

Larijani and Putin Discuss Economic, Regional and International Cooperation in Moscow

Meeting came a day before Russia called on countries to end JCPOA restrictions on Iran's nuclear program



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Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani (right) converses with his deputy for international affairs Ali Bagheri Kani aboard a flight to Moscow on October 16, 2025.



Non-Aligned Movement in a shifting global landscape: Reflections ahead of Kampala Ministerial

By Dr. Abbas Araghchi
Iran's Foreign Minister

TEHRAN – As I finalize preparations to convene with my counterparts at the 19th Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Kampala on 15-16 October 2025, this gathering assumes considerable significance amid the accelerating complexities of contemporary international relations. ► Page 3

Pezeshkian says enemy can't cripple Iran via sanctions or threats

TEHRAN – The Iranian president says the enemy will not be able to bring Iranians to their knees through sanctions and threats.

“The enemy will only dream of crippling us through sanctions and threats if we remain united,” said Masoud Pezeshkian in a ceremony held to recognize benefactors building schools.

His remarks come at a time when the West has reinstated illegal sanctions on the country.

The UK, France, and Germany triggered the snapback on August 28, setting in motion a 30day process to restore all UN sanctions on Iran. ► Page 2

Iran remains open to dialogue but rejects coercion, says senior diplomat

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian diplomat has reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's readiness for negotiations while underlining its firm stance against coercion or imposed conditions.

Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations and a member of the Expediency Council, made the remarks in an interview published Wednesday on the official website of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. He stressed that any negotiation involving Iran must be guided by three core principles outlined by the Leader: dignity, wisdom, and expediency.

“Negotiations must be conducted on logical grounds, with respect for Iran's national dignity. We are open to dialogue, but we will never accept imposition,” Kharrazi said. Referencing Ayatollah Khamenei's recent statements, he noted that accepting talks under threat is neither honorable for any nation nor wise for its statesmen. The diplomat described U.S. demands in nuclear negotiations as “dictation, not negotiation,” highlighting that attempts to shut down Iran's nuclear enrichment would be unacceptable. ► Page 2

Israel seeking to turn South Lebanon into a de facto buffer zone

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Lebanon is experiencing a complex moment, facing continuous Israeli bombardment, severe political divisions, and increasing economic and diplomatic pressures.

Israel continues to target villages and towns from Bnaafoul to Ansar and Shamstar. It is terrorizing civilians and deterring them from working on their agricultural lands.

Amidst these Israeli acts, residents of the border villages insist on returning to their lands and harvest their crops.

This daily war on the border is not just military; it is also a war over land, memory, and identity. The enemy seeks to impose a new reality that makes the South a de facto buffer zone amidst the complicity of international silence and the Lebanese state's failure to protect its citizens and their rights.

Hamas takes on Israel's mercenaries in Gaza

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN – More than a week after the October 10 ceasefire, Gaza continues to face sustained military pressure, with Palestinians remaining under severe threat from Israel's ongoing operations. Although Israeli forces have partially withdrawn from some residential areas in central Gaza, local armed groups, linked to Israel's Shin Bet security agency, continue to target resistance fighters and civilians alike. These actions undermine prospects for lasting peace and highlight Israel's continued efforts to destabilize Gaza from within.

Historically, such groups have been accused of collaborating with Israel to disrupt internal security in Gaza. Reports indicate that they have participated in assassinations of resistance commanders, infiltration of communities, and the sowing of chaos throughout Israel's two-year war on the enclave. Over the past week, Hamas security forces have confronted these armed collaborators, resulting in dozens of fatalities on both sides.

Hamas rejects international custodianship

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The head of Hamas's Prisoners and Martyrs Office has rejected any plans to establish international governance in Gaza.

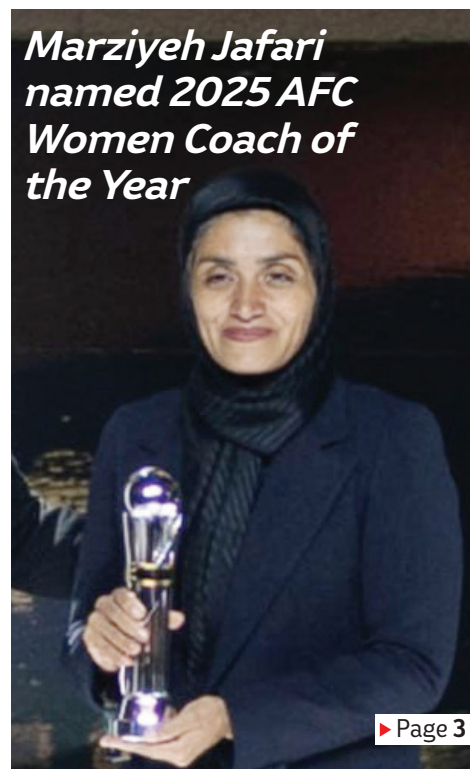
Zaher Jabarin emphasized that Hamas remains committed to implementing the agreement related to Gaza but firmly opposes any attempt to place the Palestinian people under “international custodianship.” He stressed that “the time has come to grant our people their right to self-determination and to build their independent state.”

In a televised address, Jabarin declared that the Palestinian resistance is “writing a glorious page in history” through the prisoner exchange deal and the cessation of a genocidal war. He said this achievement symbolizes “freedom, dignity, and pride in the history of our people's struggle.”

Jabarin praised the “Al-Aqsa Flood” prisoner exchange deal, which he said “broke the chains of more than 4,000 prisoners (in two years), including over 500 serving life sentences.” He added that “the freedom of the remaining prisoners is a responsibility on our shoulders, and we are committed to continuing efforts to free them.”

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Marziyeh Jafari named 2025 AFC Women Coach of the Year



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Yazdan Saadi's “Tehran Times” exhibition revives Iranian mythology through contemporary art

TEHRAN—An exhibition of paintings by Iranian artist Yazdan Saadi is currently underway at Saleh Gallery.

Titled “Tehran Times,” Saadi's latest collection offers a captivating blend of traditional Iranian paintings and modern conceptual art. Inspired by Ghahve-Khaneh paintings, Saadi has created a series of works that serve as a bridge between history and contemporary expression. ► Page 8



Minister urges WHO to protect health against sanctions

TEHRAN – Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi has referred to sanctions as silent wars against public health, urging the World Health Organization (WHO) and member states to safeguard health systems from political pressures and sanctions.

Zafarqandi also called on them to strengthen regional solidarity to tackle crises and climate change, IRNA reported.

The official made the remarks while addressing 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.

Over the past year, Iran's health system has undergone big challenges, including unfair sanctions and the 12-day Israeli-imposed war. The latter targeted non-military and health infrastructures, killing innocent children, women, and health staff, IRNA quoted Zafarqandi as saying. ► Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

IAEA is on a political path

Shargh examined the developments related to Iran's nuclear engagement until the next meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors. The newspaper says: The experience of the past years has shown that the IAEA's performance towards Iran has mostly been influenced by the political motivations of Western major countries, rather than technical and professional issues. Now, in the so-called "post-snapback" period, this pattern is expected to continue, with the difference that the IAEA is assessing costs and benefits instead of taking a decisive or overt political stance in the current circumstances. Grossi is trying to maintain a balance between political pressure and the need to maintain the technical credibility of the Agency. Recognizing prevalence of politics over professionalism in the IAEA, Tehran is trying to use technical engagement as a pressure management tool at the appropriate time and to prevent itself from getting caught up in a new cycle of sanctions. Overall, the current trend shows that both Iran and the Agency, on the eve of the critical November meeting, are seeking to maintain a fragile balance; a balance between controlled cooperation and preventing a return to a confrontational atmosphere.

Javan: Trump unintentionally acknowledges Iran's power

Javan wrote in a commentary on Trump's statements during his trip to Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt: Trump, in his speeches, both during his trip to the occupied territories and at the Sharm el-Sheikh summit, has tried to present Iran as a threat to regional countries by making irresponsible and shameful claims against the Iranian nation and defending America's brutal crimes in assassinating General Soleimani and attacking Iran in the 12-day war in June. However, his request for negotiations, is an acknowledgement of Iran's power and failure of America's strategy to contain Iran's influence and deterrence. What is important is that Iran's response to America and the Zionist regime in the 12-day war and the infliction of blows on these two regimes, along with maintaining and strengthening its preparedness in the post-war period, have strengthened and stabilized the position of the Islamic republic in the world. This is why the leaders of the European troika, under American order and pressure, have targeted the country's economic and social peace and stability by implementing "snapbacks" sanctions and are waiting for the defeat of national unity and cohesion of

the Iranian people so that, in their opinion, they can pave the way for the Iranian people to surrender.

Farhikhtegan: Iran's refusal to attend Sharm el-Sheikh shows its authority

Farhikhtegan discussed Iran's refusal to attend the Sharm el-Sheikh summit on Trump's 20-point plan for Gaza in an interview with Seyyed Abbas Mousavi, a foreign policy expert. He says: This absence not only did not lead to isolation, but also helped preserve Iran's authority. The absence from such meetings, which are intended to praise a global dictator (Donald Trump) or to gain approval from other countries for a person whose wishes and desires are known to everyone, is, incidentally, the same as power and authority and a symbol of independence. Where there is an opportunity, where the honor and dignity of the Iranian nation is preserved, the Islamic Republic of Iran will definitely make a decision immediately and participate in these various meetings. As we have witnessed, the Islamic Republic of Iran has participated in many important international meetings, announced its position authoritatively. However, the absence from a meeting that was planned and is for specific purposes, and the approval of a specific individual and a specific movement in the world, not only will not cause isolation, but it will definitely be praised and respected by the independent governments and nations of the world.

Arman-e-Melli: Israel looking for new conspiracies

Amir Hayat Moghadam, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament, tells Arman-e-Melli: The Zionist regime did not achieve everything it intended in its 12-day attack, so it is now looking for new conspiracies including terror, economic pressures, and street riots. The Islamic Republic of Iran not only is not looking for tension or conflict, but has always tried to establish collective security in the Persian Gulf and West Asia. We believe that the security of this region should be ensured by the countries of the region, not by extra-regional countries that only think about their own interests. The presence of foreigners has never brought and will never bring security. Instead, it has created insecurity, arms race, and artificial crises. Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran, relying on its deterrent power and within the framework of political rationality, will not allow enemies under any circumstances to undermine the country's national interests.

Iran remains open to dialogue but rejects coercion, says senior diplomat

From page 1 ► Kharrazi elaborated on the three principles: dignity entails preserving national honor and avoiding humiliation, wisdom requires rational and logical dialogue, and expediency calls for a realistic understanding of circumstances and reasonable flexibility to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. He cited Iran's prior indirect talks with the United States, held before the outbreak of the 12-day Israeli-American war in June, as a demonstration of Tehran's willingness to engage while neutralizing accusations of avoiding negotiations.

