tanzania in Tuesday’s friendly at Rashid Stadium in Dubai might have looked like a positive step on paper, but the performance left little reason for optimism about the team’s tactical or technical progress under Amir Ghalenoei.

The result ended a short winless run, yet the display once again highlighted familiar weaknesses: slow transitions, limited creativity, and a lack of collective cohesion.

Team Melli scored twice in the first half, first through Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh’s penalty and then via Mohammad Mohebi’s deflected effort, but the goals owed more to individual moments and Tanzanian errors than to any tactical attacking structure.

Once Iran established their lead, their intensity visibly dropped. Tanzania, ranked 107th in the world, even dictated possession for parts of the second half, underlining Iran’s struggles to control rhythm and space against modest opposition.

This pattern has become increasingly concerning. In recent months, Iran’s performances, from the 2–1 defeat to Russia to the narrow wins against weaker opponents, have revealed a team still unsure of their identity.

At a time when Asian rivals such as Japan and South Korea are advancing with structured, dynamic football, Team Melli’s style looks disappointing. The technical gap is widening, not closing.

Ghalenoei, did not shy away from acknowledging the problems.

“Unfortunately, some players lack a professional mindset,” he admitted after the match. “We’ve been hit by injuries, but also by a decline in form among certain individuals. Some of our substitutes didn’t perform as expected. A few young players, like Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, have shown promise, but others may not continue with us.” His comments, half admission and half warning, reflected both frustration and urgency.

Despite the clean sheet and moments of promise from younger players like Kasra Taheri before his injury, Iran’s broader issues persist.

The defensive structure remains fragile, transitions from defense to attack are sluggish, and creativity in midfield is scarce. Merely winning these low-stakes friendlies is no longer enough.

If Team Melli hope to compete seriously at the 2026 World Cup, they must move beyond results that mask deeper flaws.

Tuesday’s win was only a short break from the team’s problems, not real progress. If things continue this way, Iran could be left behind while other Asian teams keep moving forward.

2025 CAFA Futsal Tournament postponed

TEHRAN – The 2025 Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) futsal tournament has been postponed to 2026.

Originally, the event was scheduled to be held on Kish Island from July 8 to 10, but due to the Israeli attacks on Iran, the tournament was postponed to a later date.

The host remains Kish Island, and the tournament will still be held there.

The CAFA Futsal Cup is an international futsal competition in Central Asia, featuring member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

Iran’s women’s futsal team to play Russia

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s futsal team will play two friendly matches with Russia on Thursday and Saturday.

The matches will be held in in Tula, Russia as part of preparation for the 2025 FIFA Futsal

Women’s World Cup.

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

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

Women’s football team seeking friendly matches

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s futsal team are arranging more friendly matches as part of preparation for the 2026 AFC Women’s Asian Cup.

Iran have been drawn in Group A alongside host Australia, South Korea, and the Philippines. The competition will be held in Australia from March 1–21, 2026.

Iran’s women’s football team will participate in a three-team tournament in Shillong, India. The event will take place in the Indian city from Oct. 24–27. Team Melli will face Nepal on October 24 and meet India three days later. Iran are ranked 70th in the FIFA Women’s World Rankings, while India and Nepal are 63rd and 89th, respectively.

Iran’s football federation is also trying to arrange a three-team tournament in Bangkok with participation from Thailand, Iran, and Uzbekistan.

Iran too strong for Kuwait at AFC U17 Women’s Asian Cup 2026 qualifier

TEHRAN– Iran made it two wins out of two after defeating Kuwait 10–0 in their AFC U17 Women’s Asian Cup China 2026 Qualifiers Group B tie on Wednesday.

The win keeps Iran on track for the Finals, with the Central Asian side to meet Lebanon on Friday.

Iran’s high tempo approach forced Kuwait into a corner with Baran Hosseini capitalizing on an errant pass to slot the ball home in the fourth minute from inside the box with Asal Dehghaninia doubling their lead in the 15th minute with a curling effort from distance.

The Central Asian side were relentless in their approach and extended their lead in the 25th minute after Taranom Ansari broke free from the center before slipping a grounded effort past Kuwait keeper Salma Aljouhar. Kuwait fell further behind in the 48th minute after an unmarked Maryam Khalilifar showed her goalscoring prowess with a sublime strike from inside the area.

Kuwait continued to struggle to find their rhythm and conceded their fifth in the 71st minute courtesy of Khalilifar’s overhead kick before completing her hat-trick moments later following a fast break, the-afc.com reported.

Yasna Jafarnia then showed her precision from distance, converting her free-kick in the 76th minute, while Khalilifar nodded home from close range in the 79th minute.

The goals continued to pour in for Iran with Soniya Kouravand getting in on the act in the 81st minute and Jafarnia adding their 10th two minutes later to seal the emphatic win.

Sarkhosh earns two wins at Scottish Open qualifiers

TEHRAN – Amir Sarkhosh of Iran earned two wins at the Scottish Open qualifiers.

He first defeated Scottish player Amaan Iqbal 4–3 and then beat Northern Irish snooker Jordan Brown 4–1 in his second match.

The qualifying rounds for the 2025 Scottish Open take place at the Robin Park Leisure Centre in Wigan across four days between October 14–17.

The venue stages for the 2025 Scottish Open, meanwhile, are scheduled for December 15th to 21st at the Meadowbank Sports Centre.

China’s Lei Peifan is title-holder.

Integrated technical specialized services in drilling industry grows 12% in H1

TEHRAN- The deputy managing director of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) for technical affairs announced a growth of over 12 percent in the integrated technical and specialized services of the drilling industry provided to applicant companies in the country's oil-rich regions during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

Jahangir Shojaei stated that these services directly impact drilling operations, as well as the repair and completion of oil and gas wells, including those currently in production.

He mentioned: "The total number of technical and specialized ancillary drilling services, which are part of the production chain and play a key role in maintaining, preserving, and increasing production, amounted to 3,486 operations during this period."

He added: "The National Iranian Drilling Company oversees two departments—Technical Services and Specialized Services—handling integrated ancillary services, which encompass dozens of specific specialized services. The company's capability, in terms of having experienced specialists and operational equipment to deliver these services, distinguishes NIDC from other companies active in this field in the region. This is because, in the drilling industry, each service is typically provided by a separate company, while NIDC is the only company in the country that offers these services in an integrated manner."

As previously announced by Hamidreza Shafiei Makvandi, the deputy managing director of NIDC for operation, the company dug and completed the digging operations of 67 oil and gas wells in the country's onshore and offshore oil-rich regions during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year.

He stated: "Of these wells, 16 were development/appraisal wells and 51 were work-over/completion wells."

He noted that the number of wells drilled in the first half of this year is 21 wells more than the same period last year, adding: "The total drilling footage during this period was recorded at 63,037 meters, which represents an increase of over 8,000 meters compared to the same period last year."

Pointing out that 18 drilling rigs are currently being relocated to operational sites, the official said: "Currently, 64 out of the company's total fleet of 74 drilling rigs are stationed and operational in the oil-rich provinces of the country."

On September 21, the head of the Engineering and Construction Technology Department of the NIDC, referring to the manufacturing of 70 high-consumption parts in the drilling industry during the first half of this Iranian calendar year, stated: "The manufacturing of these parts, in cooperation with knowledge-based companies and domestic manufacturers, has resulted in savings of 133 billion rials (about \$133,000) in company costs based on calculations made."

Masoud Seyed Mahmoudi stated: "The National Iranian Drilling Company is one of the pioneering companies in the oil industry regarding its focus on domestic manufacturing and has over two decades of history of interaction and cooperation with domestic manufacturers and industrialists in the field of technical and engineering knowledge."

He pointed to the manufacturing of 5,019 parts and 633 pieces of equipment, with a total and breakdown of 23,576 parts, and added: "The number of parts and equipment manufactured in recent years shows an eight-percent growth compared to the past."

The official further explained that, besides savings and after-sales service, an important advantage of focusing on domestic manufacturing is the cessation of purchasing these parts and equipment from abroad, stating: "Domestically produced parts are being localized with priority given to high-consumption and essential parts."

Regarding the most important achievements of the Research, Technology, and Construction Engineering Management of the National Iranian Drilling Company in the field of manufacturing parts and equipment, he stated: "In the drilling operations sector, we can mention the manufacturing of air, oil, and fuel filters for Caterpillar engines; the main



shaft of various top drives; fluid screens; various Checkmate and Demco valves; RING JOINT GASKET; various PLUG VALVES; liner and module for various mud pumps; engine radiators; 5/8, 13, and 20-inch packing elements; drilling rig pins; lifting sleeves; brake rim draw works; mud pump connecting rod; and some top drive parts."

