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Araghchi warns of human and regional cost of Afghanistan-Pakistan clashes

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has warned that escalating tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan could result in significant human casualties and threaten the stability of the entire region.

In a phone call on Saturday with Amir Khan Muttaqi, Afghanistan's caretaker foreign minister, Araghchi voiced concern over the recent cross-border clashes between the neighboring Muslim countries. He urged both sides to exercise restraint, immediately halt hostilities, and resolve their disputes through dialogue and negotiation. ▶ Page 2

Chief scientist offers insights on Kowsar and Hodhod satellite launches

TEHRAN – The company developing the Iranian Kowsar and Hodhod satellites has offered a detailed account of the technical achievements following their launch into the Earth's orbit and their successful passing of different tests.

The knowledge-based Omid-e-Faza company chaired by Hossein Shahrabadi has, in recent years, served as one of the active entities involved in the development of operational satellites.

The launch, a year ago, of the two satellites was a watershed in the process of satellite construction by the private sector. ▶ Page 2

Pakistan-Afghanistan conflict: U.S. maneuvering vs. China's mediation

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The recent border clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan underscore the fragility of South Asia's security environment.

The conflict highlights divergent approaches to regional crises, reflecting broader global strategic dynamics. One approach relies on military maneuvering and strategic opportunism. The other emphasizes diplomacy, economic cooperation, and long-term stability.

Fishing in troubled waters

The clashes coincide with heightened U.S. attention on Bagram Air Base, as President Donald Trump calls for restoring a military presence. This illustrates a recurring U.S. strategy of leveraging instability to legitimize intervention under the pretext of counterterrorism.

Israel's forced retreat marketed as 'victory'

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – "Israel has won all they can by force of arms. You've won. I mean, you've won."

When Donald Trump said those words in the Knesset on October 8, the room filled with the performative applause of a society trying to believe what it knew was false. The faces behind the clapping told a different story — exhaustion, disbelief, even dread.

The line — "You've won" — was meant to project closure. Instead, it sounded like denial.

But has Israel won — militarily, politically, or morally? It has been forced to wear the mask of victory, but the reality on the ground and in the halls of power tells a very different story.

Undeniably, Israel has unleashed devastation on Gaza — infrastructure flattened, hospitals destroyed, hundreds of thousands displaced,

Israel deliberately kills Lebanese women amid silence of women's rights bodies

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — At a time when the world is singing the praises of human rights and equality, Lebanese women are being slaughtered by Israeli missiles amidst the deafening silence of women's rights organizations that have long claimed to defend women and their dignity.

Since the beginning of the U.S.-led Israeli aggression, targeting women has not merely been a military mistake, but rather a deliberate approach within the framework of a systematic Zionist policy targeting civilians, especially mothers, as they are the pillars of the family and the source of steadfastness in the face of occupation.

Israel massacres Gaza family

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – An Israeli massacre of around a dozen civilians in the Gaza Strip following a ceasefire agreement has been strongly denounced.

The Hamas resistance movement condemned the massacre carried out by Israeli occupation forces in the Zeitoun neighborhood of eastern Gaza, which killed eleven members of the Abu Shaaban family, including women and children.

Hamas said the attack reflects ongoing violations of the ceasefire agreement.

In a statement, the resistance movement underlined that Israeli forces directly targeted the Abu Shaaban family's vehicle with a tank shell as they were checking on their home, killing eleven people, among them seven children and three women.

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Economic incentives for peace and stability in Afghanistan

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN – After a fragile 48-hour ceasefire between Pakistan and Afghanistan expired on Friday evening both sides decided to extend the truce until the conclusion of the talks in the Qatari capital of Doha.

The talks between the two neighbors started on Saturday.

Pakistan's foreign ministry issued a statement on Wednesday announcing that a temporary ceasefire has been agreed with Afghanistan for the next 48 hours amid recent border hostilities between the two neighbors.

Both sides claimed the other requested the ceasefire, which Pakistan said took effect from 13:00 GMT on Wednesday.

Hours after the ceasefire ended on Friday, Pakistan carried out airstrikes across the border in Paktika province, targeting militant hideouts in the Urgun and Barmal districts, security officials confirmed to The Associated Press. ▶ Page 5

Rural heritage, global meaning: Iran's villages as beacons of cultural sustainability

By Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts

TEHRAN – On Friday, as the UN Tourism inscribed the three Iranian villages of Shafiabad in Kerman, Kandelous in Mazandaran, and Soheili on Qeshm Island among the Best Tourism Villages of the World 2025, a new chapter opened in the cultural diplomacy of our nation — a chapter in which rural life itself becomes a message to the world.

In an age marked by civilizational turbulence and the restless acceleration of globalization, the world is once again searching for meaning, balance, and authenticity. ▶ Page 6



Three Iranian villages named among world's Best Tourism Villages by UN

TEHRAN – The UN Tourism on Friday recognized three Iranian villages among the world's 52 best tourism villages for 2025, praising their rich cultural heritage, historical significance, and commitment to sustainable tourism.

The announcement was made during a special ceremony held in Huzhou, China, highlighting rural communities worldwide that preserve local traditions, protect natural environments, and foster economic opportunities through tourism.

The selected Iranian villages, Kandelous in Mazandaran province, Soheili on Qeshm Island, and Shafiabad in Kerman province highlight glimpses of the diversity of Iran's landscapes, spanning northern forests, central deserts, and southern coastal regions. ▶ Page 6

Exclusive Interview

Future of Russia-Iran partnership hinges on economic depth, Russian expert says

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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Positive effects of FATF

In an analysis, Etemad discussed the benefits of getting out of the FATF blacklist and said: Iran is joining the FATF by approving the two pending conventions that can have positive effects: first, rebuild Iran's banking credibility globally; second, reduce the cost of foreign exchange transactions and facilitate access to international payment systems; and third, Strengthen the country's standing in global risk assessments. Finally, joining the FATF means aligning with the global supervisory system, which in the long run will also lead to strengthening domestic trust, because financial transparency is not only a condition for international interaction, but also a prerequisite for effectively combating corruption domestically. Undoubtedly, Iran has been slow to move towards interacting with the FATF, and this delay has imposed heavy costs on the national economy, but late action is better than complete inaction. Joining the Palermo and CFT conventions does not mean surrendering to external pressure. Rather, it shows the maturity of financial policymaking and acceptance of global transparency requirements. By maintaining its security considerations and precisely defining legal concepts, Iran can take advantage of this opportunity to rebuild financial relations, attract capital, and reduce the pressure of sanctions.

Hamshahri: Iran and Russia, story of the convergence of independent actors

In a note, Hamshahri discussed the similarities in some issues between Iran and Russia by quoting Mehdi Khorsand, an expert on international affairs, who says: Iran and Russia are in similar situations in many cases regarding sanctions and pressure from Western countries. Iran and Russia are considered two main independent players in the shifting international order that seek a multipolar approach in the world. A type of convergence is occurring between Iran and Russia, as well as China, which in various political, economic, military, cultural, and social areas can help build and consolidate trust between the two countries and counteract the pressure of Western sanctions. One of the issues that can strengthen the convergence and alignment between Iran and Russia, which will increase their ability to withstand pressures, is the completion of transit and trade corridors, as well as the export of Iranian technological and engineering products to the Central Asia region and the Caucasus, which is considered Russia's strategic depth.

Tehran denies UK security threat claims after MI5 accusations

TEHRAN – Iran's embassy in London has forcefully rejected claims by the head of Britain's MI5 that Tehran poses a threat to the United Kingdom's security, denouncing the allegations as “baseless and irresponsible.”

In a statement issued late Friday, the embassy dismissed remarks made by MI5 Director General Sir Ken McCallum on October 16, who accused Iran of orchestrating “deadly plots” and engaging in “cross-border hostile actions.”

MI5 Director General claimed that, over the past year, MI5 had identified and disrupted more than 20 potentially deadly plots allegedly linked to Iran.

“The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its strong protest and categorical rejection of these unfounded and irresponsible statements,” the mission said, describing the accusations as “part of a continued effort to distort Iran's policies and undermine diplomatic relations between the two countries.”

The embassy stressed that Iran categorically denies any involvement in violent activities, abductions, or harassment of individuals in the UK or elsewhere. It added that the allegations were made “without credible evidence” and run counter to Iran's long-standing commitment to international law, sovereign equality, and the promotion of peaceful coexistence and cooperation.

Khorasan: Trump's conditions for Iran

Khorasan discussed why Trump's Jewish son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is responsible for negotiations with Iran and said: Trump talks about peace with Iran, but at the same time emphasizes that Tehran must accept certain measures. Recognizing Israel and not supporting resistance groups are among these conditions. The U.S. president had previously said that Iran would join the Abraham Accords! The U.S. president wants to normalize relations between Iran and Israel, while anti-Zionism and support for the oppressed Palestinian people are considered one of the important principles of the Islamic Revolution, and the Iranian people have never been willing to accept a fake regime called Israel. Trump wants Iran to recognize a regime that, in two years, contrary to international law and despite global opposition, has butchered more than 68,000 innocent people in Gaza, has been accused of genocide, and has left nothing but ruins in Gaza. He wants the Iranian people to shake hands with such a regime! It is predicted that Trump wants to use Kushner's good relations with officials in the Persian Gulf Arab countries to put pressure on Iran.

Iran: Policy of safeguarding initiative

In a recent commentary, the Iran newspaper examined the country's strategic approach in the post-snapback era. It argued: the dispute surrounding the snapback mechanism is not merely a “case against Iran,” but rather a diplomatic arena where Iran can direct the pressure game toward negotiation—leveraging support from Russia and China. While Western powers continue to push for the reinstatement of sanctions, the complex and multi-layered nature of enforcement allows Tehran to mitigate some of the pressure by engaging non-Western networks and alternative financial systems, as long as it maintains open channels for mediation. This is precisely where the policy of preserving initiative becomes meaningful. For Iran, the snapback issue symbolizes a broader transformation in the role of international institutions—from once being the central axis of global decision-making to now serving as one of many bargaining platforms among competing powers. Looking ahead, the international order is likely to evolve into a more fragmented and pluralistic system, where diverse actors—each with their own networks and narratives—reinterpret and reapply the rules according to their interests.



Iran's embassy in London

The statement followed McCallum's assertion that UK security services had disrupted 20 Iran-linked operations on British soil over the past year — a claim Tehran has dismissed as misinformation aimed at fueling political tensions.