Despite skepticism about the other side's intentions, Kharrazi said, the framework for indirect talks was approved to showcase Iran's rationality and goodwill. Throughout five rounds of negotiations, he emphasized, Iran's dignity was fully preserved, national enrichment rights were reaffirmed, and flexibility was exercised without compromising core interests.

The diplomat also addressed the outbreak of the 12-day war, describing it as proof that Western parties were not committed to genuine dialogue.

Kharrazi noted that two decades of nuclear diplomacy have demonstrated Iran's long-standing commitment to dialogue, which the country views as a symbol of rationality and strength rather than weakness.

Turning to the West's nuclear accusations, Kharrazi argued that they stem from a failure to understand Iran's religious culture, including Ayatollah Khamenei's fatwa prohibiting nuclear weapons. He emphasized that the nuclear issue has long been used as a pretext for political pressure, noting that Iran voluntarily implemented the IAEA Additional Protocol, allowing inspections that have confirmed Iran is not pursuing nuclear arms.

Highlighting the strategic importance of uranium enrichment, Kharrazi explained that Iran must ensure energy self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on foreign fuel supplies. He said the country aims to generate 20,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity, with enrichment forming the cornerstone of its energy independence.

Finally, reflecting on the 12-day war, he noted Iran's decisive and swift defensive response, which forced the Israeli regime to seek a ceasefire. Kharrazi praised the leadership of Ayatollah Khamenei in maintaining public calm and directing replacement appointments after the martyrdom of senior commanders, stating that Iran's domestic strength and preparedness are key to safeguarding its sovereignty.

Larijani and Putin discuss economic, regional and international cooperation in Moscow

Meeting came a day before Russia called on countries to end JCPOA restrictions on Iran's nuclear program

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani spent a day in Moscow on Thursday. The main purpose of his visit was to convey a message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, to President Vladimir Putin, though neither side has elaborated on what the message contained.

The only official details of the high-ranking meeting came from Larijani himself, who stated on his Telegram channel that the two sides discussed a range of issues, including bilateral relations, economic cooperation, regional developments, and international affairs. He also posted an old photo of one of his previous meetings with Putin on his X account.

This marks the second time Larijani has spoken to Putin face-to-face since he became Iran's top security official in June. Larijani is a veteran statesman who has served in several important roles within Iran's political system, but he became more active on the Iranian political and international stage after the country was forced to fight a 12-day war against Israel and the United States in the same month he was appointed. The Trump administration helped Israel strike Iran's nuclear, civilian, and military infra-



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani (L) shared this old photo of one of his previous meetings with President Vladimir Putin of Russia after their discussions on Thursday

structure, and joined the war directly in the concluding days.

The meeting comes at a time when Iran is preparing to defend against a second potential round of aggression from Israel and the United States. Iran did not ask its allies, including Russia, for military aid during the 12-day war. However, the country may attempt to rectify aspects of its military that did not perform to expectations this past June, including its defense systems. A commander within Iran's air defense unit told the Tehran Times one month ago that the country is rapidly improving its capabilities.

Unverified reports suggest Israel is concerned about potential Russian military assistance to Iran.

Pezeshkian says enemy can't cripple Iran via sanctions or threats



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian

From page 1 ► Despite last minute efforts by Russia and China to preserve diplomacy, the UN Security Council failed to reach consensus on September 26. Two days later, the E3 and the United States declared the sanctions reinstated and urged UN member states to enforce them.

Tehran has categorically rejected the claim, insisting that it was the United States and its

European allies who undermined the 2015 nuclear deal by failing to honor their commitments. Iranian officials maintain that no UN member state is obliged to comply with the unilateral and unlawful measure.

Iran's position is anchored in UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear agreement and formally lifted earlier sanctions on Tehran's nuclear program.

Major fuel smuggling network dismantled in northern Iran



TEHRAN – Iran's security forces have dismantled one of the largest fuel smuggling networks operating in the country's north, seizing around two million liters of diesel and arresting those involved in the illicit trade.

According to the Public Relations Office of the IRGC's Mazandaran Province, intelligence units of the IRGC Karbala Organization identified and dismantled the massive network following extensive intelligence and technical operations.

The smuggling ring reportedly included provincial and national-level fuel traffickers, fuel station employees, transport contractors, fuel distributors, and truck drivers engaged in illegally diverting and selling subsidized fuel. The coordinated operation was carried

out in close cooperation with the judiciary, leading to the disruption of the group's operations.

Iran continues to grapple with widespread fuel smuggling, both overland and through maritime routes, a problem fueled by the country's heavily subsidized fuel prices—among the lowest in the world. The sharp price gap between Iran and neighboring countries has long encouraged large-scale illegal fuel transfers. In response, Iranian authorities, in coordination with the IRGC Navy, the Army, and law enforcement agencies, have intensified efforts to intercept smugglers by land and sea. Official figures indicate that an estimated 25 to 30 million liters of fuel products, including gasoline and diesel, are smuggled out of Iran every day.

Iranian officials stress that the resolution established a clear, time bound framework under which all nuclear related restrictions are set to expire permanently on October 18, 2025. The 2231 resolution itself expired on Friday.

The U.S. also acted in collusion with the Israeli regime to launch military aggression against Iran.

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

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

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

Senior Iranian military figure laid to rest in Tehran



TEHRAN – A funeral procession was held in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Friday for Brigadier General Alireza Afshar, a senior figure at Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and former commander of the Basij voluntary forces. He passed away due to heart complications.

Several military and state officials sent messages of condolences following his demise.

"The passing of the glorious general and tireless warrior, Brigadier General Alireza Afshar, ... has caused great sorrow," said IRGC Commander Major General Mohammad Pakpour. "He was among those at the forefront of the Islamic campaign against the Shah's tyrannical regime," the top general added.

country's economy, the E3 (Germany, Britain, and France) reinstated anti-Iran UN sanctions last month, which had been lifted under the 2015 JCPOA deal. The practical effects of these sanctions are considered limited, as they do not exceed the stringent embargoes Washington imposed against Iran back in 2018 when it withdrew from the JCPOA and left it in shambles. But their activation still sent Iran's currency market into a tailspin, plunging the value of the Iranian Rial.

While the extent of post-war military exchanges between Iran and Russia remains unknown, Moscow has fully supported Iran regarding the JCPOA and the reverberations of the failed pact. In a statement published on Friday, Russia's Foreign Ministry noted that all remaining UN restrictions on Iran, originally established by UN Security Council Resolution 2231 as part of the 2015 nuclear deal, were set to expire on October 18. It emphasized that the Security Council should then conclude discussions on Iran's nuclear program; following this expiration, Russia's cooperation with Iran will proceed under national and international law, building upon their comprehensive strategic partnership treaty, which was signed in January 2025 and officially enacted earlier this month.

Iran has proposed to hold talks with the U.S. in the presence of third parties, but Washington has turned down Iran's offer.

The U.S. has, on numerous occasions, made excessive and irrational demands, namely asking Iran to reduce the range of its missile, a demand Iran has strongly refused to accept. So, Washington has been trying to ratchet up the pressure on Iran through sanctions.

Meanwhile, there are unverified reports that the United States is trying to get engaged in a marine confrontation with Iran, in a bid to restrict the country's oil exports. The Biden administration previously tried to seize Iranian oil tankers heading to consumers but was forced to drop the strategy after Iran's Navy made tit-for-tat moves.

Iran has constantly refused to give in to pressure by the United States, insisting that sanctions and threats will have no bearing on the country's will to move forward on the path to progress.

Non-Aligned Movement in a shifting global landscape: Reflections ahead of Kampala Ministerial

From Page 1 ▶ Convened under Uganda's chairmanship, this session constitutes both a review of the Movement's trajectory since the 19th Summit in January 2024 and a substantive platform for strategic reassessment. Themed "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence," it presents an opportunity to evaluate the implementation of previously adopted resolutions and to deliberate upon pressing issues encompassing UN institutional reform, terrorism, regional and sub-regional issues, human rights, climate change, trade, development and international peace architecture. For the Islamic Republic of Iran, the NAM continues to embody foundational principles of national sovereignty and principled resistance to hegemonic structures, consonant with our foreign policy orientation toward dignified engagement and unwavering solidarity with the Global South.

Born of resistance to division

The NAM's genesis in the 1950s and 1960s represented a deliberate and principled count-

er-narrative to both colonial legacies and Cold War bipolarity. The historic 1955 Bandung Conference united Asian and African nations in categorical rejection of imperialism, establishing normative groundwork for principles including non-interference in internal affairs, mutual respect for sovereignty, and peaceful coexistence. This foundational consensus culminated in the seminal 1961 Belgrade Summit, where 25 founding members formalized non-alignment as a coherent strategy for autonomous diplomacy amid the rigidities of super-powers rivalry.

Iran's substantive alignment with the Movement deepened following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, with formal accession occurring at the Havana Summit that same year. Our revolutionary ethos—fundamentally rooted in anti-imperialist principles and aspirations for genuine independence—resonated profoundly with the NAM's overarching mis-

sion, enabling the Islamic Republic to champion transformative causes including Palestinian liberation and the democratization of global governance structures.

Adapting to multipolar realities

Across successive decades, the NAM has demonstrated remarkable institutional resilience, expanding from its original anti-bloc advocacy during the Cold War era to addressing the multifaceted challenges of post-1991 globalization. Initial preoccupations with decolonization and advocacy for a New International Economic Order have evolved into contemporary priorities encompassing climate resilience, digital equity, counter-terrorism cooperation, and pandemic response mechanisms. Comprising 120 member states today, the Movement now represents more than half of the global population, constituting the world's largest multilateral forum outside the United Nations.

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

Marziyeh Jafari named 2025 AFC Women Coach of the Year

TEHRAN - History was made at the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025 on Thursday as Marziyeh Jafari became the first-ever AFC Coach of the Year (Women) winner from Iran.

An esteemed name in the Asian coaching landscape, Jafari was honored for successfully leading Iran through the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 Qualifiers, sealing a second consecutive appearance at the Continental showpiece after their debut in 2022.

Requiring nothing less than victory in their final Group Stage showdown against Jordan, Jafari masterminded a vital 2-1 win to seal qualification—a feat made more remarkable by the fact that she had only taken charge around three months prior.

The 43-year-old, only the third nominee from Iran after Shahrzad Mozafar (2010) and Katayoun Khosrowyar (2019), is now the 15th winner of this accolade, which also recognized her achievements at club level with Bam Khatoon Women's FC.