Seyed Mahmoudi said: "In the technical and specialized drilling services sector, various parts and equipment, including logging sensors, butterfly valves, high-pressure cementing pipes, the underbalanced drilling rotary BOP stack, OVER SHOT tools, DESANDER UNIT, MOT, SURGE DRUM, MOT, and DISILTER UNIT, MOT have been localized."

The Head of the Engineering and Construction Technology Department of the National Iranian Drilling Company added: "The Research, Technology, and Construction Engineering Management of the company has also placed on its agenda the first-time production of strategic and key drilling industry equipment, with the aim of supporting domestic production and maximizing the use of capacities under Article 10 of the Law on Knowledge-Based Production Leap, and by utilizing the potential of knowledge-based companies active in the country's oil industry."

He stated: "In the drilling operations activity sector, the design and manufacturing of main diesel generators for drilling rigs, drilling mud pumps, drilling rig draw works, rotary tables, blowout control equipment, drilling jars, drilling fluid service centrifuges, and in the technical services activity sector, the design and manufacturing of cementing pump trucks, mobile wireline units, mobile wireline inspection units, and cementing service densitometers are underway."

In mid-September, the NIDC managing director said that the company had built its second mobile oil treatment (MOT) unit using in-house expertise and equipment.

Mehran Makvandi noted the company's engineers had focused on innovation, integrated technical services and software solutions to improve drilling operations. He said the new unit offers faster deployment and higher reliability than the first domestically produced system.

While earlier models required two or three trailers, the latest unit is mounted on a single trailer, allowing for quicker transport, installation and operation, he added.

The MOT unit is designed to process crude oil directly at the wellhead by removing water, salt, sediments and associated gases before sending the treated oil to pipelines or refineries. It was recently tested at wells 37 and 38 in the Lali oilfield operated by the National Iranian South Oil Company, with results approved by the client. The system is now in use for well repair operations near Ahvaz.

Makvandi said the technology boosts production, prevents wastage and helps meet the Oil Ministry's policy of banning crude burning in open pits. By reducing on-site flaring, the MOT also mitigates air and water pollution.

The new unit can process up to 5,000 barrels per day at 800 psi pumping pressure, making it a valuable tool for environmental protection and cost efficiency, he said.

National Iranian Drilling Company, a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), is a key player in Iran's oil and gas industry, responsible for drilling operations.

The company that conducts exploration, development, and drilling of oil and gas wells, as well as repair and maintenance services, and has been actively involved in both onshore and offshore drilling projects, is now ready to play a more prominent role in the region.

Iran boosts oil output to 3.25m bpd in September: OPEC

TEHRAN – Iran's crude oil production rose by 44,000 barrels per day (bpd) in September, reaching 3.25 million bpd, according to the latest monthly report from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

OPEC's October report showed that total oil output from its 12 member countries climbed by 524,000 bpd in September to 28.44 million bpd. The increase reflects higher production levels in several member states, including Iran.

The data indicates that Iran's average crude output in 2024 stood at 3.26 million bpd, up from 2.88 million bpd in 2023



— underscoring steady recovery and resilience in the country's energy sector despite external pressures.

Saudi Arabia and Iraq remained OPEC's largest produc-

ers in September 2025, pumping 9.96 million and 4.07 million bpd, respectively.

The broader OPEC+ alliance, which includes non-OPEC producers, recorded combined pro-

duction of 43.05 million bpd in September — an increase of 630,000 bpd from August's 42.42 million.

The report also highlighted a price uptick for Iranian heavy crude, which rose by 63 cents to \$69.81 per barrel in September, compared with \$69.18 in August. The average price for Iranian heavy crude in 2024 stood at \$81.85 per barrel, while the OPEC basket averaged \$70.39 per barrel in September.

OPEC's latest outlook projected a daily rise of 1.38 million barrels in global oil demand for 2025, bringing total demand to around 105.14 million bpd.

Tehran, Dushanbe agree to resolve banking issues, form joint investment task force

TEHRAN – Iran and Tajikistan have agreed to address outstanding banking issues and establish a joint investment task force to enhance cooperation in areas such as energy, infrastructure, and agriculture, marking another step toward deepening their economic and financial relations.

According to Tasnim News Agency, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Seyed Ali Madanizadeh met with Sultan Rahimzoda, head of Tajikistan's State Committee on Investment and State Property Management, to discuss practical measures for expanding bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting, Madanizadeh—who also chairs Iran's State Banks Assembly—highlighted the need to resolve pending banking and financial coordination issues between the two countries.

Both sides agreed to accelerate efforts to finalize banking arrangements that would facilitate trade and investment flows.

The Iranian minister emphasized the investment potential in technical and engineering services, mining, infrastructure, agriculture, and knowledge-based industries, calling the Dushanbe International Investment Forum a vital platform for promoting mutual understanding and private-sector engagement.

He noted that three key economic agreements between the two countries—on investment promotion and protection, avoidance of double taxation, and customs cooperation—are now in force, providing a legal foundation for expanding commercial ties.

Madanizadeh also announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to form the Iran–Tajikistan Joint Investment Working Group, which has already held three sessions, the most recent on the sidelines of the 17th Economic Cooperation Summit in Shiraz.

He further underscored the readiness of Iran's private sector to exchange specialized business delegations and enhance knowledge of the Tajik market, adding that recent progress in visa-free travel has already boosted cultural and medical tourism between the two nations.

Iran–Tajikistan ties deepen through banking, investment cooperation

The recent Iranian delegation's trip to Dushanbe and participation in the international investment forum underscored a strategic shift toward operational economic diplomacy, building on decades of cultural, linguistic, and historical ties.

A key focus of the talks was developing banking cooperation to remove long-standing financial barriers.

Given the central role of banking systems in trade facilitation and capital transfer, resolving these issues could unlock new pathways for joint investment and empower private-sector initiatives.

The implementation of the three foundational economic agreements—on investment protection, double taxation, and customs—provides a framework of mutual trust for businesses and investors.

The establishment of the joint investment

task force signals a move from political understanding to structured, results-oriented cooperation.

Emerging joint projects between Iran and Tajikistan

Collaboration in technical and engineering services, mining, infrastructure, agriculture, and knowledge-based industries has emerged as a key priority.

These sectors, rich in development potential, can contribute to technology transfer, job creation, and sustainable growth in both countries.

The Dushanbe forum served as a platform to identify shared capacities and connect Iranian and Tajik entrepreneurs.

The Iranian private sector is expected to play an increasingly vital role in this process.

By forming expert delegations and strengthening trade intelligence, Iranian firms can establish joint ventures and seize opportunities in Tajikistan's growing market.

Visa waiver fosters closer people-to-people and economic ties

The visa-free travel agreement between Iran and Tajikistan has significantly expanded cultural and medical tourism, while also facilitating smoother business interactions.

Analysts note that the deep cultural and civilizational ties between Tehran and Dushanbe have evolved into a powerful engine for economic cooperation, positioning Iran as a reliable partner in Tajikistan's path toward sustainable regional development.

South Pars Gas Complex advances toward full industrial self-sufficiency

TEHRAN – The South Pars Gas Complex (SPGC) has taken a major step toward industrial self-reliance, with more than 90 percent of equipment and supplies for its refineries now sourced domestically, according to the company's commercial director.

Saeed Heydari, the SPGC's commercial director, said extensive use of locally manufactured equipment marks a milestone in the country's path to sustainable growth and industrial independence in the gas sector. He not-

ed that over 15,000 items and specialized process components used in refinery operations have been fully indigenized.

Heydari added that the majority of refinery materials required this year have been provided by domestic manufacturers, resulting in improved quality and reduced operational costs.

The SPGC's collaboration with knowledge-based companies and first-time domestic manufacturers has been a key strategy in achieving technological self-sufficiency, Heydari said.

Local tech firms have played an active role in specialized maintenance and production of sensitive components, replacing previously imported items such as filters and auxiliary parts with high-quality Iranian-made alternatives.

He noted that many critical items once imported are now designed and produced domestically, adding that the company's long-term strategy aims to increase the local manufacturing share across its supply chain. The SPGC's cooperation with

industrial startups and innovation-driven enterprises, he said, provides a model of homegrown sustainable development in the energy sector.

Heydari emphasized that this achievement not only reduces reliance on imports but also strengthens Iran's domestic supply chain and supports the knowledge-based economy. The South Pars Gas Complex, he concluded, is moving firmly toward complete industrial self-sufficiency while enhancing the resilience of Iran's gas industry.