Calling for restraint, the embassy urged the British government to “refrain from making or escalating baseless accusations” and instead adopt “a responsible and constructive approach based on dialogue and mutual respect” to address shared security concerns through legal and diplomatic means.

The statement concluded by reaffirming Iran's readiness for dialogue and its continued adherence to international norms and peaceful international relations.

There are efforts to remove Iran from trade corridors, warns top commander

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian military commander has warned that the enemy's objective is to remove Iran from trade corridors.

“Today, the enemy is making every effort and using every strategy to restrict corridors and monopolize their benefits and somehow leave us aside,” said Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, the commander of Iran's Navy, in a ceremony to review a draft document on national marine development.

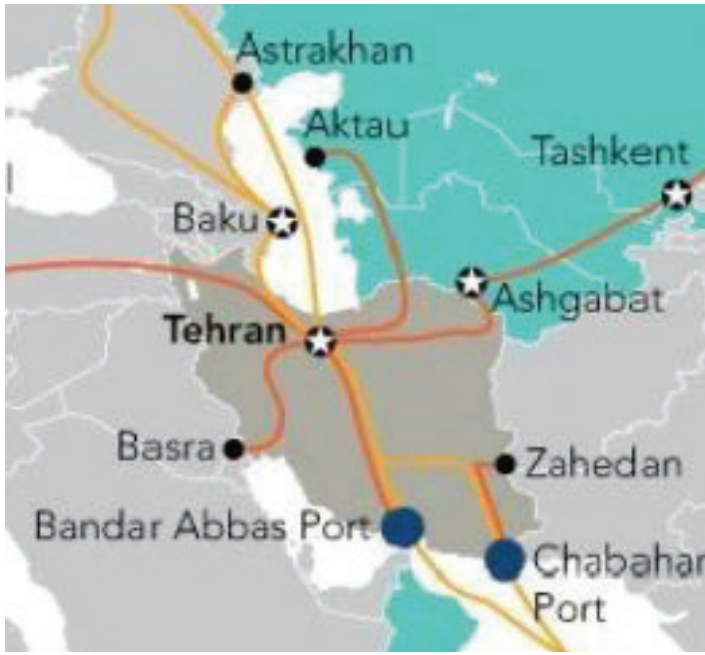
“I request that the issue of corridors and the country's getting connected to the seas be highlighted in this document,” the top commander said.

“We always pay attention to the sea from the coast, but one should pay attention to the coast from the sea in order to get a better grasp of this rather unique potential and conditions surrounding it,” he said.

“In our documents, we have always focused on the North-South Corridor, but failed to pay attention to the East-West Corridor,” the admiral explained. He called for the document to become operational and be implemented.

Iran's special geographical location, being situated along the international corridors of North-South and East-West which connect West Asia to East, Asia and Europe, has provided a special transit place for the country.

Iran's railway network in the west links with Turkey and to Europe; in the northwest to Azerbaijan; in



Corridors are used to connect different economic agents in a particular geographic area

the north to the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Russia; in the northeast to Turkmenistan and Central Asia, Russia and China; in the southeast to Pakistan and in the south to the Persian Gulf and the open waters of the world.

The potential income of Iran's rail transit from trade exchanges between East Asian countries and Europe through the East-West corridor is estimated at about \$1.8 billion and through the North-South corridor at about \$90 million a year.

This shows how important the

East-West corridor is to Iran. Currently, Sarakhs-Bandar Abbas is the most active rail corridor in Iran, providing 80 percent of the country's transit revenues.

Emerging economic powers such as China and India, which are the main parties pursuing the completion of corridors in the region, are trying to arrange multiple routes for their trade.

Even though none of the trade routes in the region can replace those through Iran, parallel routes can reduce the transit benefits of the country.

Therefore, Iran's delay in securing its share of transit in the region would benefit its competitors and seriously underline the country's national interests.

Iran's geographical location on the path of both the East-West and North-South corridors is definitely unmatched, which can also avail the passage of combined corridors, especially in view of the economic, security and time-saving advantages which the country has.

However, the precedence given to political observations by some parties has created problems, which calls for robust political parleys and expansion of political and economic relations to keep Iran in the center-piece of the regional connectivity plans.

Any failure can deprive Iran of numerous benefits in this regard, although the exclusion of the Islamic Republic from the regional connectivity map would incur grave costs for the other parties.

Iran has also said it will block an American corridor in the Caucasus.

Under a deal signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Washington on Friday, Armenia could grant exclusive rights to the U.S. to develop a corridor in its southern Syunik province, which borders Iran, to connect Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan.

Iran has for long opposed the idea, saying it would change the geopolitical order of the Southern Caucasus and would restrict Iran's ability to use transport networks in the region.

Araghchi warns of human and regional cost of Afghanistan-Pakistan clashes



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and his Afghan counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaqi held a phone call on October 18, 2025.

From page 1 ► “The continuation of tensions between the two Muslim countries not only leads to human losses but also endangers regional stability,” Araghchi said, emphasizing Iran's readiness to mediate and facilitate constructive talks between Kabul and Islamabad.

The call came after a fresh round of fighting broke out just three days following a 48-hour ceasefire that had temporarily paused nearly a week of bloodshed along the shared border, which had left dozens of soldiers and civilians dead on both sides.

During the conversation, Muttaqi

provided an update on the situation, stating that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan favors dialogue and peaceful resolution over military confrontation. The Taliban government accused Pakistan of violating Afghanistan's sovereignty and condemned the cross-border attacks as breaches of international norms. Islamabad, while not denying involvement in the incidents, urged the Taliban to restrain the Pakistani Taliban (TTP), a militant group blamed for deadly attacks inside Pakistan.

Once strategic partners, Pakistan and the Taliban government have seen relations sour in recent years, with Islamabad accusing Kabul of

harboring TTP militants responsible for cross-border attacks. According to the Islamabad-based Centre for Research and Security Studies, violent incidents have claimed at least 2,414 lives in Pakistan during the first three quarters of this year alone.

Reports indicate that Pakistan has accused Afghanistan of allowing militants to launch attacks from its territory, while the Taliban have accused Pakistan of carrying out airstrikes inside Afghanistan. Taliban sources claim to have captured two Pakistani border posts in Helmand Province, while Pakistani officials reported “heavy exchanges” of fire at multiple points along the frontier.

The two countries share a 2,600-kilometer (1,600-mile) rugged frontier known as the Durand Line, established in 1893 under British rule. While Pakistan recognizes the border, Afghanistan disputes it and insists that any activity along the line requires mutual consent. The Durand Line cuts through historic tribal areas dividing ethnic Pashtun communities and has long been a source of political tension.

Iran has repeatedly expressed willingness to help both neighbors

resolve disputes peacefully. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said during his weekly press briefing on Monday, “Security and stability in our region are vital. We have called on both sides to exercise restraint and resolve their issues through dialogue.” The Taliban also confirmed that Mohammad Reza Bahrani, Iran's Director General for South Asia, expressed Tehran's readiness to mediate and ease tensions. Bahrani announced Iran's position during meetings with two senior Afghan officials: Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani and Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, the Taliban's Minister for Migrants.

During the talks, both sides also discussed water rights in the Helmand River basin, stressing the need to honor existing agreements and enhance technical cooperation to manage resources efficiently. They pledged joint efforts to protect Iran's water rights and optimize usage during the current season.

The conversation concluded with both parties emphasizing the importance of strengthening bilateral relations, maintaining border security, preventing foreign interference, and continuing coordination to promote peace and stability in the region.

Chief scientist offers insights on Kowsar and Hodhod satellite launches

From page 1 ► “The development of the Kowsar satellites began in 2019 and that of Hodhod got underway two years later,” said Shahrabi in an interview with Tasnim News Agency.

“The two satellites had been designed differently in from a technical perspective. One of them had been designed to conduct missions based on the Internet of Things (IoT) and the other one for remote-sensing operations,” he noted.

He added local experts were taking everything into consideration to make sure the pair would experience a successful launch, which finally happened.

He said the performance of the Hodhod satellite was announced as “technically complete,” and as technical experts have confirmed, the satellite is operating according to the plan and all of its systems are working as expected.

He then referred to some problems involved in the operation of the Kowsar satellite, adding, “despite all these issues, the Kowsar satellite is currently in orbit, continuing its mission. Of course, note that at this stage, only at certain times can we see the satellite and its direct links with the

earth are possible only at certain intervals,” he explained.

Last year, the Kowsar and Hodhod satellites were successfully launched into orbit and the first signals were received from both. The launch occurred at 2:48 AM on Tuesday, November 15, 2024, utilizing the Soyuz rocket from Russia's Vostochny spaceport. On Wednesday, the Iranian Space Agency confirmed that both satellites were successfully deployed into orbit and had begun transmitting signals back to Earth.

The Kowsar satellite is a high-resolution remote sensing satellite capable of capturing images with a resolution of 3.5 meters per pixel. It is intended for applications in agriculture, natural resource management, environmental monitoring, and precise mapping, aiding in the observation of environmental changes and disaster management.

The expected operational lifespan of the Kowsar satellite is approximately two years, and it incorporates advanced imaging and data transmission technologies.

The Hodhod satellite, on the other hand, is designed for communication purposes, particularly

to support the Internet of Things (IoT). It aims to facilitate communication in remote areas with limited terrestrial network access, making it suitable for applications in smart agriculture, transportation, and crisis management.

Professor Parto Alam, a high-ranking senior member of the Kowsar satellite's design and construction team, noted that these satellites weigh 30 kg, have an orbital lifespan of 3.5 years, and operate at an altitude of 500 km. Its mission focuses on agriculture and mapping, and its color range is defined at 15 km.

The successful launch of these satellites into orbit underscores the perseverance and commitment of Iran's scientific community, demonstrating the nation's capacity for ongoing innovation and advancement in the aerospace industry. As Iran's satellite program progresses, the country's role in global space exploration efforts is expected to gain greater visibility in the years ahead. One thing Iranian scientists tend to take pride in is that the country has managed to take huge stride in the space industry despite decades of debilitating Western sanctions.

The sunset of the JCPOA in the twilight of distrust in Western diplomacy

Resolution 2231 officially expires, ending UN endorsement of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – The jubilant crowds that gave then-Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif a hero's welcome in April 2015 as his flight landed in Tehran from Switzerland were cheering what they believed was the dawn of a new era for Iran.