Before helming Iran women's national team, Jafari had led Bam Khatoon from the Preliminary Stage of the AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25 all the way to the Quarter-finals.

That was the latest feather in the cap for the Bam native, who started her coaching path at just 17 and has been the guiding force behind Bam Khatoon's success after joining in 2008. Promotion to the top flight followed in 2009, before Jafari went on to win the first of 11 league titles in 2011, with the most recent crown coming in March 2025.

Iran's freestyle upgrade to title at 2015 Senior World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's Wrestling has been notified by the United World Wrestling (UWW) that the freestyle team has won the 2015 Senior World Championships due to an anti-doping violation by one of the Russia wrestlers.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has imposed a four-year suspension on former world champion Abdusalam Gadisov for a sample collected on August 6, 2015.

The result upgrades Iran to title as Team Melli moved top with 49 points, followed by Georgia (46) and Russia (44).

The 2015 UWW World Wrestling Championships were the 12th edition of World Wrestling Championships of combined events.

It was held from September 7 to 12, 2015 at Orleans Arena in Paradise, Nevada, in the Las Vegas Valley, United States.

Iran handed tough group at 2026 Asian Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran learned their rivals at the 22nd Asian Men's Handball Championship, a qualifier for the 2027 World Championship.

Qatar were drawn into Group A with South Korea and Oman. Group B includes Bahrain, Iraq, China, and Jordan. Group C features Kuwait, the UAE, Hong Kong, and India.

And Group D includes Japan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Australia.

The tournament will be held in Kuwait from January 15–26, 2026.

The top two teams from each group will move on to the main round, where eight teams will compete in two round-robin groups.

The leading two from each will reach the semi-finals and secure spots at the 2027 World Championship in Germany.

Qatar are the title holders.

Gharibshahi snatches gold at 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championships

TEHRAN - Iran's Aliakbar Gharibshahi claimed the title of the men's 107 kg category at the 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championships.

Gharibshahi, the two-time world champion, displayed an incredible show of strength and determination to break his own world record of 254 kg (set in Dubai 2022) by one kilogram in the second round of men's up to 107 kg final. He attempted to go further with 260 kg only to falter this time and save it for later.

"After Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, I trained a lot to set to raise the bar again. I came to Cairo 2025 with a new world record in my mind and wanted to set 260 kg but maybe next time," said the 43-year-old Gharibshahi, who won the gold at Paris 2024 with a Paralympic record lift of 252 kg one year ago.

Tokyo 2020 champion Sodnompiljee Enkhbayar settled for the silver at 243 kg.

It was a special day for USA's Bobby Body, the 2023 Parapan American Games champion, as he embarked into the pathway of LA 2028 with his first ever World Championship medal – the bronze medal.

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

Iran's Roohollah Rostami (men's up to 88kg), Amir Jafari (men's up to 72kg) and Mohsen Bakhtiar (men's up to 65kg) had previously won three silver medals in the competition earlier.

Salar Aghapour wins 2025 AFC Futsal Player of the Year

TEHRAN - Iran futsal star Salar Aghapour took home the AFC Futsal Player of the Year trophy at the AFC Awards Riyadh 2025 Thursday night.

Aghapour's eye-catching displays at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Uzbekistan 2024 saw him get the nod ahead of team-mate Moslem Oladghobad, the 2022 winner, and fellow first-time nominee Muhammad Osamanmusa, as he became the seventh Iran player and the 16th overall to win the prize.

The 25-year-old, renowned for his mercurial skills and spectacular goal catalogue, recorded goal contributions in every match for IR Iran as they reached the Round of 16, by tallying six goals and three assists.

Part of the IR Iran side that lifted the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024 as well as the victorious AE Palma de Mallorca team in the UEFA Futsal Champions League 2023/24, Aghapour has cemented his status as a world-class talent and currently plies his trade for Gohar Zamin.

Lebanon beat Iran at AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers

TEHRAN - A stirring second half performance saw Lebanon overcome Iran 2-0 in their AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026 Qualifiers Group A tie on Friday.

The win meant that Lebanon finished top of the group with seven points, one better than Iran, to punch their ticket to the Finals.

An evenly matched first half saw limited chances created in a group where Iran held a two-point advantage going into the clash, the-afc.com reported.

Lebanon scored in the 61st minute when a long ball from the right flank was allowed to run through unchallenged with Gaelle Abou Malhab timing her run to perfection to steer home.

The lead was doubled five minutes later when substitute Sara Issa took advantage of Elina Shahbazi's air kick outside her box to comfortably slot home into an unguarded goalmouth to seal Lebanon's qualification.

Araghchi discusses bilateral and global issues in series of Kampala meetings

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a series of diplomatic meetings with his counterparts from various countries on the sidelines of the 19th Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Kampala, Uganda, to discuss bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation.

In Kampala, Araghchi met with Mohamed Ali Nafti, Tunisia's foreign minister, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla of Cuba, and Yván Gil Pinto, Venezuela's top diplomat,

for talks focused on deepening political and economic ties. He also conferred with Than Swe, Myanmar's foreign minister, and Ahmed Attaf, his Algerian counterpart, on expanding collaboration and coordinating positions within the NAM framework.

Further meetings were held with Maksim Ryzhenkov, Belarus's foreign minister, Riyad Mansour, head of the Palestinian delegation to the ministerial meeting, Verónica Macamo Dlhovo of Mozambique, and Abdou-

laye Diop of Mali.

Throughout these engagements, Araghchi emphasized Iran's commitment to strengthening solidarity among Non-Aligned countries and promoting dialogue on global challenges, including unilateralism, development cooperation, and collective support for the principles of the UN Charter.

Araghchi arrived in Kampala early Wednesday to attend the 19th Midterm Ministerial Meet-

ing 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 participated 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.

Araghchi meets Palestinian envoy, reaffirms support for resistance and accountability



On the sidelines of the NAM Ministerial in Kampala, Iranian Foreign Minister met with Riyad Mansour, head of the Palestinian delegation.

The two discussed the latest developments in occupied Palestine in light of recent events. Araghchi praised the "legendary resistance, patience, and endurance of the people of Gaza" against Israeli atrocities, stressing the need for comprehensive international action to end the occupier's impunity.

He highlighted the unprecedented global consensus, including within the Non-Aligned Movement, in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Araghchi said the international community has both a legal and moral responsibility to end the genocide and prevent further violations by the Israeli regime.

Mansour thanked Iran and other Islamic and NAM countries for their continued support of Palestine's legitimate struggle and briefed Araghchi on the latest situation in Gaza and the West Bank.

Iran, Uganda pledge to boost cooperation and uphold NAM's founding principles



Iranian Foreign Minister also met with his Ugandan counterpart Abubaker Jeje Odongo on Thursday in Kampala.

Araghchi commended Uganda for its effective organization and chairmanship of the NAM Coordination Bureau and lauded its contribution to advancing the movement's agenda. He emphasized the NAM's essential role in upholding international law, defending nations' right to self-determination, and protecting the principles of the UN Charter.

Highlighting Iran's resolve to strengthen relations with African countries, including Uganda, Araghchi expressed Tehran's readiness to expand cooperation across all sectors of mutual interest.

Odongo described Araghchi's presence at the meeting as valuable and voiced hope that the NAM would play a stronger role in international developments and the promotion of the rule of law. The two ministers agreed to hold the next session of the Iran-Uganda Joint Economic Commission in Tehran in early 2026 to further invigorate bilateral ties.

Iran, Belarus FMs discuss expanding economic and diplomatic cooperation



Iranian Foreign Minister met with his Belarusian counterpart Maksim Ryzhenkov on Thursday on the sidelines of the 19th NAM Ministerial Meeting in Kampala, Uganda.

During the talks, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on key international developments. They expressed confidence that, given the shared determination of their leaders, cooperation across economic, trade, and diplomatic fields will continue to expand in line with the interests of both nations.

The ministers agreed to accelerate preparations for the next session of the Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Commission, and to follow up on agreements reached during President Pezeshkian's visit to Minsk.

Both sides also condemned the growing trend of unilateralism and the use of coercive measures in global affairs, stressing the Non-Aligned Movement's vital role in defending multilateralism and preventing violations of international law. They agreed to maintain close coordination in multilateral and regional organizations.

Iran, Algeria FMs call for stronger NAM role and coordination on Palestine



In Kampala, Iranian Foreign Minister met with Ahmed Attaf, Algeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, for talks on bilateral and multilateral issues.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the growing trajectory of Iran-Algeria relations and emphasized the importance of maintaining high-level consultations to further enhance cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

They discussed key international developments and underlined the importance of leading NAM states in safeguarding the rights of developing nations. Araghchi thanked Algeria for its responsible stance at the UN Security Council, particularly its opposition to Western attempts to misuse the JCPOA dispute mechanism to reimpose canceled UN sanctions.

The ministers also exchanged views on the Palestinian issue, stressing the necessity of preserving a unified NAM position in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Both sides reaffirmed the urgency of ending the genocide in Gaza and ensuring Israel's compliance with its international obligations.

Iran, Vietnam push to expand trade, joint production ties

TEHRAN – Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and Vietnamese Embassy in Iran have emphasized expanding joint production and sharing export experience, building on several cooperation agreements already signed between the two countries.

According to the TPO, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, the organization's head, met with Nguyen Luong Ngoc, Vietnam's ambassador to Tehran, where both sides highlighted the need to facilitate business travel and promote private-sector partnerships.

Dehghan Dehnavi noted the "broad potential" for boosting trade between Iran and Vietnam, expressing interest in making Vietnam's successful export strategies available to Iranian enterprises.

He also pointed to opportunities for collaboration between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as knowledge-based and tech-oriented firms in Iran.

"We believe there is strong potential for joint production, especially in knowledge-based products," he said. "Iran is ready to draw on



Vietnam's experience as we work to expand bilateral trade."

The Vietnamese ambassador welcomed the proposal and invited Dehghan Dehnavi to visit Vietnam to explore joint production and export opportunities.

He reaffirmed his country's willingness to strengthen trade ties, adding that several bilateral memoranda of understanding (MOUs) had already been signed and that Hanoi was eager to see them move into the implementation phase.

Iran's export to Oman stands at \$390m in 7 months

TEHRAN- The National Center for Statistics and Information of Oman announced that the value of the country's trade with Iran in the first seven months of the current year was \$865 million dollars, of which over \$390 million consisted of Iranian exports to Oman.

Statistics from this center indicate that Iran holds a significant share of Oman's foreign trade and, by leveraging the advantages of its neighborly relations with this country, has managed to secure a good position among its foreign partners.