TEHRAN – Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has announced plans to supply equipment to rural councils as part of a national initiative to expand renewable energy generation in villages, according to Deputy Energy Minister Mohsen Tarzatalab.

Speaking at a training session on solar power development held at SATBA's headquarters, Tarzatalab said rural councils across

all 31 provinces can work with the organization to obtain the necessary permits for constructing renewable power plants. The move aims to bring small-scale solar generation projects to operational status across rural areas.

Tarzatalab said the government will announce a new guaranteed purchase rate for renewable electricity in November. Under the current scheme, rural producers can sell electricity to SATBA at a guaranteed rate of 38,500 rials (\$0.08) per kilowatt-hour, recovering their initial investment within three to four years. Alternatively, producers can sell renewable power on the Energy Exchange's Green Electricity Board for over 60,000 rials (\$0.12) per kilowatt-hour.

Tarzatalab urged the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Administrations to identify funding sources and determine provincial capacity allocations, adding that SATBA will

centrally procure equipment at competitive prices once the financial resources are in place.

Highlighting the advantages of renewable energy in rural development, the SATBA chief said the new cooperation framework could lead to the construction of 100 to 150 megawatts of renewable capacity by the end of the year. This expansion, he said, will support rural employment, enhance energy self-sufficiency, and help preserve village populations.

The partnership follows a previously signed memorandum of understanding between SATBA and the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Administrations to develop renewable energy plants of up to 3 megawatts in rural areas. The agreement allows rural councils, cooperatives, and related unions to participate in long-term power purchase projects under SATBA's development model.

‘Let Him Die’

Palestinian survivors recount systematic torture inside Israel’s prisons

By Garsha Vzirian

TEHRAN – They emerged from the buses beneath a pale, indifferent sky, their bodies reduced to shadows of the men they once were. Roughly 2,000 Palestinians — released in the first phase of the October captive exchange — returned as specters.

Silence spread like a verdict as families reached and recoiled, medics intercepting embraces to rush dozens straight into emergency rooms.

“My joy went with them,” one freed man whispered after learning his family had been killed while he was jailed.

Their names surface like a ledger of violence. Naseem al-Radee stepped down gaunt and fragile after 100 days in an underground cell, bearing the weight loss and vision damage he attributes to repeated beatings and a final “farewell” kick.

Mohammed al Asaliya, a former university student, gave an account of ‘the disco’—a room of incessant, deafening music that speaks to a regime of sensory torture. He described being forced to kneel and lie face down for hours, threatened with wild dogs, blindfolded, sprayed with chemicals, and blasted with relentless noise until sleep and sense frayed.

Shadi Abu Sido, a photojournalist, fainted at his reunion, saying jailers stripped him, forced him to kneel to eat, and threatened his family after destroying his camera.

Nedal Abu Akr emerged after nearly two decades of near-total isolation as if remembering light for the first time. Akram alBasyouni, 45, from northern Gaza, spent nearly two years in custody, including at the Sde Teiman military base. He described a regime of systematic



torture and death, recalling how fellow prisoners were beaten until they collapsed. When detainees begged guards for help, the reply was chillingly uniform: “Let him die.”

Dozens more — Samer Abu Dyak, Ayman Zahd, Ahmad Abdel-AL, Husam Rayyan, Mahmoud Issa, Abd Al-Jawad and Mohammad Shamasneh, Mahmoud Al-Arda and others — arrived with infections, broken bones, amputations, electric-shock marks and the hollow stare of starvation. Gaza hospital staff confirmed that many needed urgent surgeries.

Taken together, these accounts do not amount to random cruelty. They reveal Israel’s systematic architecture of humiliation: prolonged shackling, stress positions, enforced nakedness, sleep deprivation, withheld medicines, filthy food, and routine psychological torment.

Survivors describe beatings so severe that ribs were shattered; one returnee alleged burning liquids were poured over skin.

Several reported being told their children had died. For a devastating handful, the psychological torment inflicted by Israeli prison guards was

grimly realized: release brought confirmation that their loved ones had indeed been killed by the Israeli military’s genocidal assault on Gaza.

Rights groups and hospitals say the physical evidence seen at crossings aligns with these testimonies.

There is visual and documentary corroboration. In mid-2024, surveillance footage from the Sde Teiman detention facility circulated widely, showing the sexual assault and severe beating of a Palestinian detainee.

The video triggered outrage and formal probes; several soldiers were arrested and questioned. Yet, as expected, justice was not served: investigations stalled, political leaders defended the accused, and the case dissolved without meaningful accountability.

Human rights organizations, from Israeli monitors to UN offices, have long documented administrative detention without charge, denial of care, and harsh interrogation methods — a record that frames these new testimonies as part of a longer pattern rather than isolated excesses.

The scope is not limited to Palestinians. Dozens of international activists from the Global Sumud flotilla

have reported being blindfolded, zip-tied, denied medical care, and subjected to degrading treatment after interception at sea.

Among them is Greta Thunberg, who described five days in Israeli detention marked by beatings while bound, humiliation, and psychological abuse. She recounted guards kicking her whenever an Israeli flag brushed her face, mocking her with obscene slurs such as ‘whore Greta,’ withholding food and clean water, and threatening prisoners with gassing while filming them for propaganda.

The cross-national similarity of methods strengthens the claim that the practices are institutional, not accidental. Language has not been neutral in this crisis. Western headlines fasten on “hostages” when Israeli soldiers are captured; Palestinians returned from long administrative detention are commonly called “prisoners” or “detainees.”

That choice narrows who is seen as a victim and who is treated as a problem to be managed. The recent exchange freed roughly 2,000 Palestinians, a partial reprieve; credible tallies still place nearly 9,000 Palestinians in Israeli custody, many held without charge.

For those who stepped off buses, survival will be measured in surgeries and the slow labor of reclaiming memories stolen by years behind walls.

For the rest of the world, the obligation is clear: to name what the bodies and voices reveal without euphemism, to pursue independent and transparent investigations, and to heed testimony corroborated by hospitals and human rights documentation.

The returned are no longer silent witnesses; their wounds — visible, named and numerous — demand to be answered.



opens will be given to the sick and wounded,” the director general said, adding, “There are a quarter of a million tons of waste in the Gaza Strip, which constitutes an environmental disaster.”

He said, “We need heavy machinery to deal with the waste, as the war has destroyed many machines.”

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

Israel killing civilians despite Gaza truce

From page 1 ► On Monday, the regime also broke the ceasefire that had been in effect for three days. Hebrew media acknowledged that the occupation army resumed attacks in Gaza, resulting in the deaths of seven Palestinians and injuries to several others.

This escalation came despite the fact that on October 10 the Israeli cabinet approved the Gaza ceasefire agreement, which called for an immediate and complete halt to fighting and for the exchange of prisoners.

As part of the first phase of the deal, the Palestinian resistance in Gaza handed over 20 captives alive to International Red Cross teams on October 13. In return, the regime on the same date released nearly 2,000 Palestinian hostages as part of the same agreement.

On Wednesday, October 15, Hamas also announced that it had delivered the bodies of four captives and is expected to hand over more in

the coming hours and days, according to diplomatic and informed sources.

In another violation of the ceasefire agreement, the regime’s officials have announced the closure of the Rafah crossing essential to bringing much-needed aid into the besieged Palestinian territory, despite a pledge delivered to Hamas that humanitarian aid will surge to at least 600 trucks per day.

Footage on Tuesday showed a long line of trucks waiting in Egyptian territory on the other side of the Rafah crossing. Their entry is being obstructed by the occupation regime.

The director general of Gaza’s Government Media Office has called on the Israeli regime to open the crossings and allow aid into the enclave “immediately.”

“The suffering faced by the people of Gaza over the past two years will continue after the war ends. Priority for travel when the crossing

Victory for Gaza and the Axis of Resistance

From page 1 ► The resistance successfully moved the battle to much wider arenas. This is repeated in other forms across all fronts of confrontation. The goal of the October 7 operation against Israel was not to liberate Palestine. The battle was not aimed to annihilate the Israeli occupation entity.

The operation was a great event. It succeeded in proving its ability to cause a massive earthquake in Israel. Even the entity’s response was not revenge for what happened on October 7 — its goal was to remove the threat posed by the

resistance.

As for the Israeli occupation entity’s objectives, it was to eliminate the resistance and to build a “new Middle East.” Preparations were made for attacking all resistance fronts required under that plan: from the war on Lebanon to striking Iran and Yemen. The aim was to eliminate the resistance entirely. After two years, despite great differences in military strength, Israel failed, and the resistance is remaining firm and strong by insisting on its principles. Therefore, the war across the region will not

bear results beyond what it has already achieved.