"We will see progress in every field," said Fatemeh, a Tehrani resident, to an Iranian reporter at the airport while waiting for Zarif's arrival. "I recently became a high-school teacher. I am so happy that my students will not have to deal with the economic pressures my generation did."

Fatemeh, a millennial, spent the early years of her life during the difficult Iran-Iraq War. In the post-war period, Iran's reconstruction and development were slower than desired, hampered by renewed pressures related to its nuclear program.

The first comprehensive, multi-lateral sanctions targeting Iran's nuclear program emerged in 2006. In the following years, these sanctions became increasingly debilitating as Western powers accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons. In 2013, Iran, Germany, France, Britain, the U.S., China, and Russia convened for a series of talks that lasted 18 months, culminating in the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The agreement stipulated that Iran would limit its nuclear activities in exchange for the removal of sanctions imposed by Western states, which had significantly deteriorated the Iranian economy and strained the population's finances over the years.

However, the deal celebrated by Iranians in 2015 ultimately proved to be not a harbinger of relief and development, but the prelude to an unprecedented campaign



Delegates from Iran and the P5+1 countries seen in Vienna in July of 2015 after agreeing to the JCPOA

of pressure against the nation. When U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, expressing his desire to eliminate any form of Iranian nuclear capability and to impose caps on the country's missile program, he reimposed sanctions against Iran, introduced new secondary ones, and officially began what he called the "maximum pressure" campaign against the county. Over the years, the so-called maximum pressure managed to leave many Iranians, particularly those in the middle class, struggling financially, with conditions worsening monthly. Teachers like Fatemeh saw their social standing decline as sanctions fueled rampant inflation and significantly shrank the middle class.

Beyond the economic pressure, a full-scale war was likely the last thing on Fatemeh's mind the day she greeted Zarif at the airport. Yet, following Trump's withdrawal and after Iran held multiple rounds of talks with various American and European politicians in a bid to revive the JCPOA, the country was attacked for not bending entirely

to the West's will. The U.S.-Israeli bombs that struck Iran for 12 days in June 2025, targeting the country's nuclear, civilian, and military infrastructure, occurred just ahead of a scheduled sixth round of negotiations with Washington.

After the war, the dead body of the JCPOA took even more hits. The E3 officially triggered the so-called snapback mechanism in late August, designed to return pre-JCPOA UN sanctions a month after its activation. The snapback was supposed to be a mechanism that allowed non-Iranian signatories to return pressure against Tehran if they deemed it as noncompliant. Iranians, having gained from the JCPOA only unprecedented sanctions and a full-on war that battered their nuclear sites, saw the return of UN sanctions not as a disaster, but as yet another sign that the West could not be trusted to uphold its commitments.

I was unable to locate and reach Fatemeh as Resolution 2231 (the UN bill that endorsed JPOCA) expired on Saturday, October 18, 2025. However, I suspect that had I been able to speak with her,

she would no longer believe in diplomacy as strongly as she did in 2015, like millions of Iranians who believe they have been played and betrayed by the West over the past decade.

In a letter to Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, and Vassily Neben-zia, the rotating President of the Security Council, Iranian President Abbas Araghchi—Zarif's deputy at the time of the JCPOA's signing—stated that with the expiration of Resolution 2231, Iran must now be treated like any other non-nuclear-weapon state under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Mikhail Ulyanov, the Russian negotiator in JCPOA talks, declared that the pact "has ceased to exist" in a statement posted on X.

Considering what Araghchi described in his letter as "acts of sabotage and aggression" by the West over the past decade, and with no new negotiations over Iran's nuclear program in sight, it appears that not only is the JCPOA dead, but also confidence in diplomacy.

Future of Russia–Iran partnership hinges on economic depth, Russian expert says

The two sides must move beyond defense deals and build a durable economic foundation

TEHRAN – In an in-depth interview with Anton Mardasov, a noted expert on Russian foreign policy and Middle Eastern affairs, the Tehran Times delved into the multifaceted relationship between Russia and Iran.

The discussion explored the evolving nature of the two countries' strategic partnership, marked by both cooperation and cautious maneuvering. Key topics included the historical context of their anti-Western alignment, the significance of economic agreements like the 2023 Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) free trade agreement, and the limits of Iran-Russia military and technical collaboration.

Mardasov also addressed the impact of sanctions, the role of personal dynamics in bilateral ties, and Iran's nuclear program as a geopolitical tool. Additionally, the conversation highlighted the pragmatic approaches of both nations in navigating regional conflicts and the potential for deeper economic cooperation to strengthen bilateral partnership.

Below is the full text of the interview:

How would you describe the current state of Russia–Iran relations?

Relations between Russia and Iran are like a stock market chart – they have sharp ups and downs, but the ties are developing, and this is recognized by everyone – both optimists and skeptics. The specifics of Russia's and Iran's anti-Western cooperation are well known, and thanks in large part to the anti-globalization partnership, their relations have

been expanding and deepening in leaps and bounds, with occasional slight setbacks amid existing contradictions and even resentments. However, it is often not taken into account that every relationship has a limit, which depends not only on the political will, but also on a number of other factors, including internal ones.

The stalling of certain decisions has often been noted not only by Iran, which periodically suspects Russia of behind-the-scenes arrangements, but also by Russia. For example, despite Moscow's conscious decision to maneuver between the conflicting parties in West Asia and refrain from taking drastic steps, the Kremlin offered Tehran as early as 2002 to implement a ten-year program for the development of trade, economic, industrial and scientific-technical cooperation ratified by the Russian government, but the Iranian side ignored the offer and the promising project lost its force as early as 2007.

Which side of Russia–Iran relations is more important at the moment?

It is clear that politicians often deliberately exaggerate the significance of certain foreign policy steps and decisions. In particular, there were quite a few statements, in particular from the Russian side, which contributed to the exaggeration of expectations from the signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty in early 2025, including the sphere of security and defense. Nevertheless, it was already clear at that time that this is a rather protocol



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hands with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

document that does not oblige either Moscow or Tehran to make any serious decisions. At the same time, another document – a free trade agreement between the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Iran, which was signed in 2023 and is due to enter into force this year – was virtually ignored. Unlike the bilateral strategic agreement, this treaty will allow businesses to make serious savings on duties. In general, the media always pay more attention to military issues, while economic issues often play a more serious role and directly affect the possibilities of military cooperation.

How strong is current military cooperation between Moscow and Tehran?

In addition, it should be taken into account that the dynamics of hidden military-technical cooperation between Moscow and Tehran and their interaction

through intelligence services has always differed from the situation in the sphere of official trade and economic relations and diplomacy.

It is clear that Russia is not going to step in for Iran and intervene in real hostilities, and neither will Iran. Now the Russian military-industrial complex is working at maximum capacity not only to meet the needs of the troops fighting in Ukraine, but also because of the announced plans for operational rearmament and deployment of new formations that are to be equipped with armored vehicles, air defense equipment and helicopters to confront the Western military bloc. However, Moscow is unlikely to intervene in the 12-day conflict even without a war in Ukraine, as there is a high probability of escalation of such a possible confrontation.

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

Persepolis suffer late loss against Kheybar: PGPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team suffered a late 2-1 loss against Kheybar in the 2025/26 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) Saturday night.

Erfan Masoumi gave the hosts the lead in the 29th minute but Omid Alishah leveled the score with a header in the 90th minute.

Issa Moradi scored the winner in the dying moments of the match.

Elsewhere, Paykan lost to Aluminum 1-0 in Tehran, Zob Ahan and Foolad shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Isfahan, Sham Azar lost to Fajr Sepasi 1-0 in Qazvin.

Volleyball player Kazemi left in coma

TEHRAN – Saber Kazemi, who has recently signed with Qatari side Al Rayyan and appeared in their training sessions, suffered a severe brain damage yesterday afternoon.

He was immediately hospitalized but he was left in a coma.

Kazemi, who had been one of Iran's rising volleyball stars after competing in international events such as the Olympics and the Asian Championship, had recently participated in Al-Rayyan's training and all believed his physical condition was fully adequate.

Suddenly, his condition deteriorated, and the team of doctors is working to stabilize him from coma to a stable condition.

Iran remain unchanged in FIFA World Ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national football team remained 21st in the latest FIFA World Ranking issued on Friday.

Team Melli lost to Russia 2-1 and beat Tanzania 2-0 in two friendly matches held last week.

Japan, known as The Samurai Blue, remained unchanged at 19th and they are Asia's top team.

They defeated five-time world champions Brazil 3-2 in an international friendly earlier this week.

Korea Republic moved up one spot to 22nd while Australia was unchanged at 25. Qatar, who qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026 by defeating the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, improved one spot to 52nd.

Uzbekistan dropped one spot to 55th while Iraq improved one rung to 58th. Saudi Arabia, who also sealed FIFA World Cup qualification on Tuesday, improved by one to 58th.

Jordan dropped four spots to 66th with UAE (67th, unchanged) and Oman (79th, dropped one) completing Asia's top 10.

Syria impressed by moving up six spots to 86th while Thailand and Malaysia improved by five to 96th and 118th respectively. Sri Lanka jumped four rungs to 193.

Spain still topped the rankings, followed by France and Argentina.

Iran win gold at 2025 Asia Rowing Championships

TEHRAN – Iran secured a gold medal in the women's lightweight double sculls at the 2025 Asia Rowing Championships in Vietnam.

Zeynab Norouzi and Kimia Zarei seized the gold medal in the event with a time of 7:30.22.

In the men's lightweight double sculls final, Amir Hossein Mahmoudpour and Amir Reza Abdali won the bronze medal with a time of 6:43.24, finishing behind India (gold) and Uzbekistan (silver).

The 2025 Asian Rowing Championships kicked off on October 17 at the Hai Phong Rowing Training Centre in Vietnam, the region's largest rowing event organized by the Asian Rowing Federation (ARF) with Vietnam's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and local authorities.

Running from October 16–19, the competition saw 668 athletes and coaches from 18 countries and territories, including Vietnam, Iran, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Singapore, among others, competing in 20 men's and women's events.

Talkhabi elected as president of Iran Bodybuilding Federation

TEHRAN – Majid Talkhabi was elected as new president of Iran Bodybuilding Federation on Saturday for a four-year term through 2029.

The elections took place at Iran's Olympic Academy, where Talkhabi secured 28 of the 50 votes cast.