According to this report, Iran was recognized as the second destination for re-exports from Oman in the first seven months of 2025. The value of Oman's re-exports to Iran during this period reached \$465 million. Oman's re-exports to Iran from January to July of this year accounted for 18 percent of the country's total re-exports.

Iran also ranked 11th among the countries supplying goods needed by Oman, exporting \$394 million worth of goods to this country in the first seven months of 2025. 45 percent of the total trade between the two countries was related to Iran's exports to this southern coast Persian Gulf country.

Iran's exports to Oman were greater than those from countries like Turkey, Egypt, and the United States. The United States exported \$218 million worth of goods to Oman during this period. Apart from re-exports, the figure for Oman's direct exports to Iran in the first seven months of 2025 was reported to be negligible, at around \$6 million.

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has proposed the creation of a joint investment fund between Iran and Oman to support industrial projects, as part of broader efforts to deepen bilateral trade and private-sector collaboration.

During a meeting in Muscat, in late May, with Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh welcomed the growth in bilateral trade, which has surpassed \$2.0 billion. He emphasized that the trade volume could potentially reach between \$20 billion and \$30 billion, given the countries' untapped economic potential.

Hassanzadeh stressed the need for a clear financial framework to facilitate transactions between private enterprises in both countries. He proposed the establishment of licensed exchange houses under central bank supervision and the implementation of a barter mechanism to ease payment challenges.

The Iran Chamber head also advocated for re-exporting Iranian goods to African and East Asian markets through Oman; cooperation in supplying key industrial inputs to Iran; joint ventures in petrochemicals, hospitality, power generation, fisheries, and agriculture.

He further called for the formation of an industrial and investment committee involving the industry ministries and chambers of com-

merce from both countries. The aim would be to evaluate and coordinate development projects, particularly those utilizing Iran's tech-savvy startups and industrial base.

Hassanzadeh also proposed joint investment in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) to enhance rail and road connectivity with Central Asia and Europe, as well as the Makran coast, specifically Jask and Chabahar ports, as strategic logistics hubs providing access to the Caucasus and Eurasian markets.

The visit was part of an Iranian business delegation mission to Oman, seeking to capitalize on growing economic ties and the imminent activation of the first interbank transfer mechanism between the two countries.

Also, during an Iran-Oman Business Forum in Muscat on Wednesday (May 28), Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the value of trade between Iran and Oman can reach \$20 billion-\$30 billion.

Emphasizing the position of Iran and Oman in connecting regional markets, the president said: "We can jointly establish strategic ties with important markets in the region and the world by using our geopolitical capacity."

Referring to his talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq the previous day and the agreements reached in these talks, the president stated: "What is most important today is to create infrastructure to strengthen the connection of land, sea and air routes between the two countries, because only in such a context can commercial, scientific, industrial and economic cooperation be deepened."

Iran and Oman discussed ways to boost banking ties during a meeting between the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.

According to Oman's state news agency, Qais bin Mohammed al-Yousef held talks on May 27 with Mohammadreza Farzin in Muscat. The meeting took place as part of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to Oman aimed at strengthening bilateral economic and financial relations.

The two sides reviewed measures to enhance cooperation in trade and investment, ease financial transactions, and streamline trade procedures between the two countries. Discussions also focused on initiatives to support joint economic projects, stimulate bilateral trade, and facilitate private sector exchanges.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued coordination and cooperation in areas of mutual interest, with a shared goal of strengthening bilateral relations and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The official visit to Oman marks a significant step in the Iranian government's ongoing efforts to strengthen regional ties and deepen bilateral relations with Muscat.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran, St. Petersburg exchanges take first step toward regional energy market alliance

TEHRAN – The Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) and the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday to establish joint trading mechanisms — a move both sides see as the first step toward a regional alliance of energy exchanges.

The agreement, signed on the sidelines of the 8th Russian Energy Week International Forum, was inked by Mohammad Nazifi, head of the Iran Energy Exchange, and Igor Artemyev, CEO of SPIMEX.

Under the deal, the two sides committed to accelerate the creation of joint trading processes in the energy sector.

According to the memorandum, the exchanges will pursue mutual registration and participation of market members, implement joint educational and research programs, and exchange technical expertise to strengthen regional cooperation in energy markets.

Nazifi said the signing marks "the first step toward unifying regional energy exchanges," which could eventually give member countries "a more decisive role in shaping global energy markets."

Artemyev hailed the partnership as "an honor," adding that while both exchanges trade similar commodities, "Iranian colleagues have unique technologies and methods we would like to learn from." He emphasized the importance of expanding both bilateral and multilateral cooperation to build "a broad



network linking energy exchanges worldwide."

The Russian Energy Week forum, attended by representatives from around 100 countries including Iran, opened Wednesday in Moscow and will continue for three days.

In late September, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that given the current trend and trade plans, Iran's exports to Russia are expected to reach about \$1.4 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (march 20, 2026), compared to about \$1.1 billion at the end of the previous year.

Akbar Godari, the head of TPO's Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia Office, said that the share of industrial goods in Iran's exports to Russia has increased significantly over the past three years, and our country's exports to this destination have almost doubled.

On September 18, Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad met Russian Energy Minister Sergei

Tsiviloyov and Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller in Tehran to review economic cooperation and preparations for the next meeting of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Committee, the Oil Ministry's news agency Shana reported.

Paknejad said the talks followed up on the outcomes of the 18th joint committee, which was held in Moscow, noting that "the results required further pursuit" and that the two sides reviewed them in detail during the meeting.

He added that some areas of cooperation required revision and further dialogue, which were discussed and resolved.

On the 19th committee session, scheduled to be hosted by Iran, the minister said the timing and agenda were also discussed and would be announced "at the appropriate time."

On September 23, Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak met Russian Economic Development Minister Maxim Reshetnikov in

Moscow during the first joint committee session on implementing the Iran-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) free trade agreement.

Reshetnikov said 2025 marked a turning point in bilateral economic relations, citing key developments such as the signing of a comprehensive strategic treaty between Moscow and Tehran, the enforcement of the free trade agreement with the EAEU, and Iran's admission as an observer in the bloc.

He noted that trade between Iran and Russia grew by 35 percent in May and June 2025 compared with the same period a year earlier, attributing the rise to the free trade agreement and the determination of both countries to expand commercial ties.

Reshetnikov reaffirmed Russia's commitment to the letter and spirit of the accord and voiced hope for faster progress.

Atabak, accompanied by Iranian Ambassador Kazem Jalali, emphasized the role of the private sector in deepening trade and called for removal of obstacles such as financial transaction restrictions and divergent product standards.

He also underlined Iran's commitment to completing the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), saying groundwork for the Rasht-Astara railway had been prepared and construction would start in the coming months.

Aluminum ingot output exceeds 300,000 tons in H1

TEHRAN – Production of aluminum ingot in Iran reached 307,386 tons in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

IMIDRO is a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran. It has eight major companies and 55 operational subsidiaries active in steel, aluminum, copper,

cement, and mineral exploitation fields.

As the organization has reported, among the country's four major producers, South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) had the best performance in the mentioned six months, producing 127,475 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) producing 85,265 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 76,393 tons, and Iran Alumina Company producing 15,863 tons of ingots.



Industry minister opens Tabriz METAFO 2025 exhibition

TABRIZ – Iran's Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak inaugurated the 22nd Tabriz International Metallurgy, Steel, Foundry, Mining Industries and Related Equipment Exhibition (Tabriz METAFO 2025) on Thursday evening, alongside East Azarbaijan Governor Bahram

Sarmast.

The four-day event, held from October 16 to 19, brings together industrial leaders, manufacturers, and knowledge-based companies from across Iran. It serves as a key platform for showcasing domestic capabilities, exchanging expertise, and promoting cooper-



ation in the industrial and mining sectors.

According to organizers, 83 companies active in the steel and metallurgical industries are presenting their latest products and technologies, highlighting advances in modern steelmaking and industrial innovation.

‘Technical-engineering services export creates dependency in target market’



TEHRAN- The export of technical and engineering services creates dependency in the target market, according to Payam Bagheri, the deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

He stated that the nature of exporting technical and engineering services is different, adding: "This type of export leads to dependency in the target market and generates wealth, which results in sustainable economic development."

On Monday (October 13), Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and the Association of Exporters of Technical and Engineering Services signed a tripartite memorandum of cooperation aimed at forming a

joint committee to expand Iran's export capacity in technical and engineering services.

The initiative, pursued by ICCIMA's Committee for Technical, Engineering and Construction Services, seeks to revitalize Iran's presence in regional markets by removing obstacles, coordinating with financial institutions, and streamlining export procedures. A representative from the Central Bank of Iran also attended the signing ceremony, expressing readiness to cooperate in implementing the agreement.

ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh called the signing "a meaningful and promising step," saying that Iran urgently needs to expand exports. "Achieving this goal requires full institutional cooperation with a supportive and pragmatic approach. Regional countries recognize Iran as one of the largest exporters of engineering services, and demand for Iranian expertise remains high," he said.

Hassanzadeh emphasized that collaboration among the TPO, Central Bank, and private sector can significantly enhance project execution and overall export value. "Iran possesses vast experience in engineering services, and by leveraging this strength through economic diplomacy, we can restore and expand

our trade ties with neighboring countries," he said.

TPO head Mohammad Ali Dehghan-Dehnavi described Iran's history in engineering service exports as "illustrious," noting that the sector once accounted for over 10 percent of the country's total exports. Although this share has declined, he said the new cooperation framework aims to restore and surpass those golden years.

"Engineering service exports are the modern artistic expression of Iran's technical expertise in global markets, and we must nurture and expand this presence," Dehghan-Dehnavi said.

He added that Iran targets \$6.0 billion in engineering service exports under this new roadmap, which includes coordinated efforts to identify projects, support contractors, and strengthen legal and diplomatic backing for exporters.

The deputy minister noted that the TPO, ICCIMA, and the exporters' association would now operate within a unified framework, forming a powerful network to boost exports, with support from Iran's commercial attachés in target markets.

Hamas rejects international custodianship

From page 1 ▶ The senior Hamas official warned that “the continued detention of prisoners in the occupation’s prisons will keep the flame of conflict burning.” He asserted that the occupation regime’s ongoing attempts to annex land, expand settlements in the occupied West Bank, and Judaize al-Quds (Jerusalem) “will make the powder keg in the region ready to explode.”

Jabarin stated that the prisoner exchange deal “will be remembered as one of the greatest milestones in our people’s historical struggle,” congratulating the freed Palestinian prisoners whose liberty “came sealed with the blood of the martyrs.”