There is a strong conviction that the enemy is far from achieving its aim of eliminating the Axis of Resistance after exhausting everything. Continuing that path could worsen things to the point where the West might entirely lose its interests.

It has exhausted all available means of aggression and has not achieved any result.

Now an attempt is underway to convert the material losses inflicted

ed on the resistance into a political achievement, as happened in Lebanon. Therefore, the political movement will become crowded with efforts to create a Palestinian situation outside the framework of the resistance.

Here begins a new phase of work for the Axis of Resistance: converting the huge popular capital that the resistance gained during Operation Al-Aqsa Flood into political action against the Israeli occupation entity.

cludes the handover of Syrian detainees and wanted persons, and the exchange of information on sensitive cases, including political assassinations.

The meeting between the Syrian-Lebanese judicial delegations demonstrated a shared desire for cooperation, strengthening the legal and judicial process between the two countries and easing tensions on the border, despite some ongoing disagreements over the issue of political detainees.

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



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Straight Truth

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Gaza ceasefire a pause, not the end of the war, says Egyptian sociologist

Prof. Mohamed Sayed Ahmed says the conflict with Israel remains “a battle of existence, not borders”

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- In his exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Egyptian political analyst and professor of political sociology Mohamed Sayed Ahmed offers a sharp evaluation of the Gaza ceasefire after nearly two years of devastating war.

Professor Sayed Ahmed argues that the agreement, though essential, serves as a temporary breather rather than a resolution of the deeper conflict. Ahmed says while the truce halts Israel’s military operations and allows for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, it falls short of addressing the core issues: occupation, displacement, and the Palestinian right to statehood.

He also critiques the controversial Trump 20-point plan and rejects proposals for Western-led administration of Gaza, emphasizing that Palestinians must retain control. Cairo, he contends, has played a decisive role. Above all, in the interview he predicts the struggle continues. He also argues this is a war for existence, not merely for territory.

Below is the full text of the interview:

How do you assess the significance of the Gaza ceasefire agreement after nearly two years of devastating war?

I think it is very important because it is the longest war that the Zionist enemy has fought against the Palestinian people. For two whole years there was siege, destruction and an attempt at true extermination of the Palestinian people. So, it was crucial to halt the fighting and accept this agreement so that the Palestinian people—and the Palestinian resistance (forces) —could breathe.

We know very well that the war is not over; the conflict with this enemy is about existence, not borders. The ceasefire does not mean the end of the conflict, but rather a pause in it, and therefore it was very important at this time. I believe that the Palestinian people, together with the resistance, have defeated the Zionist enemy to some extent.

Their declared goals were not achieved: the people were not displaced and the resistance was not eliminated. That in itself is a victory for the resistance and for the Palestinian people over the Zionist enemy.

What are the main factors that pushed both sides — Israel and Hamas — to accept this agreement at this particular moment?

The Zionist enemy agreed to this deal because the war became untenable and there were pressures both internationally and domestically. The situation inside Israel deteriorated markedly. Settlers lived for two years in a state of constant terror and threat, and the morale of the occupation army reached its lowest level. Settlers turned on Benjamin Netanyahu and his government, confirming that they could not achieve victory, so the war had to be stopped. These internal pressures, along with heavy economic, social, military and political losses, pushed Israel to stop the war.

International public opinion also took a toll—not just Western governments but public sentiment. Sympathy for the Palestinian people grew, and awareness about the Palestinian cause spread. The narrative that Palestinians are terrorists collapsed; instead, Palestinians were seen as defending their homeland and asserting their right to liberate occupied land. Conversely, Zionist narratives were weakened.

As for Hamas, it too faced enormous pressure and severe losses—on the ground and in leadership, political and military. The Palestinian people in Gaza suffered massively: tens of thousands killed, hundreds of thousands wounded, starvation, a brutal siege, and roughly 80 percent of buildings destroyed. All these factors pressured Hamas to accept the agreement at this stage.

How do you evaluate the so-called Trump 20-point plan, which has sparked wide debate in political circles?

My assessment is that Trump’s plan is a Zionist plan. It is not in the interest of the Palestinian people or the Palestinian resistance. Many of its provisions aimed at dismantling resistance capabilities and establishing international or externally led administration—under figures such as Trump himself and Tony Blair—are not favorable to Palestinians.

Hamas’s response was smart in avoiding the demolition of resistance weapons. That response preserved Hamas as a partner on the Gaza scene. I believe Trump’s objectives were not fully achieved because Hamas refused to accept the dismantling of weapons or an externally managed sector. This leaves room to breathe and to reorganize, and it confirms that Hamas will not accept removal of its arms or management of Gaza away from Palestinians themselves.

Some argue that this plan seeks to redefine the Palestinian issue without addressing the roots of occupation or the right to an independent Palestinian state. Do you agree with this view?

I agree. This plan does not address the issue at its roots and does not grant the Palestinian people the right to establish a state. It is mainly a stopgap to halt the bleeding and allow breathing room. The conflict with this Zionist enemy will continue, albeit in different phases.

We must use this time to rebuild Gaza, stabilize its people, reorganize the resistance and the Palestinian factions, and seek unity. The resistance remains the only solution to confront this enemy, because this is a battle for existence, not borders. The enemy still proclaims expansionist slogans—from the Nile to the Euphrates—and seeks to displace not only Palestinians but broader Arab populations. They view this as a holy mission, so they will not willingly allow a Palestinian state, despite international law and the fact that 157 countries (out of the 193 member states of the United Nations) support Palestinian statehood. The 1947 UN partition decision has not produced an Arab Palestinian state after almost eight decades; liberation, sadly, will not occur except through arms. The resistance must reorganize and prepare for a new round of struggle once it regains strength.

The plan reportedly assigns Tony Blair to oversee the postwar administration in Gaza. How is this proposal perceived in Egypt and the wider Arab world?

Tony Blair’s proposed role in administering Gaza is rejected by Egypt and the Arab world entirely. Egypt played a major role in shaping Hamas’s response and helped to reject this idea. The fate of Gaza, Egypt insists, must be decided by Palestinians themselves, including all Palestinian factions. Hamas has clearly rejected external administration, and thus the suggestion is effectively nullified once the first parts of the agreement were implemented. Donald Trump accepted Hamas’s response, which decisively rejected external administration of the Strip.

Do you believe Western supervision could weaken the Arab role or undermine regional sovereignty in managing the Gaza file?

I do not think Western supervision would strengthen the Arab role; rather, it would undermine it. Gaza is central to the Palestinian cause. If Hamas had agreed to Western administration and to removing its weapons, the Palestinian cause would have been effectively sidelined. The primary goals of the Gaza war—displacement of Palestinians, settlement on Egyptian soil in Sinai, and elimination of Hamas—were not achieved. Consequently, the Palestinian project has survived and the resistance remains alive. The struggle can continue toward full liberation of occupied Palestinian lands.

Egypt has long served as a mediator between Israel and the Palestinian factions. How do you evaluate Cairo’s role in achieving the recent ceasefire agreement?

Cairo’s role was central—far beyond that of a mere mediator. To call Egypt a mediator understates its contribution. Egypt did not relent; it remained active and instrumental in achieving the agreement. At the outset of the war, when Benjamin Netanyahu spoke of temporarily displacing Palestinians and settling them in Sinai, that was effectively a declaration of war against Egypt. Egypt rejected that plan and mobilized its forces in Sinai, prepared to confront any threat. Israel understood Egypt’s strength and the potential for a wider confrontation, and that deterred further escalation. Egypt has stood by the Palestinian people and will not allow its soil to be violated; it has been a firm partner to Gaza in confronting this Zionist enemy.

Do you think this agreement could pave the way for a lasting political settlement, or is it merely a temporary truce before another round of escalation?

I believe this agreement is unlikely to produce a permanent political settlement. A lasting two-state solution cannot be accepted by the Zionist enemy, in my view. What we have is a temporary solution before a possible new round of escalation. The Palestinian resistance insists on liberation of the entire occupied Palestinian land; our conflict with this enemy is about existence, not borders. Therefore, I see the current agreement as a pause rather than a final settlement.

“Silk Legacy” exhibition celebrates centuries-old cultural ties between Iran and China



From Page 1 ► “These ties are not only historical but continue to thrive today,” Nokandeh noted. “On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Palace Museum in Beijing, I attended the 7th Taihe Forum, where representatives from more than 160 museums worldwide discussed inter-museum cooperation. The National Museum of Iran extended its congratulations to the Chinese people on this important milestone.”