Mojtaba Maleki came second with 22 votes.

Talkhabi replaced Abdolmahdi Nasirzadeh in the position.

The Iran Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation is the governing body for Bodybuilding in Iran. It was founded in 2005, and has been a member of IFBB.

Aminzadeh seizes gold at 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championship

TEHRAN – Ahmad Aminzadeh of Iran took a gold medal in the 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championship on Friday.

It was another golden day for Iran as Aminzadeh extended his dominance in the super-heavyweight category on the final day of individual competitions at the Cairo 2025 World Para Powerlifting Championships on Friday.

Aminzadeh, the reigning Paralympic champion, clinched his third world title with a 260 kg lift in his second round and finished nine kilograms ahead of Gustavo Am Melo De Souza from Brazil in the men's over 107 kg category.

The 34-year-old Iranian's victory also ensured that the legacy of the late legend Siamand Rahman lives on in the super heavyweight category, Paralympic.org reported.

"After Paris 2024 Paralympics, I didn't train much as I had some pain in my chest. But I'm happy that I won the gold here. I will go back Iran, work on my recovery and train harder," said Aminzadeh who suffered an injury in Paris 2024.

"This is the first time I attempted to lift 270 kg, but it wasn't meant to be here. I hope I can get it in the next competition."

Aliakbar Gharibshahimen in the 107kg had won a gold medal. Roohollah Rostami (men's up to 88kg), Amir Jafari (men's up to 72kg) and Mohsen Bakhtiar (men's up to 65kg) had also claimed three silver medals in the competition. And Nikoo Rozbahani (women's over 86 kg) and Aliasghar Abareghi (men's up to 97 kg) had won two bronzes.

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 beat Iraq at Asia Pacific Goalball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran beat Iraq 8-3 at the 2025 Asia Pacific Goalball Championship on Saturday.

Team Melli had defeated Saudi Arabia 6-4, Australia 5-1 and Thailand 5-1 in their previous matches in Group A.

Iran are scheduled to face Uzbekistan on Monday.

Group B features Pakistan, South Korea, China, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

The championship, organized by the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation, features 17 teams from 11 countries, including Kazakhstan, Iran, Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Iraq, and Uzbekistan.

The 10-day competition runs from Oct. 16 at the Sports Complex Liaquat Gymnasium in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Iran seeks to expand engineering footprint in Africa through new cooperation forum

TEHRAN – Iranian business leaders have called for stronger engagement with Africa's fast-developing infrastructure markets, emphasizing the continent's vast potential for technical and engineering cooperation.

Speaking at the opening of the Iran-Africa Cooperation Forum on Technical and Engineering Services, Payam Bagheri, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said Iran has extensive experience in the water industry and should leverage Africa's unique opportunities in this field.

"Despite great potential, we have so far utilized only a fraction of it," he said.

The event, titled developing cooperation between Iranian companies and African water project stakeholders, brought together high-level delegations from Mauritania, Algeria, Nigeria, and Tanzania at the ICCIMA headquarters in Tehran.

Bagheri described the gathering as an important step toward closer ties between Iranian and African business communities.

Ali Naghavi, head of ICCIMA's Committee on Technical and Engineering Services, said the Chamber is determined to strengthen Iran's role in exporting engineering and construction expertise.

"After the successful OPEC Fund event, this marks the second major international initiative to promote Iranian engineering services abroad," he noted.

Naghavi added that employer representatives from the four African nations are attending the two-day event, where Iranian engineering firms are showcasing their capabilities through B2B meetings and specialized sessions.

"Identifying local partners, introducing real projects, and building a lasting presence for



Iranian contractors and consultants in Africa are among our key objectives," he said.

He pointed to the formation of a Joint Committee for Exporting Engineering Services at ICCIMA as "a coordinated step toward elevating Iran's position in global markets," calling the forum "the second milestone in a long-term national strategy."

Reza Haji-Karim, chairman of the Federation of Iran's Water Industry, highlighted the country's proven expertise in designing, constructing, and operating water and wastewater facilities.

"With decades of experience managing water resources in arid and semi-arid regions, Iran is a reliable partner for African countries seeking to develop their water infrastructure and recycling systems," he said.

Meanwhile, Haj-Rasouliha, head of UNESCO's Regional Center on Urban Water Management in Iran, discussed the forum's broader goals and announced that the next session of the Center's Governing Board would be held in Tehran.

The two-day event features negotiation tables with Tanzanian and Nigerian representatives, B2B sessions with Iranian companies, and field visits to major water projects in Tehran — all designed to pave the way for practical, long-term cooperation between Iran and Africa.

South Pars Gas Complex cuts flaring by 3.8 mcm/d

TEHRAN – The South Pars Gas Complex (SPGC) has achieved a daily reduction of 3.8 million cubic meters (mcm) in gas flaring, marking a major step toward greater efficiency and environmental sustainability in Iran's gas industry, the complex's managing director said.

Gholam Abbas Hosseini, head of SPGC, told IRIB that since the start of the program, daily flaring volumes have dropped from 9.8 million to about 6.0 million cubic meters.

"This reduction has been achieved through initial projects focused on process optimization, maintenance, and resolving equipment defects," he said.

According to Hosseini, the second phase of the project will focus on selling flared gas through competitive tenders, with an addition-

al three million cubic meters per day expected to be recovered. "So far, six companies have been awarded contracts across various refineries," he noted.

He added that early implementation faced challenges such as land allocation, environmental permits, and utility sales, but all major issues have now been resolved.

"In the initial phase, we also encountered currency-related difficulties, which have since been overcome. We now expect smooth progress moving forward," Hosseini said.

The SPGC aims to complete the project by the end of the Iranian year 1405 (March 2027), achieving full recovery targets and advancing Iran's broader energy efficiency and environmental protection objectives.

Government outlines comprehensive plan to support capital market

TEHRAN – The Iranian government has intensified efforts to stabilize and strengthen the capital market through coordinated policymaking and regular consultations between top economic officials.

Mohammadreza Dashti Ardakani, deputy for legal and parliamentary affairs at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, said on Thursday that the ministry holds weekly meetings centered on the capital market, with participation from the head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) and senior deputies.

"The government's economic team is fully committed to supporting small shareholders, which remains one of our top priorities," Dashti Ardakani said on the sidelines of the ministry's second coordination council of deputies, advisers, and parliamentary liaisons, held at the Securities and Exchange Organization headquarters.

He added that both short-term and long-term programs are being developed to ensure the market's sustainable growth.

"The economic team continuously monitors capital market trends. Protecting the interests of investors, especially retail shareholders, is a

permanent agenda item in these sessions," he said.

Dashti Ardakani emphasized that the Economy Minister closely follows market developments and that the ministry is working intensively to steer the stock market back toward stability and growth.

He also highlighted the full coordination between key state institutions to strengthen the capital market, noting that the Supreme Council of the Stock Exchange and the Ministry of Economy are jointly implementing several supportive measures.

"Fortunately, the government, parliament, and other branches share a unified view on enhancing the role of the capital market, and positive outcomes have already emerged," he said.

The deputy minister expressed appreciation for the round-the-clock efforts of market managers, adding that the current state of the Tehran Stock Exchange is viewed as satisfactory.

"A vibrant stock market has a direct impact on public optimism and satisfaction," he said. "All institutions must work together to boost investor confidence and reinforce the capital market as a key pillar of the national economy."

Rooftop solar power stations installed for 22 ministries, state organizations

TEHRAN – In line with President Masoud Pezeshkian's directive for all government bodies to adopt solar energy, Iran has launched rooftop solar power plants for 22 ministries and state organizations, marking a significant step toward sustainable energy transition in the public sector.

According to the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the initiative was implemented using domestically produced solar panels developed by Iranian knowledge-based companies.

The project's first phase focused on designing and standardizing rooftop solar systems for 22 ministries and public organizations, in accordance with



a cabinet resolution mandating government institutions to utilize renewable energy sources.

In the second phase, the plan will be extended to critical infrastructure and major businesses that directly serve public needs, further integrating renewable energy into the country's operational backbone.

Successful pilot installations on government buildings demonstrated the viability of this model, showing that rooftop solar systems can serve as an effective framework for achieving sustainable energy supply. Officials say the project could become a blueprint for broader adoption of clean energy solutions in residential buildings and everyday urban life.

\$800m allocated for renovation, modernization of NIDC's drilling fleet, equipment

TEHRAN- The managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) emphasized the need to update the rigs and operational equipment of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) and stated that \$800 million has been allocated for the renovation and modernization of this company's drilling fleet and equipment.

Hamid Bovard, speaking at a meeting with the managers and officials of the National Iranian Drilling Company, and while appreciating the efforts of the company's staff in realizing the plans and objectives of the country's oil industry, stated: "It is expected that this company, as one of the upstream companies and the largest drilling company in Iran, through systematic planning, a shift in managerial perspective, and by providing suitable solutions, will be able to even better respond to the needs of the oil industry."

He referred to the presented statistics on the performance of the National Iranian Drilling Company in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), and the significant growth in the drilling, ancillary services, and other service and support sectors of the company, adding: "Considering the oil industry's plans for increasing production and developing oil and gas fields, the expectations from the National Iranian Drilling Company go beyond this. Of course, measures must also be taken to strengthen this company's infrastructure and address its challenges."

The managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company further stated: "The National Iranian Drilling Company holds a special position in the oil industry in terms of specialized human resources and potential and actual capacities. Through proper planning, initiative, and the formation of strong executive and supervisory teams, the grounds for even greater dynamism of this company should be provided."

Referring to the allocation of \$800 million for the renovation and modernization of the drilling fleet and integrated technical and engineering service equipment of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC), Bovard noted: "In this regard, good contracts have been signed with domestic manufacturing and knowledge-based companies. Through interaction, synergy, and continuous follow-up, we will witness the modernization and a new chapter in the more prominent and active presence of NIDC in the drilling industry market."

The deputy managing director of the NIDC for technical affairs has announced a growth of over 12 percent in the integrated technical and specialized services of the drilling industry provided to applicant companies in the country's oil-rich regions during the first half of the current Iranian year.