He stressed that the deal represents “a covenant and a pledge to continue the path of resistance and freedom.”

Addressing the Israeli occupation regime, Jabarin affirmed that “the national rights of the Palestinians are not open to bargaining,” adding that “the Palestinian state is not a favor from anyone but a legitimate right of our people.”



Responding to threats by U.S. President Donald Trump to kill Hamas resistance fighters, Jabarin stated that “assassination attempts will not frighten us or break our will. We are ready to pay the price for the freedom of our people and their legitimate rights.”

He saluted Gaza and its people, saying, “Peace be upon Gaza for its patience and steadfastness; peace be upon the people of Gaza who refuse to surrender. Gaza

will remain defiant, cherishing life and singing the hymns of freedom and victory.”

Describing Gaza as “the graveyard of invaders and the destination of the free,” he added, “We all owe it a rightful debt. Today, the pledge of the martyred leaders is being carried by new leaders, and the legacy of martyr Yahya Sinwar and others continues with new commanders.”

The Hamas official also called for arrest of the Israeli regime’s

war criminals, foremost among them Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stressing that “the world today is facing a real test.”

Jabarin further underlined that anyone who seeks peace in the region must begin by implementing the unified international stance on establishing the Palestinian state and securing the release of Palestinian prisoners still held in the Israeli regime’s jails.

Finally, he warned against resuming normalization by Arab and Muslim states with the occupation regime at the expense of Palestinian rights, urging Arab and Islamic nations to seize the historic opportunity created by the “Al-Aqsa Flood” battle to advance the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The Hamas official concluded by noting that the battle “did not end with the sound of guns” but continues through its core principles: national rights, defense of the land, freedom for prisoners, and protection of the holy sites.

Hamas takes on Israel’s mercenaries in Gaza

From page 1 ▶ The Interior Ministry in Gaza has identified “outlaw gangs” from the Doghmush clan as responsible for attacks against resistance fighters following the ceasefire. Israel has a long-standing record of supporting local militias as a means to weaken organized resistance and undermine Hamas’s governance.

Among these groups is the Popular Forces, led by Yasser Abu Shabab of the Tarabin Bedouin tribe. While Israel has accused Hamas of stealing humanitarian aid, investigations indicate that the Popular Forces were involved in looting and selling food supplies intended for civilians. Clashes between Hamas and the Popular Forces have been reported repeatedly since September 2024, with Hamas accusing them of collusion with Israeli forces.

Another key figure in this network, according to Al Jazeera, is Hussam al-Astal, a former Palestinian Authority security officer previously accused of collaborating with Israel in the 1990s. Al-Astal leads a group calling itself the “Strike Force Against Terror,” which has reportedly coordinated with the Popular Forces and engaged in confrontations with Hamas in recent weeks.

Israel’s reliance on these proxy forces underscores the limits of its military and political strategy in Gaza. Despite two years of conflict, Hamas continues to maintain control

over key areas, demonstrating the resilience of the Palestinian resistance. Unable to defeat Hamas through direct military action, Israel has increasingly relied on militias to sow division, weaken organized resistance, and undermine governance. Rather than signaling strength, this strategy reflects strategic frustration and acknowledgment of Hamas’s enduring presence.

Since the conflict began on October 7, 2023, nearly 68,000 Palestinians have lost their lives, highlighting the scale of devastation and the profound human cost of Israel’s campaign.

The humanitarian situation remains dire. Even a week after the ceasefire, Palestinians in Gaza face acute shortages of food, water, and essential medical supplies. Restrictions imposed by Israel continue to impede aid deliveries, in violation of the truce, and exacerbate civilian suffering. The World Food Program reports delivering approximately 560 tons of food per day since the ceasefire—far below the required volume. “We’re still below what we need, but we’re getting there... The ceasefire has opened a narrow window of opportunity, and WFP is moving swiftly to scale up assistance,” spokesperson Abeer Etefa said. While the agency claims it has sufficient supplies to feed all of Gaza for three months, access remains highly restricted.



Despite the ceasefire, military operations persist. Al Jazeera reported on October 25 that Israeli forces shelled the Shujayea neighborhood in northern Gaza, killing three Palestinians the day prior, with at least two dozen killed since the ceasefire began. Israeli officials have delineated a “yellow line” marking the boundary of their withdrawal, and military chief Israel Katz warned that crossing it would prompt live fire. Even before the line was fully marked, several Palestinians were shot nearby. Israeli forces continue to control approximately 60 percent of Gaza.

For many Palestinians, the ceasefire has done little to alleviate suffering. For Hamas and other resistance factions, Israel’s reliance on collaborators and proxy forces is a sign not of strength, but of military exhaustion and strategic failure in the face of a resilient and organized Palestinian resistance.

Maduro blasts ‘open conspiracy’ as Trump confirms CIA directive to target Venezuela

Venezuela on Thursday stepped up its diplomatic push against Washington, formally asking the UN Security Council to declare recent U.S. strikes in the southern Caribbean illegal and to condemn what Caracas calls an unprecedented authorization for the CIA to carry out covert lethal operations against the country.

The letter from Venezuela’s UN ambassador, Samuel Moncada, accused U.S. forces of killing 27 people in attacks on vessels he described as civilian and transiting international waters.

With the United States holding veto power on the Security Council, however, experts say meaningful UN action is unlikely.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that the Trump administration quietly authorized the CIA to carry out covert operations in Venezuela, intensifying efforts against the country’s president, Nicolás Maduro.

President Donald Trump confirmed the authorization the same day, saying he had empowered the CIA to act against Venezuela and was weighing possible land operations.

He justified the move by citing drug trafficking and claims that Caracas had sent criminals into

the United States.

Speaking in Caracas on Wednesday, Maduro described Washington’s directive as an explicit act of aggression and a clear admission of regime-change intent.

The Venezuelan president said no previous U.S. administration had publicly ordered the CIA “to kill, overthrow, and destroy countries,” and denounced the authorization as an effort aimed at “attacking the peace of Venezuela.”

He insisted Venezuelans are “clear, united, and aware” and vowed to defeat what he called an “open conspiracy” against national stability.

The Associated Press reported Thursday on a purported plan for President Maduro to step down in three years and transfer power to Vice President Delcy Rodríguez.

Rodríguez swiftly rejected the claim, writing “FAKE!!” on Telegram and denouncing it as part of a psychological war, while stressing that Venezuela’s leadership remains united.

Caracas’ diplomatic bid comes amid a major U.S. military build-up in the Caribbean — described by some outlets as the largest



since the 1980s — and repeated strikes on small boats Washington says are linked to drug trafficking.

Venezuela and several regional governments strongly dispute the legal and moral grounds of those operations, arguing they amount to extrajudicial killings and a violation of sovereignty.

The developments have rallied regional criticism: Colombia’s President Gustavo Petro warned of spillover risk and condemned any covert or ground actions, while Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel posted solidarity messages backing Venezuela’s

resistance to imperial aggression.

Caracas has also moved troops to its Caribbean coast and mobilized militias, portraying the measures as defensive preparations against potential escalation.

For Caracas, the episode revives a long, painful memory of U.S. covert interventions across Latin America — a history Maduro cited to argue Washington’s new public authorization is both illegal and morally indefensible.

Israel seeking to turn South Lebanon into a de facto buffer zone

Lebanon facing environmental, cultural, and military assaults

From page 1 ▶ Since October 2023, the Israeli invasion has not been limited to daily shelling of southern towns, but has taken on an organized form, targeting symbol of both land and identity, that is to say olive groves.

As part of a deliberate policy to clear the border strip and create a buffer zone, Israel is using phosphorus bombs to burn olive groves and raze the soil between Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

Additionally, the occupation army has uprooted and stolen ancient trees and transported them into Palestinian territory, in an attempt to erase the agricultural and human memory of the south.

This is an environmental and cultural war as much as it is a military one. It is intended uproot the people.

In a parallel scene, the internal battle is manifesting itself in political and electoral aspects, as the struggle to amend the electoral law has reopened the lines of contact between traditional factions.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri has closed the door to any amendment, while the Lebanese Forces party has resorted to what it calls “Plan B,” attempting to pass a new draft law through the government.

Behind this controversy lie subtle calculations that go beyond legal texts. It is a battle for influence and representation, particularly in regard to the votes of expatriates, which are a valuable asset in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

As the dispute between Foreign Minister Youssef Rajai from the Lebanese Forces party and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam intensifies, the government’s inability to take a unified decision is becoming more evident. This comes as legislative and oversight paralysis is increasing in the country that has lost both its constitutional and economic compass.

Externally, Lebanon has returned to the forefront of international attention following French messages of support coupled with promises to hold two conferences to support the army and reconstruction.

However, this support is conditional upon delicate balances, as it is paralleled by a clear

Saudi reticence to engage in any initiative.

This reflects the persistent chill between Riyadh and Beirut, driven by a lack of real reforms and the rising influence of Hezbollah-aligned forces.

Between French optimism and Saudi hesitation, the American position remains cautious and observant, linking any assistance to Lebanon’s commitment to the regional settlement, including indirect negotiations with Israel over the border.

However, neither Paris nor Washington appear capable of breaking the deadlock unless there is a unified Lebanese will, something that has so far been missing.

Added to this picture are significant political and security signals: an Israeli escalation targeting Speaker Berri’s areas of influence; a bombing campaign paralleling his refusal to negotiate with Berri before withdrawing from the occupied villages; frenzied electoral activity both domestically and abroad; and administrative and financial scandals that reflect the institutions’ inability to achieve accountability and reform.

Even the issues of living, from the contamination of the Tannourine drinking water company (affiliated with the Lebanese Forces) to the collapse of the accounting system, reveal the state’s fragility in the face of intertwined interests and the ongoing collusion between power and wealth.

This water issue transformed from a health issue into a sharp sectarian conflict after the Ministry of Health decided to stop bottling its products due to bacterial contamination.

Instead of a scientific debate on water safety, the Lebanese Forces launched an incitement campaign that described the decision as a political and sectarian targeting of a “Christian company” simply because the Minister of Health is affiliated with Hezbollah!

Thus, scientific facts were obscured and replaced by the language of hatred and division, in an attempt to exploit the health crisis to inflame sectarian hatred and achieve political gains at the expense of citizens’ safety.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel mounts heaviest strikes on Lebanon in 10 months

Israeli warplanes and drones carried out dozens of strikes across south Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa on Thursday and Friday, leveling an asphalt factory, destroying a quarry and a diesel tanker, and striking villages as olive harvesters worked — an assault described by local media as the heaviest since last year’s ceasefire.