Nokandeh announced that a memorandum of understanding had been signed between the National Museum of Iran and the National Museum of China, represented by Mr. Luo Wenli, to enhance cultural collaboration. He added that Iran is also participating in the “Collections from Museums of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States” exhibition currently underway in China.

Last year, the National Museum of Iran organized the touring exhibition “The Glory of Ancient Persia” at the Palace Museum in Beijing, the Shanghai Museum, and the Xinjiang Regional Museum in Ürümqi, marking an important step in strengthening cultural dialogue. The museum also contributed to the 2024 Beijing exhibition “Historical Encoun-

ters between China and West Asia,” which featured more than 260 works from domestic and international institutions.

“The joint exhibitions in Beijing and Tehran reflect our shared commitment to cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding,” Nokandeh said. “Museums play a vital role in showcasing the deep-rooted heritage and shared values of our two nations.”

The “Silk Legacy” exhibition, organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism and the National Museum of Iran, presents nearly 90 artifacts from the Parthian to the Qajar periods — including 77 items from the National Museum of Iran and 13 from Tehran’s UNESCO World Heritage Site, Golestan Palace.

Officials and experts involved in organizing the event include Dr. Mohammad Ebrahim Zarei, President of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism; Dr. Mohammadreza Mehrandish, Art and Media Advisor; Dr. Dariush Akbarzadeh and Dr. Morteza Hesari, scientific coordinators of the exhibition; as well as Dr. Ali Darabi, Deputy Minister and Cultural Heritage Vice-President; and Dr. Leila Khosravi, Director General of Museums.

Mountains, on the slopes of Mount Mongasht. With its pristine nature and unique landscapes, it has great potential to become one of the leading tourist destinations in the northeast of Khuzestan province.”

Khuzestan province, situated in the southwestern part of Iran, is a region steeped in history and culture, with a remarkable diversity of attractions that appeal to various tourists.

This area is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places on Earth, and its historical significance is highlighted by its contribution to the development of the ancient Elamite civilization, which dates back to approximately 2700 BC.

The province is particularly renowned for its archaeological sites. Susa, one of the oldest cities in the world, provides invaluable insight into ancient human civilization.

The ziggurat of Chogha Zanbil, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is another must-visit, offering a unique glimpse into the religious practices of the Elamites.

Khuzestan is also famous for its rich tapestry of cultures. This multiculturalism is reflected in the local cuisine, traditional music and crafts, making it a vibrant place for cultural tourism.

In conclusion, Khuzestan province offers a profound journey through time, showcasing an array of historical monuments and vibrant cultural expressions, set against a backdrop of stunning natural beauty. It remains a gem for those interested in exploring the depths of human history intertwined with the richness of nature.

East Azarbaijan earns \$30m by visits of foreign tourists in six months

TEHRAN—East Azarbaijan tourism industry boasts unique economic potentials and generates sustainable employment. Foreign tourists boosted the province’s economy and their visits and stays helped generation \$30 million for the province during the first half of current Iranian year (March-September 2025).

Head of East Azarbaijan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Ahmad Hamzehzadeh told IRNA that the unique capacity created in various fields of health tourism, sports, cultural and historical, nature tourism, geotourism and education attracted more than 30,000 foreign tourists in the first six months of this year, despite all the special events and conditions.

Considering the announcement by the World Tourism Organization that the minimum spending of each tourist in Iran is \$1,000, \$30 million in foreign currency has entered the province, he added.

Hamzehzadeh announced that more than 1,350 licensed units are operating with more than 30,000 employees across the province, and this has served as an infrastructure to attract domestic and foreign tourists to the province.

He noted that this industry has a very high employment volume, and in the smallest tourism unit, such as a small restaurant, more than 15 people work, and in larger units, more than 300 people work.

One of the hidden and visible capacities of East Azarbaijan tourism is the presence of foreign students in this province. One of the important elements and indicators of tourism in the world is the length of stay of tourists, which shows its income



and economic benefits more.

Frequent tourists increase this advantage. Under these conditions, foreign university students have this advantage. Of course, this advantage must be respected because students have constant and continuous trips and will spend at least until the completion of their studies in the city where they reside. Accordingly, this very large capacity must be used for cultural and economic development.

Also, Deputy Head of East Azarbaijan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Alireza Bairamzadeh, said: “According to the studies and planning carried out in the form of specialized foreign tourism desks, the largest volume of foreign tourist spending has been recorded and a specialized desk has been established for these countries, and relevant matters are being followed up in cooperation with relevant organizations, including tourism organizations and chambers of commerce. The mentioned specialized desks include Turkey, Iraq, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Eurasia and China.”

He stated that the cultural affinity of these countries due to their proximity to the province,

high economic exchanges between various manufacturers and factories, and two-way trade have also resulted in the highest foreign exchange earnings in the field of tourism.

Bairamzadeh added: “This is the best and least expensive way to circumvent sanctions on one hand, solve the unemployment problem on the other hand, and fundamentally confront the enemies’ Iranophobia project.”

He noted: “On one hand, we should also be proud of the scientific ability of East Azarbaijan province, which has the ability to attract foreign students, despite major competitors such as Turkey, which has the power to accept young Iranian, Iraqi, Azerbaijani, and other countries’ students on its agenda. This is a kind of revival of the rich history of this province, which in Rab’-e Rashidi, one of the greatest scientific centers of its time, used to accept scientists from different parts of the world from China and India to Europe.”

Meanwhile, Chancellor of Tabriz University Mohammad Taghi Alami, pointed out that East Azarbaijan is one of the leading provinces in accepting foreign students, said that currently, 8,300 foreign students are studying in the province’s

universities, 4,500 of whom are studying in Tabriz city and 3,500 at Tabriz University.

He noted that out of 5,600 foreign students who applied for education this year, only 15 percent were accepted, which indicates a scientific and logical process in admissions.

Alami also said that the presence of foreign students has economic effects, adding that the presence of more than 4,500 foreign students in Tabriz results in a turnover of about \$60 million per semester, which contributes to the city’s economic prosperity.

East Azarbaijan has infrastructures for historical and natural tourism and four-season climate. It has unique historical monuments that house several world-class monuments and several others are in the process of being studied for possible registration on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

East Azarbaijan, in addition to its proximity to the border, Europe, the gateway to Eurasia, and the benefits of air, rail, and land transportation infrastructure, has more than 4,000 historical and ancient monuments, of which 2,075 have been registered on the National Heritage List.

What has increased the importance of tourism and historical monuments in East Azarbaijan province in recent years is the number UNESCO-listed monuments, which have currently increased to six, including Tabriz historic bazaar complex, the largest traditional and roofed bazaar in the world, the Saint Stepanos Monastery of Jolfa, the Aras Global Geopark, the Jamalabad Caravanserai of Mianeh, Khajeh Nazar Caravanserai of Jolfa, and Goyjeh-Bell Caravanserai.

Turkmen weddings: a celebration of identity and family

TEHRAN--Turkmen weddings are popular because they are more than just celebrations — they are living, dynamic expressions of a proud culture that honors history, family, and identity in joyous, unforgettable ways.

The Turkmen people of Iran, primarily settled in the northeastern provinces such as Golestan, North Khorasan, and parts of Khorasan Razavi, are one of the country’s vibrant ethnic groups, Mehr News Agency wrote.

Iranian Turkmens are part of the larger Turkic ethnic family, with linguistic and cultural ties to Central Asia. Their lifestyle historically revolved around pastoralism and nomadism, though many now live in towns and villages. The extended family and tribal affiliations continue to play a central role in social organization.

With a rich nomadic heritage and deep-rooted traditions, Iranian Turkmens have preserved their unique identity through centuries, reflected in their music, wedding customs, clothing, and rituals.

Turkmen weddings are popular because they are more than just celebrations — they are living, dynamic expressions of a proud culture that honors history, family, and identity in joyous, unforgettable ways.

Why Iranian Turkmen weddings are popular?

Vibrant cultural expression: Turkmen weddings serve as vibrant showcases of the community’s rich cultural heritage, featuring intricate traditional clothing and ornate jewelry, accompanied by lively music and spirited dances. The bride and groom are often dressed in colorful, embroidered garments

that reflect their tribal identity and social status, while silver jewelry and unique headpieces add to the visual splendor.

Music plays a central role in the festivities, with instruments like the dutar providing melodic accompaniment to traditional songs that celebrate love, family, and history. Energetic group dances symbolize unity, joy, and communal participation. These weddings are not only celebrations of marriage but also important social events that reinforce cultural identity and strengthen ties within the Turkmen community. Because of their rich symbolism and lively atmosphere, Turkmen weddings attract admiration and interest from people across Iran and beyond its borders.