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

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

He added: "The National Iranian Drilling Company oversees two departments—Technical Services and Specialized Services—handling integrated ancillary services, which encompass dozens of specific specialized services. The company's capability, in terms

of having experienced specialists and operational equipment to deliver these services, distinguishes NIDC from other companies active in this field in the region. This is because, in the drilling industry, each service is typically provided by a separate company, while NIDC is the only company in the country that offers these services in an integrated manner."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regarding the most important achievements of the Research, Technology, and Construction Engineering Management of the National Iranian Drilling Company in the field of manufacturing parts and equipment, he stated: "In the drilling operations sector, we can mention the manufacturing of air, oil, and fuel filters for Caterpillar engines; the main shaft of various top drives; fluid screens; various Checkmate and Demco valves; RING JOINT GASKET; various PLUG VALVES; liner and module for various mud pumps; engine radiators; 5/8, 13, and 20-inch packing elements; drilling rig pins; lifting sleeves; brake rim draw works; mud pump connecting rod;

and some top drive parts."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Israel massacres Gaza family

From page 1 ▶ Hamas said this “horrific crime represents a blatant violation of all humanitarian values and international law and exposes Israel’s deliberate intent to target defenseless civilians without justification.”

The movement added that the massacre comes as part of the Israeli regime’s continuous breaches of the recently agreed ceasefire, noting that “the enemy continues its assaults and crimes against our people in clear violation of the commitments outlined in the agreement.”

Hamas emphasized that “the blood of our children and women remains a direct target of the Zionist killing machine,” adding that this attack is yet another entry in the Israeli occupation regime’s long record of massacres and violations, further confirming its aggressive intentions.

The movement called on U.S. President Donald Trump and international mediators “to take serious



action to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its violations and ensure respect for the ceasefire agreement and the protection of civilians.”

It also urged the international community and human rights organizations “to assume their responsibilities, pressure the occupation to stop its war crimes and acts of genocide against the Palestinian people, and prosecute its

criminal leaders.”

In a separate statement, Hamas called on mediators to continue their efforts in ensuring full implementation of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, particularly provisions related to the entry of sufficient humanitarian aid. The movement stressed the need to immediately form the Community Support Committee to begin managing Gaza’s affairs.

Hamas expressed appreciation for the mediation efforts of Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey that helped achieve the ceasefire, and thanked all those who played an active role in stopping “a war of extermination” and in supporting Palestinian political, legal, and humanitarian positions.

The statement also praised countries and organizations that stood by the Palestinian people, highlighting “those who shed blood alongside our people in Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Likewise, Hamas commended activists who joined the Freedom Flotilla to break the Gaza blockade, as well as protesters around the world who demonstrated in solidarity with Gaza.

Finally, the movement extended its gratitude to media outlets that helped expose “the enemy’s crimes” and shed light on the ongoing massacres and ethnic cleansing faced by the Palestinian people.

Israel’s forced retreat marketed as ‘victory’

From page 1 ▶ over 68,000 killed, including at least 20,000 children — yet the ultimate objective pursued by many in power, the near-total erasure of Gaza as a political and social entity, has not been achieved.

The Palestinian population persists, Hamas retains access to arms and influence, and governance networks continue to function. Genocidal destruction is not victory; it is evidence of a campaign that is incomplete, morally hollow, and politically unstable.

The ceasefire, imposed under overwhelming international pressure, failed to secure Israel’s intended end state.

Massive displacement, collapsed infrastructure, and famine conditions have not dismantled Hamas, nor have they eradicated clan networks or tunnel systems. The military campaign, despite its destruction, has not accomplished the political aim of a Gaza emptied and pacified. What remains is a devastated enclave, a resilient population, and a Hamas whose armed and political presence endures — the precise opposite of the “victory” proclaimed in that chamber.

Domestically, the consequences are corrosive. Netanyahu’s coalition, held together by extremist ambition and political arithmetic, is under stress.

Far-right partners howl at what they perceive as concessions, ultra-Orthodox parties threaten to defect over draft and social agreements, and polls indicate growing public demand for elections and accountability.

The economy has shuddered under market volatility, and aid agencies have paused operations amid bureaucratic delays. The narrative of military success is now juxtaposed against legal and political fragility.

Internationally, the pressure is even more acute. The International Criminal Court’s arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, coupled with the UN Commission’s genocide findings, place Israel under unprecedented legal scrutiny.

This is beyond symbolic; it constrains diplomacy, risks intelligence partnerships, and forces allies to condition cooperation.

The so-called normalization project with Islamic countries has lost momentum, and any state that pursues it will do so with Gaza’s devastation on its shoulders.

A wave of European governments — including France, the UK, Belgium, and others — have formally recognized Palestine at the UN and in bilateral arenas, and among Western youth, Israel’s image has shifted from embattled security actor to global pariah.

The strategic paradox of Netanyahu’s doctrine is clear: the more force he wielded to secure his authority, the more he deepened its fragility.

Each bombing campaign triggered legal and ethical repercussions; each military “success” deepened diplomatic isolation. A policy designed to ensure survival has instead incubated the conditions for political, legal, and moral reckoning.

With the guns now temporarily silent, and despite repeated Israeli violations of the October ceasefire, the truce stands not as a triumph, but as an opening to Netanyahu’s reckoning.

Domestic outrage over October 7’s failures is mounting, protests are swelling beyond past judicial unrest, and ICC and ICJ scrutiny ensures the war’s consequences will persist long after the guns fall silent.

Diplomatically isolated and politically cornered, Netanyahu’s so-called victory has produced destruction without control, leaving a fractured regime, a Hamas that continues to endure, and a legacy defined by moral and institutional erosion.

History is unlikely to recall this as strength, but as a leadership undone by the very power it wielded to preserve itself.



conditions are right it can rebuild what was damaged with strength and effectiveness.

Direct results may appear as victory while they constitute elements of defeat. Whilst indirect results may appear as defeat, they contain elements of resurgence and a stronger return. In

reality, tools can be compensated for, whilst circumstances internationally and in the surrounding environment also change. For example, if the entity fails to achieve the expansion it sets as a goal for itself, the matter leads to its own contraction.

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

Israel deliberately kills Lebanese women amid silence of women’s rights bodies

From page 1 ▶ The recent killing of citizen Zeinab Raslan and her wounded husband, Hassan Atwi (who was blinded during the Pager Massacre), on October 6, 2025, once again revealed the true face of the Israeli aggression. Israel has no red lines when it comes to extinguishing the voice of life in southern Lebanon.

The systematic targeting does not differentiate between women and men, between a caring mother and a resistance fighter, yet, not a single one of the dozens of hypocritical women’s organizations that prey on the rhetoric of “women’s rights” and “gender justice.”

Since the ceasefire on November 27 last year, 21 women have been killed and 116 others wounded in a series of Israeli attacks. These numbers are not just statistics; they are ev-

idence of the deliberate targeting of Lebanese women, who represent the memory of the South, the guardians of the home, and the nurturers of generations of resistance.

The enemy realizes that women not only constitute half of society, but are also the primary incubators of national values. Thus, it deliberately kills them to extinguish the flame of life and deplete society of its moral and human strength.

What is even more outrageous than the crime itself is the silence of feminist organizations that claim to fight for “oppressed women.”

These organizations, which fill the media space during any incident of domestic violence or legal debate, are completely absent when

the killer is Israel; no statements, no symbolic protests, no solidarity with mothers who lost their sons or were martyred in their homes.

It’s as if feminism, in its own terms, doesn’t include women who resist, or the poor, or the rural women living in the villages of the South.

This shameful selectivity reveals that many of these associations are not independent human rights movements, but rather foreign funding tools operating within a specific political agenda.

They remain silent when murder is committed by the Israeli enemy, but they scream loudly when they have the opportunity to attack the values of society, religion, or resistance.

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

Death toll in Gaza surpasses 68,000 as Israel continues attacks after ceasefire

The Palestinian death toll in Gaza has reached a grim new milestone, surpassing 68,000 lives lost, as a fragile ceasefire is marred by continued violence.

The Gaza Ministry of Health announced that 68,116 people have been killed and 170,200 injured since the conflict began in October 2023.

In its Saturday statement, the Ministry added that in just the past 48 hours, hospitals in Gaza received 29 martyrs—23 bodies recovered from the rubble, two who died of their

wounds, and four killed in direct strikes—along with 21 injured.

Officials noted that at least 11 more victims remain buried beneath the ruins of the Abu Shaaban massacre, their deaths not yet included in the official count.

Since the October 11 ceasefire, at least 27 Palestinians have been killed and 143 wounded, underscoring the collapse of promised calm.

Pakistan–Afghanistan conflict: U.S. maneuvering vs. China’s mediation

From page 1 ▶ The legacy of two decades of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan remains consequential. Weak institutions, a fragile economy, and persistent insecurity continue to plague the country. The current border crisis can, in part, be traced to these structural weaknesses. By prioritizing short-term strategic gains, the U.S. approach risks perpetuating cycles of instability. In regional terms, this strategy can exacerbate mistrust between neighbors and contribute to a security dilemma in South Asia.

Diplomacy and economic integration

China’s approach contrasts sharply with Washington’s. Beijing has consistently called for restraint and dialogue, welcoming ceasefires and facilitating trilateral talks with Pakistan and Afghanistan. These engagements aim to strengthen political trust and sustain bilateral and regional cooperation.

Recent trilateral meetings underscore China’s proactive mediation role. At the sixth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue in Kabul in August 2025, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, and Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar reaffirmed their commitment to promoting regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity. Wang emphasized expanding development cooperation, boosting trade and investment, improving connectivity infrastructure, and deepening security collaboration to combat transnational terrorism.

Earlier, in May 2025 in Beijing, the three countries agreed to advance Belt and Road cooperation by extending the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) into Afghanistan. The ministers highlighted the potential of the trilateral mechanism to strengthen mutually beneficial relations, enhance connectivity, and foster economic development. China also pledged support for Afghanistan’s diplomatic normalization and advocated for regional cooperation free from external interference.

Economic integration is central to China’s strategy. By transforming Afghanistan into a hub for regional connectivity, Beijing seeks to address structural drivers of instability, including poverty and marginalization. Its model prioritizes long-term stability over immediate strategic advantage. By fostering shared economic interests, China reduces incentives for conflict escalation and encourages political engagement as a means of maintaining regional order.

Implications for regional stability

The differing approaches of the U.S. and China carry significant consequences for South Asia. Washington’s military-first model risks entrenching insecurity and fostering dependence on external powers. It may provoke friction among regional actors, undermining prospects for cooperative security arrangements.