Lebanese sources reported at least one ci-

vilian killed in a drone strike on a vehicle in Kherbet Selem and several wounded across Sidon, Nabatieh, and Baalbek districts.

Tel Aviv has justified such raids by accusing Hezbollah of using civilian projects for reconstruction; Lebanese officials and locals say the strikes deliberately target infrastructure and economic lifelines, undermining recovery and punishing communities.

Greta Thunberg recounts abuse after Israel detention: ‘Imagine what they do to Palestinians’

Greta Thunberg returned from the Global Sumud flotilla bearing more than bruises — she brought a searing account of physical violence and deliberate humiliation that, she and fellow activists say, reflect a systematic architecture of abuse in Israeli detention.

“They grab me, pull me to the ground, and throw an Israeli flag over me,” Thunberg told Swedish outlet Aftonbladet, describing guards who “hit and kicked me” and taunted her with slurs: “‘Lilla hora’ [little whore] and ‘Hora Greta’ [whore Greta] ... which they repeated all the time.”

Her story is granular and grotesque: cable ties so tight they cut circulation, guards taking selfies with bound detainees, forced stripping, and repeated mockery.

“They walked in front of the bars... laughing and holding up their water bottles,” she said, while prisoners begged for water and medical help and were met with threats — “We’re going to gas you.”

These are not isolated outrages, she insists: “What we have been through is only a small, small part of what Palestinians have experienced.”

Human-rights organizations and UN investigators have documented similar methods for years — from prolonged shackling and sensory torture to enforced nakedness and sleep deprivation — framing such reports as evidence of institutionalized cruelty rather than random excesses.

Amnesty and the UN have repeatedly warned that administrative detention and incommunicado practices enable abuses that go unaccounted.

Visual corroboration has surfaced before: surveillance footage from the Sde Teiman detention facility showing sexual assault and severe beating provoked international outrage and investigations that stalled. Survivors’ medical records and hospital reports — broken ribs, amputations, infections — further align with witness testimony, underscoring a pattern that extends far beyond one intercepted flotilla.

Thunberg also accused Swedish consular staff of downplaying the abuse and failing to secure basic support.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

‘Book on Travel’ plan to be implemented in Khorasan Razavi eco-lodges

TEHRAN--The ‘Book on Travel’ initiative is being implemented in traditional accommodations and eco-tourism sites of Khorasan Razavi province so that book as a kind friend can become a traveling companion for tourists, the deputy head of Khorasan Razavi Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department has said.

Mohammad Rokni added that Khorasan Razavi Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department has prepared the ‘Book on Travel’ project in partnership with the General Directorate of Libraries and the Professional Society of Ecotourism in Khorasan Razavi Province in order to encourage and develop the culture of reading books and the key role of the kind friend among the members of the society, especially pilgrims and tourists, as well as children and adolescents who are guests of eco-lodges and traditional accommodation sites, ISNA reported.

In this plan, the creation of bookshelves along with the provision of books in the fields of tourism, history and literature for guests of traditional guesthouses and eco-tourism sites is on the agenda.

Regarding the purpose of this measure, Rokni said that the measure will be launched and carried out with the aim of transforming tourism facilities into cultural centers

and properly filling the guests’ leisure time during their stay.

He noted that the shelves will contain books in common languages of the world, including Persian, Arabic, English, as well as cultural products and tourism guides.

Rokni said that in the first phase of this initiative, 12 library shelves will be prepared and delivered to the eco-tourism and traditional accommodation units.

He added that the pilot phase of the project has begun and the project will be officially activated on November 15, simultaneously with the Book and Reading Day.

Rokni stated that Khorasan Razavi, with 230 traditional and eco-tourism accommodation units, is one of the provinces with the most accommodation units in the country, hosting a large number of domestic and foreign tourists and pilgrims every year.

Mashhad is Iran’s holiest city. Its raison d’être is the striking shrine complex of the eighth Shia Imam that is encircled by dozens of five-star hotels and many other accommodation centers.

In August 2020, the spiritual tradition of pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) was registered on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Establishment of fishing piers will boost Abadan’s tourism, lawmaker says



TEHRAN—Seyyed Mohammad Molavi, an MP representing Abadan in the Iranian parliament, said that fishing piers, jet skis, jet boats, and other water sports should be activated in the Bahman-shir and Arvandrud rivers to develop tourism in the region.

Speaking at the coordination meeting of the Health Tourism Conference which was held at the Arvand Free Zone Organization on Thursday, he said that out of 115 countries in the world, Iran ranks 73rd in the tourism development index, Mehr news agency reported.

He emphasized that one of Khuzestan’s assets is the Arvand Free Zone Organization, which should be used for promoting the tourism.

Molavi continued that in the tourism economy, programs should be consistent with the region’s ecosystem.

In another part of his speech, he discussed the prioritization of tourism in Abadan and Khorramshahr and said: “Marine tourism is the pulse of tourism in this region. Does anyone come to Abadan for good weather, to see farms or industry? To develop tourism in the region, fishing piers, jet skis and jet boats, and other water sports should be activated in the Bahmanshir and Arvandrud rivers.”

He stated that holding specialized hotel management courses by the Homa Hotel Group is a necessity for hotels in the region.

Referring to the sea lines, Molavi said that Tourism Group of Social Security Organization (HEGTA) is requested to participate in the establishment of sea line between Abadan and an Iraqi port and also activate the water taxi.

He considered human resource development as the key to progress and said that specialized tourism courses should be held even for the personnel

of Free Zone Organization.

Referring to the health tourism, he stated that the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr should not be the only transit points for Iraqi tourists, and a plan should be made to provide treatment in this area.

Molavi noted that the Arvandrud and Bahmanshir rivers, in addition to health tourism, can provide good capacity for the tourism economy and employment.

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.

Foreign tourists visit Khaf’s historical attractions

TEHRAN—Head of Khaf Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department gave news of visit of second group of European tourists to Khaf county, Khorasan Razavi province, during Iranian month of Mehr (started Sept. 23).

According to IRIB, Mahmoud Ba’aqideh explained that 15 Greek tourists visited the most important attractions of Khaf county.

He added that visiting the workshops producing and selling handicrafts and performing local music alongside the ancient windmills known as Asbads were other planned programs for this tour.

Asbads are one of the masterpieces of architecture and lifestyle of Iranians particularly in east of the country for using the wind power for grinding the cereals.

Ba’aqideh reported a five-fold increase in the presence of foreign tourists in Khaf county compared to last year, adding: “Given the restoration of significant historical monuments and the development of tourism infrastructure, the conditions for the presence of domestic and foreign



tourists in this county have improved.”

He recalled that 15 foreign tourists from the UK, Australia, India, Canada, and Sri Lanka visited the most important historical attractions of Khaf, including the Nashtifan Asbads and the Ghiasieh School in Khargerd village during October 10.

The lesser-known Khaf county is home to many sites of his-

torical significance. All efforts are being ramped up to develop Khaf’s tourism capacities aimed at drawing both domestic and foreign visitors.

Khaf county, situated in Khorasan Razavi province, northeastern Iran, is home to over 300 identified historical sites, with 105 of them listed as national heritage sites, and two, including the Khaf windmills and the historical city

Varkaneh: a Renaissance village in heart of Alvand

TEHRAN-- In the lap of the beautiful Alvand Mountain and 20 kilometers from Hamedan, there is a village that its architecture reflects a picture of Europe during the Renaissance. This village is one of the most unique villages in Iran, with its houses made of stone and its buildings made of rubble stone, wood and mud mortar.

According to Miras-e Arya (CHTN), in addition to the beautiful and unique texture, the mild climate in summer and dense gardens double the beauty of Varkaneh and attract many tourists to this village every year.

The history of Varkaneh dates back more than 400 years and relics from the Safavid period have been discovered there. Historical evidence shows that at that time, “Naghi Khan Qaraguzlu” was the khan of the village and after him, his daughter became the ruler. Currently, in Varkaneh, like in other villages in the province, the elderly people have a special place and their decision-making plays a decisive role.

In Kurdish, ‘var’ means side and ‘kaneh’ means spring, so Varkaneh is known by this name, meaning being located next to water and spring. From another point of view, because there are many stone mines around the village, they took the name Varkaneh and brought the village’s name to mean a place near a mine.

The initial core of Varkaneh was formed around the village aqueduct and dates back to the early Safavid period. Stone is the main material in Varkaneh buildings, and stone types such as rubble stone, malon stone, mud brick,

and brick are common building materials in the village.

It seems that the extensive use of stone was due to the abundance of this element in the region and its hardness and resistance to weather changes, as well as the shortage of bricks and adobe in the area. Therefore, the use of locally-sourced materials in the construction of buildings in Varkaneh, like in other regions of the country, was common.

In addition to the village’s natural attractions such as the seasonal Simin and Varkaneh rivers, its aqueducts and springs, the surrounding mountains, and the vast and refreshing gardens, Varkaneh has historical and natural attractions, some of which have been nationally registered, and the fame of the village’s honorees, such as Professor Tofigh ‘Tofy’ Mussivand, the first manufacturer of an artificial heart in the world, has reached beyond the borders and added to the village’s fame.

The old texture, the village mosque building, the tomb of Imamzadeh Ghayb (AS) and the Mehri Khanum Castle, which was built in the shape of a cross, are among the attractions of Varkaneh. On the other hand, Varkaneh’s proximity to the underground city of Arzanfood brings a bright future to the village’s tourism and is considered a special situation for it.

About 10 years ago, the natural and historical attractions attracted famous comedians to Varkaneh, and the production of satirical television series in this village made Varkaneh a familiar name in the country’s tourism



sector. In this series, actors from cinema and television such as Mehdi Hashemi, Mehdi Fakhimzadeh, Ahmad Mehranfar, Hossein Moheb-Ahari, Hadi Kazemi, Hooman Haj-Abdollahi, Mahmoud Jafari, and Ezzatollah Ramezanifar lived in a village that had attracted the attention of tourists and generated income due to its mineral water baths.

With all its beauty and potential in the field of tourism, Varkaneh

of Zozan, have been registered on the UNESCO tentative list.

Out of the total of 200 Asbads (vertical windmills) identified in the urban and rural areas of Khaf, 130 are now in place, and 70 have been destroyed over time.

About 130 Asbads still retain their original nature, some of which are still active in wheat grinding and flour production.

In recent years, the restoration of Asbads has been on the agenda for Khaf Cultural Heritage and Tourism Department.

Made of clay, wood, and straw, the windmills, locally known as Asbads, bear testimony to the human being’s adaption to nature by transforming environmental obstacles into opportunities.