Extended celebrations: Unlike many weddings that last only a day or two, Turkmen weddings often extend over several days, transforming the occasion into a vibrant festival of culture and community. This extended celebration provides ample time for socializing, storytelling, and strengthening bonds not only between the bride and groom but also among their families and the wider community.

Throughout these days, guests partake in a series of rituals, music performances, and traditional dances, all of which create a joyful and memorable atmosphere. The prolonged festivities reinforce social ties, preserve cultural traditions, and offer an immersive experience that highlights the richness of Turkmen heritage.

Traditional music: Traditional music plays an integral role in Turkmen weddings, with

the dutar—a two-stringed lute—being the centerpiece of many performances. The soulful melodies of the dutar accompany folk songs that tell stories of love, bravery, and the community’s rich history. Alongside the music, group dances bring energy and unity to the celebrations, involving local people in rhythmic movements that symbolize joy and togetherness.

These musical and dance traditions create a joyful, immersive atmosphere that deeply connects participants to their cultural roots and enhances the emotional significance of the wedding ceremony.

Symbolism and rituals: Turkmen weddings are rich with meaningful customs that go far beyond the formal union of two individuals. One of the most cherished traditions is the Henna Night, where the bride’s hands and feet are adorned with intricate henna designs symbolizing beauty, fertility, and blessings for the marriage.

Horse parades, another iconic element, showcase the importance of horses in Turkmen culture, representing strength, honor, and nobility. The veil ceremony, in which the bride’s face is covered with a red veil, signifies purity and modesty. Together, these rituals infuse the wedding with deep cultural and spiritual significance, turning it into a vibrant celebration of Turkmen identity, values, and community ties.

The beautiful traditional garments, silver jewelry, embroidered textiles, and decorated horses make Turkmen weddings visually stunning, making them a favorite subject for photographers, filmmakers, and tourists.

Dezpart Pomegranate Festival to boost local tourism

TEHRAN--The third Pomegranate Festival of Dezpart county in Khuzestan province will be held on Thursday, in Tang-e Qaf (Qaf strait) tourist area, with the aim of introducing the agricultural potential, especially the high-quality pomegranate product of the region, as well as showcasing the local culture and customs.

According to IRIB, Head of Dezpart Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Reza Kiani said that the festivals and cultural events are among the most effective tools for tourism development, because while introducing local attractions and potentials, they provide the basis for the presence of tourists, economic prosperity, and social dynamism in different regions.

He emphasized that the continuation of holding festivals and cultural events plays an important role in the prosperity of tourism, introducing the cultural identity of the city, and the sustainable development of the region.

Stating that the future of Dezpart depends on the development of tourism, he added: “The path of progress of this region does not pass through heavy industries, but through its rich nature, culture, and history. Accordingly, to realize this bright future, it is necessary for all executive bodies to stand together, understanding their social responsibility and inherent mission, and to create the basis for the prosperity of Dezpart through interaction, cooperation, and effective action.”

He said: “Tang-e Qaf is one of the lesser-known areas of Dezpart county, located behind the lake of Karun 3 Dam and in the heart of the Zagros

Morocco has lured 15m tourists till September 2025

Morocco welcomed 15 million tourists at the end of September 2025, an increase of 14 percent compared to the same period of the previous year, according to the Ministry of Tourism, Handicrafts and Social and Solidarity Economy.

September saw 1.4 million arrivals, up nine percent year-on-year, the ministry said in a statement, middle-east-online.com reported.

This new record confirms the positive momentum initiated since the beginning of 2025,

driven by the strengthening of air connectivity, targeted promotion efforts, as well as the continuous improvement of the tourism experience, said the same source.

“These 15 million arrivals reflect a strategy that is bearing fruit,” said Minister of Tourism,

Handicrafts and Social and Solidarity Economy, Fatim-Zahra Ammor.

“The government remains mobilized to accelerate this dynamic and make tourism a real economic lever for all territories,” she said.

Health minister attending WHO Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean

From page 1 ▶ On the sidelines of the event, Zafargandi will hold meetings with the WHO director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO), Hanan Balkhy, and his counterparts in the region.

RC72 is convening at a time of extraordinary global challenges. Conflict, humanitarian crises, climate change, and economic fragility are placing the health systems of many countries under immense strain.

RC72 provides a platform for countries to deliberate and adopt resolutions on the Region's most pressing health topics. This year, 5 technical papers will be presented, encouraging Member States to commit to:

Halving the number of zero-dose children – those who have never received a single vaccine – by 2030, and eliminating rubella and congenital rubella syndrome.

Integrating palliative care into national health systems. Millions – including cancer patients, children with congenital conditions, and refugees with chronic illnesses – die in avoidable pain.

A new resolution will address health-system recovery in crisis-affected countries like



Afghanistan, the occupied Palestinian territory, Sudan, and Yemen. It seeks to ensure that the humanitarian response goes hand in hand with early investment in rebuilding health systems, restoring trust, and strengthening future resilience.

Reviewing laboratory safety and governance, a long-overlooked area of regional health security.

A regional consultation to develop a climate-resilient health framework. Building on the Global Plan of Action on Climate Change and Health adopted at the World Health Assembly earlier this year, WHO EMRO is proposing a consultative process to develop a regional operation-

al framework on climate and health.

Ministers will also review a range of progress reports on priority health issues, discuss governance matters, and be invited to endorse a call to action on breast cancer, the leading cancer among women in the Region.

Iran regional leader in UHC: WHO official

During a meeting held on the sidelines of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA), Balkhi said Iran is a leading country in expanding its healthcare system and providing access to universal health coverage (UHC).

Lauding the country's achievements in recent years, Hanan

Balkhi said expanding primary health care services, increasing access to health coverage in rural areas, maintaining high vaccination rates, and reducing maternal and newborn mortality, Iran has managed to become a successful role model in the region, the health ministry's website reported.

WHO EMRO is working closely with the Iranian regulatory institutions to achieve regulatory maturity level 3 in the pharmaceutical regulatory system to pave the way for broader exports of Iranian health-oriented products to global markets; it will also contribute to promoting global health security, Balkhi added.

Tehran ready to host COP 7 for marine environment protection

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has announced readiness to hold the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, known as COP 7.

Iran is willing to maintain and promote a collaborative relationship with the Tehran Convention, develop structures, as well as establish a permanent secretariat, IRNA quoted DOE head Shina Ansari as saying.

She made the remarks in a meeting with Mahir Aliyev, the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention), in Tehran on Monday.

The two officials also discussed arrangements and preparations for holding COP 7, the perspectives of the Caspian Sea littoral states on cooperation for advancing the goals of the Tehran Convention, as well as reducing pollution and harmful substances in the Caspian Sea.

COP 6 was held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, in October 2022.

COP 7 in Tehran to focus on Caspian seal protection

Known for its unique biodiversity, the Caspian Sea is home to different kinds of valuable species and plays a vital role in the economy, food security, and ecological sustainability of the region.

Over recent decades, marine life, particularly sturgeon and Caspian seals' populations in the sea, have sharply declined due to threatening factors such as illegal fishing, overfishing, oil, industrial, and agricultural pollution, climate change, reduced water flow, as well as habitat destruction.

The Caspian seal is the only marine mammal in the Caspian Sea. The species is now listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, with its population declining due to various reasons, from one million in the past to 70,000, currently.

In recent years, the increase in the discovery of seals' carcasses on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea has raised concerns among environmentalists that the Caspian seal is at greater risk of extinction than ever before. In just two months, 18 carcasses were discovered on Mazandaran



coasts, IRNA reported.

Addressing the coordination meeting for the protection of the Caspian seal species, Ansari said that, given the recent losses of the seals and their critical status, conservation efforts need to be prioritized. Hence, COP 7, which will be held in Tehran, will focus on the preservation of the Caspian seal.

During the 11th Nevsky International Ecological Congress, held from May 22 to 23 in Saint Petersburg, Russia, the five Caspian Sea states (Iran, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Kazakhstan) discussed environmental challenges threatening, such as shrinking water level, pollution, habitat destruction, and decline in population of ma-

rine animals," IRNA quoted Ansari as saying.

Underscoring the need for regional cooperation to protect the biodiversity of the Caspian ecosystem, Ansari said based on regional diplomacy, it is essential to focus specifically on the Caspian Sea environment to save endangered species, particularly the Caspian seals, through enhanced joint measures, the official noted.