China’s strategy emphasizes long-term stability through economic interdependence, dialogue, and trilateral coordination. If successful, it could create a framework for sustainable peace and development across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and neighboring states. Economic integration may serve as a stabilizing force, encouraging collaborative problem-solving and reducing the appeal of militant activity.

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

Economic incentives for peace and stability in Afghanistan

From page 1 ▶ Initially, during the early morning hours of October 9, explosions were heard across Kabul. At the time Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid downplayed its severity and did not ascribe any blame. But the next day, the Afghan Ministry of Defense accused Pakistan of launching air strikes on its capital Kabul. Islamabad had denied this accusation.

Until now, neither side has claimed responsibility for the October 9 Kabul bombing. Each side has accused the other of initiating the deadly clashes.

Landlocked Afghanistan has a 2,600-Km long border with Pakistan known as the Durand Line boundary drawn in 1893 under British rule. Movement of militants and smugglers across the porous border has been an issue. It has been exacerbated by Pakistan’s deportation of undocumented Afghan refugees.

The five main border crossings include Torkham, Chaman, Kharlachi, Angoor Adda and Ghulam Khan. The borders are not completely sealed but trade and civilian movement face frequent disruptions and sudden shutdowns, especially at Torkham and Chaman.

Pakistan has accused the Taliban government – in power since August 2021 – of harboring armed groups, particularly the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which Islamabad blames for a surge in attack on its security forces. Kabul denies harboring militants targeting Pakistan.

But a UN Security Council report in July estimated up to 6,500 TTP fighters are based in Afghan soil. It added the “Taliban do not conceive TTP as a terrorist group”.

Also known as the Pakistani Taliban, the TTP is an umbrella organization of militant groups based in eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan’s

tribal belt. It has been fighting for its version of Islamic governance in Pakistan and replace government with a strict Islamic-led system of governance.

TTP has been listed as terrorist group by the United Nations since 2011. Afghanistan’s Taliban government does not officially designate the TTP as a terrorist organization. Two main reasons for that: First, Afghan Taliban and the TTP both draw heavily from Pashtun tribes and share the same ideological kinship. Secondly, both reject the Durand Line.

Meanwhile, the UN agencies focused on refugees and migration jointly voiced their concerns Wednesday over Pakistan’s plans to begin a new round of mass deportation targeting three million Afghan citizens residing in Pakistan. UNHCR has warned Afghan refugees forced to return face uncertain future amid the conflict.

The Indian connection

The October 9 explosions in Kabul coincided with the arrival on the same day of the Taliban Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in India for a six-day visit, the first trip since Taliban’s return to power.

Muttaqi was granted a temporary travel exemption by the United Nations Security Council Committee. He concluded his visit to India on Wednesday.

During his visit Muttaqi held talks with his Indian counterpart Dr. S. Jaishankar in New Delhi.

When the Taliban returned to power on August 2021, India was forced to shut its embassy and pulled out its diplomat and citizens. A year later India started re-establishing diplomatic presence in Afghanistan, tasked with overseeing the distribution of humanitarian aid.

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

Rural heritage, global meaning: Iran's villages as beacons of cultural sustainability

It is no coincidence that the global gaze is turning once more toward villages —those living reservoirs of wisdom, identity, and the art of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

The inscription of these three Iranian villages within a single year places Iran among a select group of nations to receive such recognition.

This milestone is more than a cultural achievement; it is a testament to the creativity of local communities, to the vitality of a culture rooted in its land, and to a vision of development grounded in heritage, identity, and ecology.

Each of these villages tells a living story of resilience and innovation:

In Kandelous, the integration of traditional knowledge and modern creativity — reflected in its Herbal Museum and the thriving culture of indigenous medicine — represents a knowledge-based rural economy.

In Shafiabad, women-led initiatives in handicrafts, qanat restoration, and eco-tourism illustrate the deep link between cultural heritage and social empowerment.

And in Soheili, the fishermen of Qeshm have transformed their livelihoods into a movement for marine conservation — a symbol of human responsibility toward nature.

The UN Tourism selection process evaluated more than fifty indicators, spanning cultural and natural resources, social and economic sustainability, innovation, and environmental protection.

That Iran stood out among these criteria reaffirms both its ancient heritage and its modern capacity to translate culture into a dynamic engine of development.

Looking forward, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is pre-



paring a National Roadmap for the Global Registration of Iranian Villages, focused on infrastructure improvement, local training, and multilingual content creation — to amplify Iran's presence and visibility in the global tourism network.

Iran, with over 60,000 villages, is not merely a geographical space; it is a living archive of human civilization — a land where history breathes, and every field, home, and river carries a memory of balance between humanity and the earth.

The global recognition of these three villages is not only a national success, but a cultural statement — a message from Iran to the world:

that genuine development springs from culture, not from external imposition; that sustainability begins with memory; and that the future of humanity depends on the wisdom of its roots.

With faith in this path, I believe that the name of Iran will remain not only inscribed in the lists of UNESCO and UN Tourism, but in the cultural memory of humankind itself — as a nation that continues to create meaning, harmony, and hope from its living heritage.

Qom comprehensive tourism plan under compilation

TEHRAN—A meeting to review the draft comprehensive tourism plan for Qom was held with the presence of Qom Governor Akbar Behnamjou and a number of provincial officials, during which the development of the comprehensive tourism plan for this province was initiated.

According to Mehr News Agency, Behnamjou emphasized the need to coordinate executive agencies and accelerate the process of implementing studies at the meeting to develop the comprehensive tourism plan for Qom province.

He said that in developing the comprehensive tourism plan, the spiritual identity and religious status of Qom must be consid-

ered as the main axis so that the final result is consistent with the cultural and religious spirit of this province.

Referring to the importance of comprehensive approach toward Qom tourism, he said this plan should be able to preserve the city's cultural and religious authenticity, while also providing the basis for economic development, job creation, and the prosperity of tourism-related businesses.

The head of the consulting team for the Qom Comprehensive Tourism Plan also stated that this plan will be developed with a strategic approach based on the province's indigenous capacities and the focus on pilgrimage tourism.

Minister emphasizes the need for intelligent protection of historical monuments

TEHRAN— Minister of Cultural Heritage Reza Salehi-Amiri emphasized the need for intelligent protection of Iran's historical monuments, and said that protecting the cultural heritage is protecting the country's historical memory and national identity.

Speaking at a gathering with cultural heritage managers on Saturday, he emphasized the importance of redefining the position of this field in the country's development process, Mehr News Agency reported.

He said that cultural heritage is part of national identity and the backbone of civilization, adding: "Cultural heritage is not an obstacle to the development. Rather, it is a catalyst for the country's cultural, social, and even economic growth. If we properly utilize this national capital, it can become the driving force behind sustainable development."

The minister reiterated: "Protecting the cultural heritage is protecting the country's historical memory and national identity. This grave responsibility can be fulfilled more effectively with the cooperation of the people, the institutions and the private sector. Interaction and cooperation between the institu-

tions is a condition for success in preserving the country's historical identity."

He noted that in many parts of the country, historical monuments and buildings can become great cultural and tourism opportunities and play an important role in the development of various regions.

Pointing to the role of museums in improving the public culture, he said: "Museums display Iranian civilization and can be transformed into dynamic centers for cultural and social dialogue with a new approach. The capacity of existing historical monuments should be utilized to expand urban museums so that these spaces become living cultural and educational bases in the heart of cities."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the role of cultural heritage in improving social dynamism and said that the cultural programs for Nowruz holidays and national occasions are opportunities for people to become more familiar with the country's cultural and historical heritages. Also, the sense of belonging to the common heritage of Iran is strengthened among different generations, he added.

Three Iranian villages named among world's Best Tourism Villages by UN

From Page 1 ► Soheili, located on Qeshm Island in southern Iran, has emerged as a leader in eco-tourism and community-based conservation efforts. Local villagers actively protect the Hara mangrove forests, promote environmentally friendly boating, and welcome visitors with local seafood, artisanal crafts, and clear, starry night skies. The fishermen of Soheili have transformed their livelihoods into a broader marine conservation movement, symbolizing a responsible human-nature relationship.

Kandelous, nestled in the lush slopes of the Alborz Mountains, is one of the oldest rural settlements in northern Iran. It is celebrated for its traditional stone houses, handicrafts, and hiking trails through the ancient Hyrcanian forests.

In addition to a cultural heritage museum, Kandelous also hosts a herbal museum that reflect the village's blend of traditional knowledge and modern creativity, promoting a knowledge-based rural economy.

Shafiabad lies on the edge of the Lut Desert and is renowned for its Qajar-era caravansera and the striking surrounding sand dunes and giant Kaluts, natural desert formations sculpted by wind erosion. These features attract photographers and travelers from across the globe.

"Our Best Tourism Villages 2025 highlight communities that are working to safeguard their



cultural heritage, preserve their natural resources and create economic opportunities through tourism," said Zurab Pololikashvili, UN Tourism Secretary-General.

The Best Tourism Villages program recognizes rural destinations worldwide that demonstrate resilience, innovation, and sustainable development

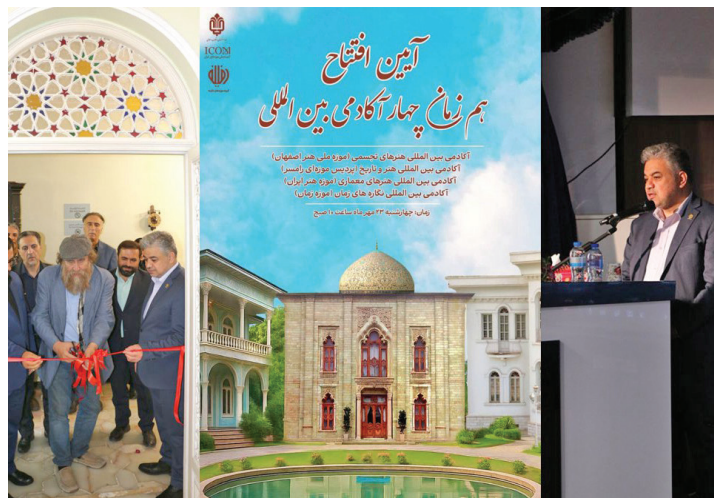
in tourism. This year, 52 villages from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East were selected from over 270 applications submitted by 65 member states.

Iran, home to more than 60,000 villages, is described as a living archive of human civilization, where each village represents a historical narrative

balancing humanity and nature.