Asbad development took place due to strong and continuous 120-day winds, which annually sweep through the east and southeast of the Iranian Plateau from late May to late September.

Tourism at Kyrgyzstan’s Lake Issyk-Kul shows steady growth

Tourism remains a vital sector of Kyrgyzstan’s economy, contributing significantly to regional development and employment. The Issyk-Kul region continues to serve as the country’s premier tourism hub, anchored by Lake Issyk-Kul, its most popular destination for both domestic and international visitors.

According to data from the Ministry of Economy and Commerce and the 2GIS mapping service, tourism activity in the Issyk-Kul region has tripled over the past six years. By the end of August 2025, which marked the close of the summer resort season, the volume of tourist services along the lake’s shores had increased threefold compared to 2019, The Times of Central Asia reported.

In 2019, the region hosted 627 hotels and guesthouses. By 2025, that number had grown to 1,833. The highest concentration of accommodations is found in Cholpon-Ata (377), the neighboring village of Bosteri

(336), the regional capital Karakol (196), and Balykchy (27).

Food service establishments have seen similar growth. The number of cafes and restaurants has nearly tripled from 360 in 2019 to 963 in 2025. Karakol leads with 170 establishments, followed by Cholpon-Ata (157), Bosteri (142), and Balykchy (84).

Nationwide, Kyrgyzstan received over 3.7 million tourists in 2024, a 1.3-fold increase compared to 2023, according to the National Statistical Committee. Of these, 2.4 million were served by the organized tourism sector, including hotels and resorts, while 1.3 million stayed in the unorganized sector, such as guesthouses and private homes.

The Issyk-Kul region accounted for a substantial share of this total. In 2024, approximately 714,000 visitors were accommodated in the organized sector, and over 1.2 million in



the unorganized one.

Tourism has become a key driver of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region, generating employment and enhancing the investment climate. In 2024, Kyrgyzstan’s tourism industry attracted more than \$11 million in foreign direct investment, with Issyk-Kul playing a central role in that growth.

Minister urges WHO to protect health against sanctions

From page 1 ▶ As documented in The Lancet, sanctions, as silent wars against public health, have systematically blocked access to essential medications and caused widespread suffering and death among the most vulnerable patients, especially children, he added.

These articles emphasized that sanctions can cause as many or even more casualties than wars, Zafarqandi noted.

Despite immense economic pressures and sanctions, Iran remains committed to strengthening its primary healthcare network to achieve universal health coverage, empowering communities to combat noncommunicable diseases, addressing ageing and its health consequences, and tackling social determinants of health, such as poverty and environmental factors, the health minister stressed.

Iran remains resolute in health diplomacy and believes that health is the strongest bridge to peace and sustainable development, he added.

Referring to the catastrophic situation in Gaza, the official invited participants to help rebuild Gaza's health infrastructures, saying that the widespread destruction of Gaza's healthcare system and its blockade have led to one of the most severe humanitarian crises.

Hosted by the WHO Regional

Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, RC72 has brought together health ministers, policy-makers, and regional leaders to address urgent health priorities and longer-term reforms.

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 operational framework on climate and health.

On the sidelines of RC72, the health minister has so far held meetings with his Saudi Arabian and Egyptian counterparts.

During the meeting with the Saudi Arabian health minister, Fahad bin Abdulrahman Al-Jalal, the two sides stressed the need to boost collaborative efforts.

Zafarqandi underscored implementing health agreements and boosting scientific, educational, and medical cooperation,

saying that the collaborative efforts will contribute to improving health in the region.

Al-Jalal invited Zafarqandi to attend the Global Health Exhibition, which will take place from October 27 to 30, at the Riyadh Exhibition and Convention Center in Malham, under the theme "Invest in Health."

Highlighting similarities between Egypt and Iranian healthcare systems and conditions, Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar, the Egyptian official, said that the two countries can collaborate in different health sectors, such as manufacturing medications.

For his part, Zafarqandi underlined promoting medical and pharmaceutical collaborations. The official also introduced representatives to follow up on the implementation of the agreements.



Iran highlights preserving marine environment at MEPC

TEHRAN – The representative of Iran to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has addressed the Extraordinary Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), underlining the country's view on the significance of protecting the marine environment.

Iran also highlights the balanced implementation of international commitments and the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Mojnews quoted Seyyed Ali Mousavi as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the second Extraordinary Session of the MEPC,

held at IMO headquarters in London, from October 14 to 17.

The implementation of environmental policies needs to be proportionate to the economic capacities of each country, "falling to consider development differences when making decisions will lead to inequality and exert excessive pressure on developing countries," the official said.

Referring to the vital role of the seas in human life, the Iranian representative called for strengthening international cooperation to protect the health of marine ecosystems and prevent

environmental damage caused by industrial activities and shipping.

The MEPC addresses environmental issues under the IMO's remit. This includes the control and prevention of ship-source pollution, including oil, chemicals carried in bulk, sewage, garbage, and emissions from ships, including air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Other matters covered include ballast water management, anti-fouling systems, ship recycling, pollution preparedness and response, and identification of special areas and particularly sensitive sea areas.

The IMO met at an extraordinary session to consider the adoption of the IMO Net Zero Framework (NZF).

The IMO Net-Zero Framework comprises a new set of international regulations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships, in line with the IMO's 2023 GHG Strategy. It includes two key elements: a global fuel standard and a global GHG emissions pricing mechanism.

The Committee would also consider a draft work plan to prepare for the entry into force of the IMO Net-Zero Framework.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iranian researchers produce nano-mask with 99.9% lethality to coronavirus

Researchers at the Institute of Materials and Energy affiliated with the Ministry of Science, produced nano face masks that can kill coronavirus by 99.9 percent.

According to ISNA, Abuzar Masoudi, a faculty member of the Materials and Energy Research Institute, said that since the fibers of the fabric are hydrophilic. Therefore, the behavior of the virus is different, so different masks have been offered, including the FFP1 mask, which prevents up to 95 percent of the virus and up to 80 percent of the bacteria. While the N95 mask resists the virus up to 95 percent, and up to 100 percent of the bacteria.

محققان ایرانی ماسک نانو با قدرت کشندگی ۹۹.۹ درصد ویروس کرونا تولید کردند

محققان پژوهشگاه مواد و انرژی زیر نظر وزارت علوم، تحقیقات و فناوری ایران با استفاده از لایه نشانی نانو ذرات به پارچه به الیافی دست یافتند که قادر به تخریب ۹۹.۹ درصدی ویروس کرونا هستند. به گزارش ایسنا، ابوزر مسعودی عضو هیات علمی پژوهشگاه مواد و انرژی گفت از آنجایی که الیاف پارچه آب دوست هستند؛ از این رو رفتار ویروس متفاوت است و بر این اساس ماسک‌های مختلفی عرضه شده است که از آن جمله می‌توان به ماسک **FFP1** اشاره کرد که تا ۹۵ درصد از ورود ویروس و تا ۸۰ درصد از ورود باکتری جلوگیری می‌کند. این میزان برای ماسک **N95** تا ۹۵ درصد ویروس و تا ۱۰۰ درصد باکتری می‌شود.

SOCIETY

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Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

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DOE chief attending global Zero Waste Forum

TEHRAN – A delegation led by the head of the Department of Environment, Shina Ansari, is participating in the global Zero Waste Forum, being held in Istanbul from October 17 to 19.

Organized by the Zero Waste Foundation and Turkish ministries, the forum is centered on the theme 'People, Places, Progress'.

The three-day event will focus on different topics, such as transforming policy into tangible action, scaling up effective solutions, mobilizing financial resources, and forging strong international alliances to tackle waste globally.

The forum will provide great opportunities for enhancing environmental interactions between Iran and other countries.

Waste management

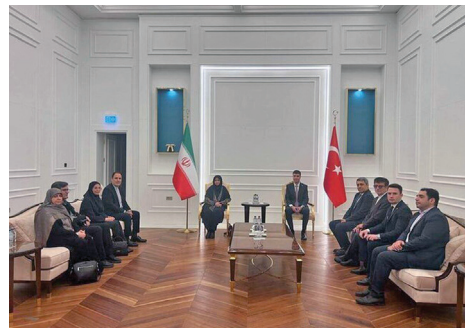
One of the most serious environmental problems of the country is improper management of all municipal, household, industrial, hospital, and hazardous wastes, which has caused environmental pollution and a negative impact on the quality and quantity of biological resources (water, soil, and air) and incurs a huge loss of money annually.

Hence, the DOE, in cooperation with the ministries of industry, energy, oil, agriculture, and health, is developing a national strategic plan for waste management.

The plan will focus on modifying the production and consumption patterns, minimizing waste production, and promoting waste segregation at source.

Large industries such as cement and steel are obliged to utilize solid fuels to meet part of their energy needs, particularly in peak demand.

Also, the Ministry of Energy is required to guar-



antee the purchase of the electricity generated from waste, and the Ministry of Oil is required to guarantee the purchase of or the issue of a sale license for liquid fuels produced from waste.

Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture is required to guarantee the purchase of organic fertilizers made from recycled waste.

According to Mehdi Khadem-Sameni, an official with the DOE, improper management of waste in the country causes 870 trillion rials (some \$791 million) in damage to the environment and natural resources every year.

Some 445 thousand tons of urban, rural, medical, agricultural, and industrial waste are generated per day, equaling 164 million tons per year, leading to land, water, and air pollution, IRNA quoted Mehdi Khadem-Sameni as saying.

The current methods used in the country for waste management are old, the official noted, regretting that up to 80 percent of the waste that can be recycled to be used for different purposes is discarded.

"Out of around 600 waste management centers across the country, just four to five are standardized. In other words, some 96 percent of the waste is just dumped in landfills."

Iran proposes making 'pact of mercy' among women worldwide

TEHRAN – Addressing the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women in China, the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, Zahra Behrouz-Azar, has put forward Iran's proposal to make a pact of mercy among women all over the world to strengthen women's role in creating a more humane and sustainable future.

The pact aims to keep kindness alive in politics, economics, and science, IRNA quoted Behrouz-Azar as saying. It will be a charter based on particular principles including protecting dignity of human life, providing additional support to children and women during crisis, promoting dialogue instead of violence, exclusion and sanctions, and safeguarding the rights of anything that exists on the earth from plants and animals to water and soil, as well as utilizing science and technology to serve the humanity rather than starting wars, imposing sanctions, or suppressing humanity.

The official went on to say that "We live in an era where science and technology have transformed the world; artificial intelligence is influencing decision-making, and robots have replaced humans.

The Earth is getting hotter, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening, and loneliness is becoming more prevalent. Technology has made us more connected, but not necessarily closer.