The official went on to highlight the significance of promoting inter-sectoral cooperation among responsible bodies such as fisheries and veterinary organizations, saying that fostering joint efforts will reduce conflicts over the conservation of these species.

World Food Day: FAO highlights 80 years of action, calling for stronger partnerships

TEHRAN – On the occasion of World Food Day 2025, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Farrukh Toirov, highlighted 80 years of commitment in improving food security and advancing sustainable agriculture while calling for stronger partnerships to achieve these shared goals.

A national conference held on Tuesday 14 October at the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO) to mark the World Food Day and International Day of Rural Women.

The FAO Representative underscored that the 2025 World Food Day theme, “Hand in Hand, for better foods and a better future,” calls for collective action to protect the planet's vital resources while empowering those who produce, process, and deliver our food, particularly rural women, who play a key role in maintaining household nutrition, food production, and environmental stewardship.

Highlighting the indispensable role of rural and nomadic women in achieving food security, sustainable agriculture, and community resilience.

Toirov noted that “Rural and nomadic women are central to ensuring food security and sustainable livelihoods.

Empowering them through access to knowledge, technology, and resources is essential to achieving a food-secure and resilient future.”

He further emphasized that while climate

change and drought continue to impact food security across the globe, the most serious threat today comes from armed conflicts that disrupt agricultural production and global food supply chains.

“FAO has been working for 80 years to improve global food systems and ensure food security for all.

Despite global progress, millions of people still face hunger and malnutrition,” said Toirov. “Our mission is only achievable when all actors including governments, international organizations, and the private sector, work hand in hand toward a better future.”

FAO, in collaboration with Iran's Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, continues to support initiatives aimed at strengthening the country's agricultural systems, including the development of the competitiveness of the country's key products such as pistachio, saffron, and date palm in global markets.

These efforts contribute to enhancing productivity, adapting to climate change, and creating opportunities for women farmers and entrepreneurs.

Marking 80 years since FAO's founding, Toirov reaffirmed the Organization's commitment to working closely with the Islamic Republic of Iran and other member countries to achieve better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life — leaving no one behind.

WFP releases September report on Iran

TEHRAN – The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of September.

In September, WFP food assistance reached 33,107 beneficiaries, which included Afghan and Iraqi refugees as well as Iranian teachers. Refugees are assisted with a staple food basket, which includes fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person per month).

Under cash-based transfers, following the revision of WFP's Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) conducted in November 2024, the Centre for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA) confirmed adjustments to cash transfer values starting in January.

In September, WFP continued to provide the increased cash transfers to better support essential living costs. The transfer is IRR 5 million (USD 7.2) for households headed by men and IRR 6 million (USD 8.6) for households headed by women.

WFP Iran's school-based programs, including school feeding and educational incentives, have been temporarily suspended due to the summer holidays and will resume with the start of the new academic year in October.

By September, WFP Iran helped ease the financial burden associated with the gluten-free dietary needs of 53 refugee celiac patients from WFP's beneficiaries by providing them with an extra cash amount of IRR 9.7 million (US\$14.13) per person as a replacement for their usual food entitlement.

WFP supported 399 refugees with disabilities in September across ten settlements, each receiving an additional monthly cash support of IRR 3 million (US\$4.3), on top of their regular aid. Initially launched in two provinces, the initiative was gradually expanded to cover settlements in Saveh, Semnan, Bani Najar, Sarvestan, Bezileh, Abazar, Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Jahrom, Meybod, and Torbat-e-jam.

To enhance the economic resilience and self-suf-

iciency of 310 refugees (42 percent women) in September, WFP continued its support for 25 income-generating initiatives across 18 settlements. Activities included welding, tailoring, baking, and farming, among others.

To strengthen food security, WFP delivered two fully equipped bakery units to the Bardsir and Rafsanjan settlements in Kerman Province, providing 11,000 residents with reliable access to fresh, high-quality bread.

Nearly 35,000 registered refugees in designated settlements reside in largely protected. Supported by WFP, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other agencies, these communities receive regular assistance and are closely coordinated with humanitarian actors. However, they remain heavily dependent on external support for food, health care, and education, making sustained aid essential to their stability.

In 2024, WFP provided a combination of in-kind and cash assistance to address the food needs of over 33,000 vulnerable refugees in Iran. As a result, 70 percent of them were able to consume food at an acceptable level, a figure that remains nearly stable compared to the previous year.

Since August, WFP has successfully increased the value of the cash transfer entitlement by 25 percent, actively helping to mitigate the immediate economic challenges reported by refugees.

WFP has maintained a presence in Iran since 1987, primarily focused on addressing the food security needs of refugees, mainly from Afghanistan. Iran has hosted refugees for over four decades. Most refugees, along with those in refugee-like conditions, reside in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, often integrated with host communities. However, the most vulnerable refugees living in 20 settlements across 13 provinces face a precarious food security situation that necessitates continued humanitarian assistance by the WFP.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran's Tabi'at Bridge to light up blue for World Food Day

TEHRAN – The iconic Tabi'at Bridge – the largest pedestrian overpass in Tehran – will shine in blue on Thursday, October 16, to mark World Food Day.

The illumination will take place by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, aiming to raise public awareness about the need to create sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agricultural systems.

As FAO marks 80 years, the Organization continues to work alongside its members and

partners to find practical, lasting solutions that respond to today's challenges and help achieve a food-secure world for all, for today and tomorrow.

World Food Day 2025 is calling for global collaboration in creating a peaceful, sustainable, prosperous, and food-secure future.

The theme for this year, “Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future,” fosters evidence-driven, country-led partnerships aimed at transforming agri-food systems and strengthening food security.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%’

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghan, Urmia, Chooapanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به اینکه حجم آب ورودی به دریاچه ارومیه باعث مرطوب شدن نمک‌های سطح دریاچه و کنترل ریزگردهای نمکی آن می‌شود افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه کانون بحرانی ریزگرد در آذربایجان غربی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.

TEHRAN TIMES



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:50 Evening: 17:46 Dawn: 4:49 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:13 (tomorrow)

Veteran Iranian dubber Saeed Mozaffari passes away

TEHRAN- Renowned Iranian voice actor and iconic voice of Iran’s dubbing industry, Saeed Mozaffari, passed away at Erfan Hospital in Tehran on Tuesday, after battling respiratory issues and a prolonged illness. He was 83.

Mozaffari’s extensive career in voice acting spanned over five decades, during which he lent his voice to numerous acclaimed films and series.

Mozaffari began his dubbing career around 1962, with his first minor role in the film “Miracle,” starring Roger Moore.

Among his notable works are providing the Persian voice for Clint Eastwood in “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” and “A Fistful of Dollars,” as well as voicing Damien Thomas as Zayd in “The Massage.” He also dubbed for series such as “Far from Home,” “The Walking Dead,” and “Vikings.”

Additionally, Mozaffari was the primary voice for Ryan O’Neal and voiced many roles originally played by Pierce Brosnan, Matthew McConaughey, Brad Pitt, and Jackie Chan.

His youthful and captivating voice left an indelible mark on Iranian dubbing history.

Rhetoric Orchestra to perform classic masterpieces at Vahdat Hall

TEHRAN- Iran’s Rhetoric Orchestra, conducted by Reza Marivand, will present a concert featuring works by renowned composers of classical music from around the world at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on Tuesday.

The Rhetoric Orchestra, which has previously performed numerous concerts at Vahdat and Roudaki halls in Tehran, will showcase Mozart’s Symphony No. 29, Hayden’s Symphony No. 45, along with compositions by Schubert, Georges Bizet, Rossini, Offenbach, and others, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Farbod Latifi will serve as the concertmaster, with Esmail Mohammadi and Morteza Soltani as soloists.

Mozart’s Symphony No. 29 in A major is a shining example of the young composer’s mastery of classical form and expressive melody. Composed in 1774, this symphony showcases Mozart’s exceptional talent for

blending elegant orchestration with lyrical themes. Its lively and optimistic character, combined with intricate musical textures, reflects Mozart’s innovative approach to symphonic writing during his early years. The Symphony No. 29 remains a beloved piece, admired for its clarity, grace, and timeless beauty.

Haydn’s Symphony No. 45 in F-sharp minor, also known as the “Farewell Symphony,” is one of the most famous works in the classical repertoire. Composed in 1772, it is renowned for its unique emotional depth and innovative structure, which conveys a poignant farewell message. The symphony’s dramatic shifts in dynamics and tempo, along with the gradual withdrawal of musicians from the stage, create a powerful narrative of longing and departure. This work not only exemplifies Haydn’s skill in orchestral storytelling but also reflects the composer’s ability to infuse music with profound expressive meaning.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza Homes
Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

Five Iranian films to attend 38th International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

TEHRAN - Five films from Iran will participate in the 38th International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), which is set to be held from November 13 to 23 in the Netherlands.