For example, in Shafiabad, women-led initiatives in handicrafts, qanat (ancient water channel) restoration, and eco-tourism highlight the strong link between cultural heritage and social empowerment, the Iranian Tourism Organization noted.

Four intl. art academies launched in Tehran, Ramsar and Isfahan



TEHRAN – Iran's cultural heritage sector has marked a significant milestone with the simultaneous inauguration of four specialized international art academies in the cities of Tehran, Ramsar and Isfahan.

The launch ceremony took place on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Tehran's Museum of Time, with other academies joining virtually. The event aimed to strengthen

the connection between cultural heritage, contemporary art, and modern academic disciplines, attracting top cultural officials and prominent university figures.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Hamidreza Soleimani, CEO of the Dafineh Museums Institute under the Mostazafan Foundation, described the initiative as a turning point in transforming museums from mere

exhibition spaces into "living, dynamic universities."

Soleimani emphasized that museums are repositories of knowledge that must be translated into contemporary language and passed on to younger generations. He called the opening of these four academies "not an administrative beginning but the birth of four new intellectual currents that will globalize Iran's heritage."

The four academies, each located within major museums across the country, will focus on distinct fields:

Another speaker at the event was, Seyyed Ahmad Mohit-Tabatabai, head of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Iran, who emphasizing international standards. He stated the new academies align with global museum trends that favor active institutions producing content and serving as specialized knowledge centers. "Joining the international education network will dou-

ble Iran's cultural credibility," he added.

Moreover, Tehran Municipality's tourism headquarters chief, Amir Qasemi, highlighted the academies' role in enhancing the capital's tourism brand and attracting academic and research-oriented visitors.

In conjunction with the academies' launch, Soleimani announced that Tehran's Parsian Enghelab Hotel will be transformed into the country's first art museum hotel. This facility will showcase elements of Iran's rich Islamic artistic heritage and cater to both domestic and international tourists.

The Mostazafan Foundation, a major Iranian organization dedicated to social welfare and cultural preservation, operates the Dafineh Museums Group as part of its broader mission to empower marginalized communities by facilitating access to culture and history.

UNESCO representatives visit Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System

TEHRAN—A delegation comprising the representatives of UNESCO organization from Algerian, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Iraq visited Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System in Khuzestan province.

According to Miras-e Arya (CHTN), the delegation visited this southwestern province in line of holding a training workshop hosted by the Energy Ministry.

They were accompanied by the experts of Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System base and representatives of Khuzestan Water and Electricity Department.

They visited the important and essential parts of this valuable complex, including the Gargar River, Mizan Dam (Band-e Mizan), the mill area, and the waterfalls.

During this visit, the experts provided comprehensive and specialized explanations, explaining Shushtar's unique water system and how the mills functioned to the delegates. The mill's operation was then demonstrated

in the field to fully introduce the technical and cultural dimensions of this outstanding global work.

The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System World Heritage Site, while expressing its satisfaction with the presence of this international delegation, emphasized its commitment to preserving, restoring, and introducing this precious heritage and announced its readiness for further cooperation with international institutions in order to protect the world heritage of the ancient land of Shushtar.

The ancient hydraulic system comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series of ancient watermills powered by human-made waterfalls. It is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius, the Great, the Achaemenid king.

The property is as rich in its diversity of civil engineering structures and constructions as in the diversity of its uses (urban water

supply, mills, irrigation, river transport, and defensive system). The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System testifies to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian know-how; it was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

The hydraulic system has been considered a Wonder of the World not only by the Persians but also by the Arab-Muslims at the peak of their civilization.

Furthermore, one of its main canals is a veritable artificial watercourse that made possible the construction of a new town and the irrigation of a vast plain, at the time semi-desert.

UNESCO says that the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System demonstrates outstanding universal value as in its present form, it dates from the 3rd century CE, probably on older bases from the 5th century BC. It is complete, with numerous functions, and large-scale, making it exceptional.

Iran discusses environmental issues with Turkey, Azerbaijan

TEHRAN – Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment, in separate meetings with Emine Erdoğan, the first lady of Turkey, and Mukhtar Babayev, the Azerbaijani Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, explored avenues to promote cooperation in the environment sector.

On the sidelines of the global Zero Waste Forum, being held in Istanbul, Turkey, from October 17 to 19, Ansari and Erdoğan underlined fostering environmental collaborations and sharing experiences.

“Promoting cooperation with neighboring countries, particularly in the environment sector, will lay the ground for regional and international peace,” doe.ir quoted Erdoğan as saying.

Highlighting the importance of the shared environment challenges, the official said the environment, from land to air and sea, connects countries. Erdoğan commended Iran’s valuable experiences in the field of environment and announced Turkey’s readiness to cooperate with Iran in all fields.

For her part, Ansari said waste management is among the top priorities of the DOE; Iran is willing to benefit from international expertise, including Turkey’s successful experiences. She proposed developing ties in preserving biodiversity and protected areas.

Also, the Azerbaijani official highlighted expanding bilateral and regional ties in the environment sector. Referring to former talks with the head of the DOE, Babayev underscored the significance of sustained dialogues and



the implementation of previous agreements. The officials also agreed to develop a joint action to preserve the Hyrcanian forests against climate change.

The global Zero Waste Forum is organized by the Zero Waste Foundation and Turkish ministries, and is centered on the theme of ‘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.

Environmental diplomacy

Being transboundary, many complicated environmental challenges can be addressed through environmental diplomacy, which means negotiations among two or more countries.

Environmental diplomacy is used globally to settle problems such as conflicts over sources of energy, water, and climate change, IRNA reported.



The fact that all the countries share the same environment necessitates fostering environmental diplomacy to settle disputes over water resources, environmental pollution, and climate change impacts.

Environmental diplomacy is an effective and required tool to mitigate and eliminate the severe consequences by fair distribution of responsibilities among involved countries as they present their national interests and solutions.

Sand and dust storms (SDSs) are a typical example of meteorological hazards in West Asia, where many countries are involved as some generate them and some others are affected by them.

SDSs hit countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Iran, and sometimes parts of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and even Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

These dust particles have devastating impacts on respiratory health and ecosystems; they result in the closure of airports, schools, and offices, affect electricity transmission infrastructures, and bring about economic losses.

Removing pollution from Aras

River, and securing Hirmand River water right, as well as some wetlands are other examples where environmental policies have been used to resolve the conflicts.

Tehran convention is a big achievement whereby the Caspian Sea littoral states protect the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution but also targets the preservation, restoration, and protection of the Caspian Sea species and habitats.

Therefore, to mitigate climate change impacts, and achieve sustainable development goals, environmental policy is required to be strengthened to help Iran as well as its neighboring countries benefit from available resources and secure our rights at the international level.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with other executive bodies such as the ministries of Energy, Industry, Mine, Trade, and Agriculture as well as the Department of Environment can establish a center to focus on specific missions and follow up on discussions and goals in line with national interests and improve the living conditions of citizens through environmental diplomacy.

Tehran hosts intl. conference on social entrepreneurship, regional development, and social justice

TEHRAN – The First International Conference of Social Entrepreneurship, Regional Development, and Social Justice was held at the University of Tehran on Saturday.

More than 350 entrepreneurs active in social, economic, and scientific areas, as well as foreign ambassadors, attended the conference, Mehr reported.

Foundations of social entrepreneurship and social value creation; sustainable solutions for social challenges; new models for sustainable social business development; inclusive innovation for social justice; leadership and management in social enterprises; measuring social impact; ecosystem-building through networks and institutions; and social innovation via localization were the main topics of the conference.

Social entrepreneurship, as

an innovative approach, creates both social and economic value by leveraging sustainable business models and offering solutions to complex societal challenges.

Relying on social capital—including networks, knowledge, and trust—this form of entrepreneurship empowers marginalized communities, reduces inequalities, and strengthens local economies.

Through the design of hybrid models, such as rural cooperatives or small enterprises, social entrepreneurs not only contribute to regional development but also promote social justice by including marginalized groups such as women and minorities.

However, realizing this convergence comes with challenges, including financial sustainability, mission drift, and managerial complexities.



The Conference sought to bring together researchers, policymakers, and entrepreneurs to exchange knowledge, propose practical solutions, and strengthen cross-sector collaboration in overcoming these

challenges and promoting sustainable models.

The event was organized by the Faculty of Entrepreneurship, University of Tehran, in collaboration with the Research Center of the Majlis (Iranian Parliament).

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Tehran to host autism conference

The 4th conference on autism disorder with a theme of empowering human resources and families will be held in Tehran on February 20.

The event is organized by the Charity Foundation for Special Diseases in cooperation with the Special Education Organization, the Ministry of Health, the Welfare Organization and the Health Psychology Association.

Empowering human resources, discussing academic topics revolving around autism, and describing the parent’s role in promoting and improving the autistic patient’s condition will be among the subjects to be discussed in the conference.

برگزاری همایش اوتیسم در تهران

چهارمین همایش «اوتیسم، توانمندسازی نیروی انسانی و خانواده» اول اسفند ماه در تهران برگزار می‌شود.

این همایش توسط بنیاد امور بیماری‌های خاص و با مشارکت سازمان آموزش و پرورش استثنایی، وزارت بهداشت، سازمان بهزیستی، و انجمن روان‌شناسی سلامت ایران برگزار می‌شود.

محورهای این همایش، وضعیت منابع انسانی و سرفصل‌های دانشگاهی حوزه اوتیسم در ایران و نقش والدین در ارتقاء و بهبود وضعیت افراد با اختلالات طیف اوتیسم است.

SOCIETY

OCTOBER 19, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Tehran, Hanoi explore avenues to foster sci-tech ties

TEHRAN – The head of the Organization for the Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Hossein Roozbeh, and the Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran, Nguyen Luong Ngoc, have discussed ways to expand scientific and technological collaborations between the two countries.

On Wednesday, Ngoc paid a visit to the Tehran branch of Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) to become more familiar with Iran’s achievements and products in the technology sector, particularly nanotechnology, IRNA reported.

During the Wednesday meeting, the Vietnamese official lauded Iran’s high scientific potential in different fields like pharmaceuticals, construction, and modern technologies, and proposed establishing iHiT in Hanoi. This will expedite scientific and international interactions between the two countries, he added.