Today, we have more information, but less peace. In recent years, we have witnessed the dark side of technology in hybrid warfare, the manipulation of public opinion, the expansion of digital hatred, and the use of artificial intelligence for destruction. These experiences highlight the profound crisis of the modern era. Despite external progress, many individuals grapple with an inner void."

The Global Leaders' Meeting on Women was held on October 13 and 14 in Beijing, China.

The meeting was held with the theme of "One Shared Future: New and Accelerated Process for Women's All-round Development."

Co-hosted by China and the UN, the meeting brought together heads of state, government leaders, parliamentary leaders, deputy prime ministers, ministerial officials, leaders of international organizations, and representatives from various continents.

The participants discussed the global challenges, including climate change, technological and digital transformation, and war-inflicted crisis, as well as reviewing each country's progress in empowering women.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Cave rescue drill held in Yazd

The sixth cave rescue drill was held with the participation of rescue and relief teams from ten provinces in Mehriz, central Yazd province, on October 10.

Cave rescue refers to the specialized operation of rescuing individuals who are trapped or in distress in cave systems. Cave rescue teams typically consist of trained cavers, emergency responders, and volunteers who have specific expertise in cave exploration and rescue techniques.

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OCTOBER 18, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:43 Dawn: 4:51 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:14 (tomorrow)

What’s in Tehran art galleries

Painting

* Keiman Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Rosita Taheri.

Entitled “Blue Dot”, the exhibition will be running until November 3 at the gallery located at 10 Akhgari St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

* An exhibition of paintings by Setareh Khoshdel is underway at Jinus Gallery.

The exhibition named “Undine Geht” will run until November 1 at the gallery located at 21 Fatemei St., off Vali-e Asr Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Behzad Kazemnia and Dorna Abyak is on view in an exhibition at Adapa Gallery.

Titled “Crimson-Hued”, the exhibition will run until October 29 at the gallery located at No. 5, Sumesara Alley, Sazesh St., Vali-e Asr Square.

* A collection of paintings by Ardashir Boroujeni and Bahman Boroujeni is currently on display in an exhibit at Binesh Gallery.

Named “Bahman and Ardashir: Shared Expression”, the exhibition runs until November 1 at the gallery located at 22 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Mahsa Nouri is underway at Yafteh Gallery.

The exhibition named “In the Depths of Darkness” will run until October 31 at the gallery located at 8 Taleqani Dead End, Yarmohammadi St. in the Darus Neighborhood.

* Paintings by Bita Nasirizadeh are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled “Another Instant”, the exhibition runs until October 29 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mousa Rabbani and Elyas Qazi.

The exhibition entitled “Being There, Just Playing” will be running until November 2 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.

* Paintings by a group of artists are on display in an exhibition at Delgo-sha Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until November 21 at the gallery located at 30 Mohajer Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Hassan Ayyazi is currently on view in an exhibition at 009821 Projects Gallery.

The exhibition named “What Is Visible” will run until October 28 at the gallery located at No. 25, 18th Alley, Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Farzad Majidi is on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit named “Walled Gardens” will be running until October 28 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.

Iran attending Frankfurt Book Fair after three-year hiatus

TEHRAN – Iran is participating in the 77th Frankfurt Book Fair, after a three-year hiatus, which is underway in Frankfurt, Germany.

“Iran’s return is part of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance’s broader strategy to expand cultural diplomacy and strengthen international cooperation in publishing and literature,” said Ayoub Dehghankar, the scientific, cultural, and management advisor to the deputy minister for cultural affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

“One of the key policies of the Cultural Affairs Department is to support the development of cultural exports, especially books,” IRNA quoted Dehghankar as saying.

“Among cultural products, books hold a unique importance because exporting them through translation and publication by foreign publishers means sharing Iranian and Islamic thought and worldview with the world,” he added.

He also referred to the successful launch of the Tehran Publishing Fellowship Program, explaining that one of its main goals is to boost the cultural economy by facilitating the sale of publication rights for Iranian books to international publishers.

“Since the first round of this fellowship was well received by foreign publishers, Iran’s participation in the Frankfurt Book Fair continues that effort and seeks to further those goals,” Dehghankar stated.

Alireza Nourizadeh, secretary of the Tehran Publishing Fellowship Program, described participation in the Frankfurt event as an important step toward the internationalization of Iran’s publishing industry.

“The Tehran Publishing Fellow-

ship was established to create a platform for cooperation between Iranian and international publishers, support the translation of Iranian works, and improve mutual access to cultural resources,” Nourizadeh said.

He added that this year’s participation focuses on expanding translation and co-publishing agreements, introducing active Iranian publishers, and facilitating direct engagement with international publishing executives.

“The Frankfurt Book Fair is the world’s largest publishing event,” he emphasized. “Our presence in the fair helps expand the network of Iranian publishers and strengthen Iran’s cultural standing globally. We aim to elevate publishing from a domestic cultural activity into an effective tool for cross-cultural dialogue and public diplomacy.”

Launched on October 15, this year’s edition of the Frankfurt Book Fair will run until October 19 at Messe Frankfurt.

Yazdan Saadi’s “Tehran Times” exhibition revives Iranian mythology through contemporary art

TEHRAN—An exhibition of paintings by Iranian artist Yazdan Saadi is currently underway at Saleess Gallery.

Titled “Tehran Times,” Saadi’s latest collection offers a captivating blend of traditional Iranian paintings and modern conceptual art. Inspired by Ghahve-Khaneh paintings, Saadi has created a series of works that serve as a bridge between history and contemporary expression.

His paintings, rich with symbolism and detailed elements, are painted on copies of Tehran Times Newspaper transformed into a canvas—a technique that infuses his work with layers of meaning, history, and cultural memory.

“After years of reflection, I decided to hold a solo exhibition. This body of work is an evolution from a previous collection I created ten years ago, now presented with refined form

and deeper content,” the artist explained. His works depict scenes from Persian epics, particularly Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh, reimagined in a contemporary context with elements of Ghahve-Khaneh and Saqqakhaneh paintings imagery.

Saadi emphasized the importance of media and journalism in his art practice, stating, “Media is not just a backdrop for my work but an integral part of it. I have modernized traditional Iranian painting styles to create a new style and concept in Iranian painting.” His artworks feature intricate details and a multitude of elements, transforming newspapers into historical narratives and symbols that challenge and engage viewers.

Born in 1974, Saadi holds degrees in Graphic Design and Photography. His career includes numerous awards, such as the Fajr Poster Design Awards in 2001 and 2002, and first prize in sculpture. His works, often small

in size and composed of newspaper collage, draw heavily on ancient myths and characters, creating a dialogue between past and present.

“Tehran Times” exhibition was initially scheduled to run until October 14 but has now been extended for another week, allowing visitors to experience the innovative works until October 20 at the galley located at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

Three foreign plays to attend 6th Kish International Short Theater Festival

TEHRAN – Three foreign plays will be staged in the international section of the 6th Kish International Short Theater Festival, which will kick off in Kish Island, in the Persian Gulf, on Saturday.

“Worse and the Laugh” by Aurelie Roxane Imbert from France, “The Shakespeare Maniac” by Aziz Saydut from Turkey, and “Tayraak” by Ashmal Nazir Lalwani from Pakistan are the foreign plays at the festival, Honaronline

reported.

According to the Public Relations and International Affairs Department of the Kish Free Zone Organization, the festival’s secretariat, with the aim of promoting new forms of theater, strengthening the identity of seaside and café performances, and supporting experimental and interdisciplinary troupes, will organize the sixth edition of this artistic event.

This year’s festival will revolve around themes such as family and social vitality, the promotion of peace, unity, and national solidarity, the importance of environmental preservation, contemporary human life, and issues related to the Persian Gulf. The event

As stated in the call for entries, the 6th edition will feature the following categories: café theater, beach theater, written

proposals and staging concepts, theater on ships, and theater photography. Theater groups and individual artists are invited to participate in the event in line with its objectives and thematic focus.

The 6th Kish International Short Theater Festival, directed by Abbas Najari, will be held from October 18 to 21.

Shahrzad theater to host reading performance of “Fools”

TEHRAN- The Shahrzad Theater Complex in Tehran will host a reading performance of the acclaimed American playwright Neil Simon’s comedic fable “Fools” On Saturday.

The performance will be directed by Omid Alahkoui with a cast composed of Ramin Parchami, Amir Khanzadeh, Abbas Zamani, Yasaman Kazemi and Sepideh Qassemi.

The reading will be based on a Persian translation of the play by Shahram Zargar.

The story of the play is set in the small village of Kulyenchikov, Ukraine during the late 19th century. It follows Leon Steponovich Tolchinsky, a school-teacher who takes a new job educating Sophia, the daughter of Dr. Zubritsky and his wife, Lenya. Leon soon learns that there is a curse on the village that makes everyone stupid, but complications ensue when Leon falls in love with his pupil.

Simon’s masterful writing is on full display as he weaves together historical facts and fiction to create a story that is both informative and laugh-out-loud funny. The play pokes fun at the conven-

tions of traditional Russian culture, as well as the absurdities of the Czarist regime, all while maintaining a lighthearted and playful tone.

Throughout the play, Simon uses his signature quick wit and clever dialogue to keep the audience laughing. From mistaken identities to wacky misunderstandings, the comedy never stops in “Fools”. The play also explores themes of love, family, and cultural identity, adding depth and heart to the humor.

The play, premiered on Broadway at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre in 1981, allegedly was written as the result of an agreement Simon made with his wife during their divorce proceedings. She was promised the profits of his next play, so he attempted to write something that never would last on Broadway.

“Fools” was adapted as a stage musical in 1984 titled “The Curse of Kulyenchikov,” with book and music by Peter Melnick, lyrics by Pat Pattison and direction by Paul Warner.

It ran from April to May 1984 at the Old Library

at Leverett House, at Harvard University.

With the permission of Simon, the play was adapted into another musical in 1990, this time with the title “Kulyenchikov”. It was produced in San Jose, California in November of that year.

“Fools” has also been staged by several Iranian directors, including Nader Naderpur, Hooman Rahnemun, Majid Behnamifar, Mohsen Sotudeh, Majid Kashiforushan, Faezeh Rastegar and Satia Nuruzi, at Tehran theaters over the past few years.

Neil Simon (1927-2018) was an American playwright and screenwriter. He wrote more than 30 plays and received more combined Oscar and Tony nominations than any other writer.

He was one of the most reliable hitmakers in Broadway history, as well as one of the most performed playwrights in the world. Though primarily a comic writer, some of his plays, particularly the “Eugene Trilogy” and “The Sunshine Boys,” reflect on the twentieth century Jewish-American experience.