The Iranian participants in the IDFA 2025 include “Cutting Through Rocks” directed by Mohammadreza Eyni and Sara Khaki, “A Fox Under a Pink Moon” by Mehrdad Oskouei, “32 Meters” by Morteza Atabaki, “All My Sisters” by Massoud Bakhshi, and “Fellow Citizen” by Abbas Kiarostami, ILNA reported.

“Cutting Through Rocks” is a joint production of Iran, Germany, Chile, the Netherlands, the U.S., and Canada.

The 94-minute documentary, which will have its Dutch premiere in the Best of Fests section, shows Sara Shaverdi, the first woman ever elected to the council of her village in rural Iran.

She promises to curb child marriage, guarantee education for girls, and also secure the long-awaited gas connection for the village. However, she soon discovers that she will receive little open support from the community. To get things done she continues much of her work behind closed doors. In her free time, she secretly teaches girls how to ride motorbikes.

Despite pressure from the patriarchal system, Sara doesn’t give up. She stands up to the men around her, even when they question the integrity of her motives.

The documentary and its unyielding protagonist were well received at the Sundance Film Festival, where the film won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary.

“A Fox Under a Pink Moon” is a joint production of Iran, France, the UK, the U.S., and Denmark. The 76-minute documentary will have its world premiere in the International Competition section.

At just 16, Soraya is already creating stunning drawings and sculptures that are as beautiful as they are dark. This strong-willed Afghan sculptor and illustrator has been trying for five years to leave Iran and join her mother in Austria.

Mehrdad Oskouei directed this film entirely remotely, with Soraya filming all the footage herself over five years using her phone.

This material is interspersed with shots of her drawings and surreal animations. Making art is no idle pastime for Soraya: she puts all her worries, joys, and fears into her drawings and the sculptures she makes from soaked egg cartons or clay that she finds along her routes. Many of her drawings feature recurring figures: a loyal fox who is her traveling companion, a pink moon that always watches over her, and a clown who never laughs—a character Soraya identifies with.

An Iran-Turkey production, “32 Meters,” 84 minutes, will have its world premiere at the Luminous section of the festival.

The documentary shows Halime, who doesn’t identify with the traditional image of women in her patriarchal Turkish village community. There’s more to life than looking after the house and children, she believes. So, she decides to organize a

A scene from “32 Meters” by Morteza Atabaki.

shooting competition for women. But this idea isn’t universally welcomed by the men in the village.

“32 Meters” follows the women with warmth and understated humor as they bravely defend themselves against arguments that guns are “not toys” and that shooting is a man’s business. The camera is present during these intimate conversations, both indoors and outdoors, capturing how the community cautiously dares to embrace subtle change, and showing that even the most entrenched ideas about gender roles can be shifted.

The result is a hopeful portrait of a close-knit community and an independent-minded woman who, with her enthusiasm and perseverance—along with the support of a growing group of female friends and male allies—succeeds in challenging the traditional status quo.

“All My Sisters” has been produced jointly by Iran, Austria, France, and Germany. The 78-minute documentary will have its world premiere in the International Competition section.

In Tehran, sisters Mahya and Zahra grow up as carefree young girls: swinging on the playground bars, playing with dolls, and getting up to mischief. But the many restrictions imposed by society gradually creep into their lives via their traditional family.

Their uncle, filmmaker Massoud Bakhshi, follows them from their early childhood in 2007 to the present, 18 years later. In this frame story, he shows his footage to the now-adult women.

“Fellow Citizen” is a 1983 movie by the late renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami. The 51-minute film will be shown in the Dead Angle: Institutions section.

Many of Kiarostami’s films are built on a deceptively simple premise. In this work, he uses a telephone to film a busy intersection in Tehran, where a traffic cop is tasked with letting through only cars that have a permit. This produces fascinating exchanges between the officer and the drivers, who plead with him to let them pass.

Those without a permit try to convince him that their case is special: they need to rush to a nearby hospital, for example, quickly drop something off at a shop, or simply get to work. One driver even produces an X-ray to back up his claim.

Amid the ever-growing traffic chaos, it’s the officer’s job to decide who to allow through. He is no harsh authority figure, but someone open to the inventive arguments of the motorists.

Iranian artist to receive first Wendy Gutman Award

In addition to the film screenings, the Iranian-Dutch filmmaker and immersive media artist Ali Eslami will be the recipient of the very first Wendy Gutman Award at this year’s IDFA.

The award, worth €40,000, recognizes Eslami’s groundbreaking work in VR and immersive art. It will be presented to him on October 17, ahead of the IDFA.

The award recognizes a creator whose work is groundbreaking, connecting, and innovative within the documentary or immersive domain. The jury has praised Eslami’s work as “idiosyncratic, exciting, and autonomous.”

The Iranian-Dutch artist is considered one of the most innovative creators in the field of immersive art. His work moves between VR, interactive simulations, and physical installations, creating poetic experiences in which the boundary between the real and the virtual blurs.

The award was established by the Stichting Educatie en Cultuur (SEC) in memory of its former director, Wendela Scheltema. In consultation with the jury, the foundation decided to name the award after her pseudonym, Wendy Gutman.

Born in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province, Ali Eslami, 34, lives and works in the Netherlands and is considered one of the most innovative makers in the field of immersive art. His practice spans VR, interactive simulations, and physical installations, creating poetic experiences in which the line between the real and the virtual begins to

blur.

Eslami describes his work as “poetic engineering”: a way to explore how memory, perception, and emotion are shaped in a digital world.

With his virtual world “False Mirror,” he developed a fully self-constructed universe where time and space become tangible. Drawing inspiration from gaming and architecture, his artistic practice creates new forms of meaning and experience—demonstrating how game technologies can evolve into an autonomous and deeply personal artistic language.

Eslami’s work deals with long-term, practice-based research that builds and grows through speculative thinking and world-building.

His work engages and plays with temporal and spatial investigations of memory, computation, human cognition, and emotions—often informed by non-Western philosophical frameworks, such as Suhrawardi’s Illuminationism.

This line of inquiry results in forms of poetic engineering that seek the potential lying between the real and the unreal.

His engineering background and passion for video games nurtured an obsession with cybernetics and computation and continue to build his curiosity towards the shifting roles of form and function that create virtual worlds.

Eslami is no stranger to IDFA: In 2016, he won the IDFA DocLab Award for Best Immersive Non-Fiction. In 2020, he received a Gouden Kalf for Nerd Funk, and in 2024 his work was selected for IFFR.

IDFA is a leading international documentary institute that provides a space for exchange, collaboration, and inspiration—bringing together filmmakers, artists, audiences, and professionals from around the world.

Its broad scope includes a public festival of films and new media, funding initiatives, markets, talent development, and education programs—alongside a year-round documentary hub in Amsterdam’s Vondelpark.

An art fundraiser in Thurles has raised over €20,000 for Doctors Without Borders.

The event was organized by Anne Hogan, who brought together several local artists from Tipperary to sell their artwork to raise much needed funds for Gaza.

Artists who took part in the event included PJ O’Connell, Anne Mitchell, Catriona O’Connor, Frank Raffter, Siobhan Curran, Mary Scott, Lucy Lambe, Jackie Matthews, Vic Haywood, Michell Minton, Jennifer Ryan Kelly, Richie Quinn, Molly Cosgrave, Ger Long, Patricia Prout, Michael Fogarty, Mary Keneha, Jurga Ryan, Miriam O’Sullivan, Niamh O’Sullivan, and Anne Hogan.

Anne Hogan spoke with the Tipperary Star about the success of the event: “We had an opening on the Friday night and it was hugely supported by the public, and we did really very well. We must have had about 80 art pieces, and I’d say we sold every one of them except about two, which was brilliant. The Thurles artists, some of them gave two or three pieces of art. We had sculpture there as well. They all sold, it was brilliant.

Anne devised the idea after seeing so much of the war in Gaza on the news, leading her to want to take action: “The idea came about because I was looking at the television and

getting so distressed over what was going on, and I just said I have to stop looking at this and I have to think up something. So being an artist myself, this was the only thing I could think of, and then I rang around to all of my friends who are artists, and they jumped at the chance, every one of them, no one turned me down. We had about 30 artists. Some print, some watercolors, oil, acrylics, there was sculpture, bog oak, and slate work that one of the artists brought.

Since the event, the money has been donated to Doctors Without Borders, who have thanked the group for their generosity.