Referring to the capabilities and accomplishments of Vietnam in the agricultural, fishery, and aquaculture sectors, Ngoc stated, “We have had a successful experience in extra-terrestrial cultivation in Cuba, multiplying the volume of agricultural production and product exports. The two countries can collaborate to implement the same model in Iran, particularly in the north of the country.”

For his part, Roozbeh elaborated on Iran’s technological capacities in agriculture, fishery, medicine, medication, construction, nanotechnology, and artificial intelligence (AI).

The current administration places a priority on fostering scientific collaborations with neighboring and friendly countries, Roozbeh said.

The official went on to voice Iran’s readiness to boost scientific, technological, and research cooperation, as well as share expertise with Vietnam.

Iran ranks 72 in technology, innovation

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Technology and Innovation Report 2025, Iran is ranked among upper middle-income countries, ranking 72nd among 166 countries.

The country’s ranking has improved by one position compared to 2022.



UNCTAD has categorized 17 types of technologies as frontier technologies, including artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, big data, 5G, 3D printing, robotics, drone technology, solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, bio-fuels, biogas and biomass, wind energy, green hydrogen, electric vehicles, nanotechnology, and gene editing.

The Technology and Innovation Report 2025: Inclusive Artificial Intelligence for Development surveys the complex artificial intelligence landscape, aiming to help decision-makers design science, technology, and innovation policies that foster inclusive technological progress.

The Report 2025 calls for AI that puts people first and is shaped through global cooperation in which all countries have a say. The Report identifies three key leverage points – infrastructure, data, and skills – offering a broad socioeconomic perspective on AI while analyzing requirements and policies to promote sustainable industrialization and innovation.

The sub-indices of readiness for frontier technologies in 2025 show that Iran’s best ranking is in the research and development sub-index (35th in the world).

In the finance sub-index, the country’s ranking has improved from 62 in 2022 to 56 in 2025. In other sub-indexes like skills and the establishment of information and communication technology, its ranking has lowered from 74 and 78 in 2022 to 82 and 94 in 2025, respectively.

CISTC to support Iran-Iraq research projects

TEHRAN – The Center of International Science and Technology Cooperation (CISTC) will support the implementation of joint research projects by Iranian and Iraqi researchers.

The joint call is announced in line with the agreements reached during the Iran-Iraq science week held in January, aiming to deepen scientific ties between the two countries, as well as establish and expand joint scientific infrastructures to meet the needs of the two nations in the technology sector, Mehr news agency reported.

Research projects that are centered around climate change, preservation of biodiversity and native species, food security, bioeconomy, sustainable agriculture and husbandry, oil, gas, and energy will be prioritized.

The second Iran-Iraq science week was held in the city of Karbala, Iraq, from January 18 to 20, to enhance bilateral scientific, academic, and technological relations. The two countries signed an action plan to give a boost to their scientific collaborations.

The action plan was signed by Omid Rezaei-Far, an official with the Ministry of Science, and Haider Abd Dahed, Iraqi deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The joint scientific programs were developed to focus on different aspects, including boosting cooperation on granting scholarships to graduate and postgraduate education, particularly within a framework titled ‘study in Iraq’.

It also involved holding training courses for professors and students; promoting cooperation on joint scientific supervision; exchanging professors to conduct scientific research, and establishing science and technology parks in Iraq collaboratively under the management of the Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq.

Saeed Habiba, deputy minister of science, research, and technology, announced the coun-



try’s readiness to grant 200 scholarships to the Iraqi Ministry of Science.

“Promoting joint activities and creating equal opportunities for scientific and cultural development of the two countries are among our top policies,” the official highlighted.

On January 17, Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Naeem Al-Aboudi, underscored the significance of exchanging professors and students as well as implementing joint educational programs with Iran to meet the scientific and research needs of Iraq.

“Iran serves as a role model in the region in terms of scientific progress in modern technologies, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and medical science. Iraq is interested in benefiting from Iran’s valuable experiences to expand its technological and scientific infrastructure. Establishing and expanding science and technology parks is one of our main priorities,” IRNA quoted Al-Aboudi as saying.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Science, Research, and Technology Minister, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, highlighting the need to boost scientific interactions and develop a comprehensive roadmap for future collaborations.



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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
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No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

OCTOBER 19, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If matters get mixed up then scrutinize the cause and you will know what the effects will be.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:42 Dawn: 4:51 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:15 (tomorrow)

“In the Arms of the Tree” wins top award at Canadian festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian feature film “In the Arms of the Tree” written and directed by Babak Khajepasha has won the top award of the 6th Muslim International Film Festival (MIFF), in Toronto, Canada.

The festival, which was held from October 10 to 13, presented the Best Feature Film award to the family drama from Iran, Mehr reported.

“In the Arms of the Tree” tells the story of Kimia and Farid, a couple married for 12 years, whose life crisis shatters their children's world, children who know nothing but simplicity and kindness in life.

The film explores themes of familial relationships and emotional reconnections between parents and children. At the heart of the story is Kimia, a northern mother grappling with the trauma of past abuse and a debilitating fear of distance. Her husband, Farid, an Azeri father with a passion for travel and medicinal plants, adds to the tension as the couple prepares for a separation exercise.

The film captures the impact of marital discord on children, illustrating how their lives can be disturbed by their parents' struggles. Ultimately, it underscores the importance of love, connection, and the delicate balance needed to preserve a family in crisis.

Maral Baniadam, Javad Ghamati, Rouhollah Zamani, Ahoura Lotfi, and Rayan Lotfi are in the cast among others.

A production of 2023, the film won two Crystal Simorgh awards for Best First Film and Best Screenplay upon its premiere at the 41st Fajr Film Festival.

Moreover, it has received the Special Jury Prize at the 10th Asian World Film Festival in California and the best World Cinema Feature Film Award at the 22nd Chennai International Film Festival in India.

The movie has been screened in several inter-



national festivals in countries such as China, Switzerland, and the UAE. It also opened the Kazan International Film Festival Altyn Minbar in Russia.

The Muslim International Film Festival celebrates the artistry, diversity, and excellence of Muslim voices in cinema.

The MIFF was founded to create a home for Muslim creatives and audiences in the global film industry. Since 2019, it has welcomed filmmakers and film lovers from around the world to Toronto for a celebration of storytelling that is bold, authentic, and Muslim.

The festival aims at providing a platform for emerging and established voices, creating space for nuanced, diverse, and authentic Muslim stories, and bringing together filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences.

At MIFF, cinema is more than entertainment, it is a bridge between cultures and identities, weaving together the global ummah through the power of storytelling.

42nd Tehran Intl. Short Film Festival to kick off with 95 films from 53 countries

TEHRAN – The 42nd Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) will kick off at Iran Mall Cineplex in the east of Tehran on Sunday with 95 films, from 53 countries, competing in various categories.

This year's edition of the festival is organized under the direction of filmmaker Behrooz Shoaibi, with the theme of “Rationality and Intellectualism,” ILNA reported.

Competing in the International Competition section of the festival, there are fiction short films from Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Spain, Palestine, Lebanon, Iceland, Chile, Cambodia, Norway, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Ireland, Mexico, Colombia, and Georgia.

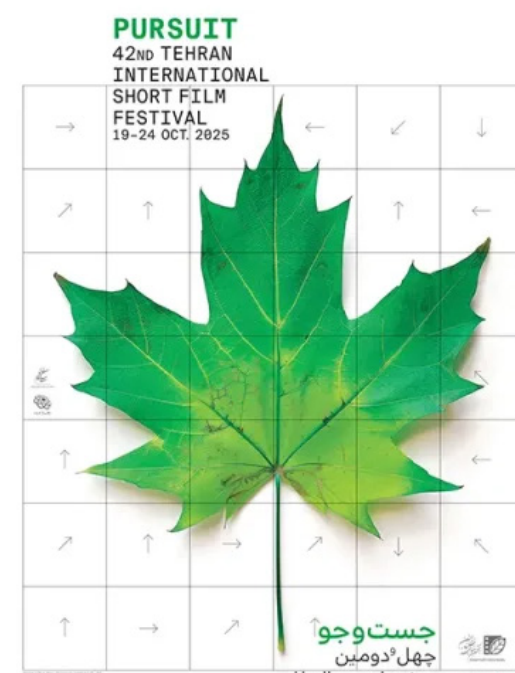
There are also AI short films from Iran, China, the U.S., Italy, Argentina, Turkey, and South Korea, selected for the International Competition section.

The documentary short films selected for the International Competition section come from Moldova, Croatia, South Africa, Ecuador, Azerbaijan, Panama, Nepal, and Qatar.

Animated short films from Finland, the UK, Kazakhstan, Russia, Jordan, Portugal, Armenia, Belgium, Estonia, France, Tajikistan, Egypt, the UAE, and Bulgaria will compete in the International Competition section.

Experimental short films from Canada, Germany, Japan, Poland, Greece, Denmark, Uzbekistan, and Switzerland will also vie in the International Competition section.

The Tehran International Short Film Festival stands as one of Asia's most prestigious and widely recognized platforms for short films, celebrated for its dedication to creative excellence,

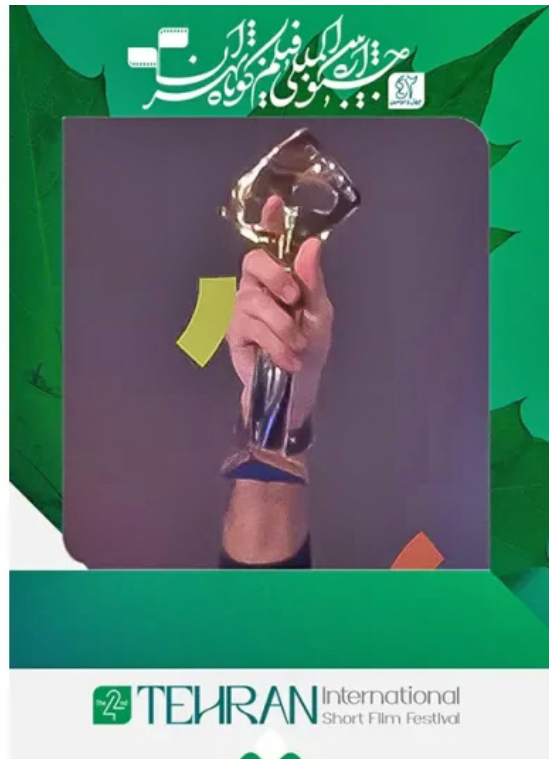


innovation and the promotion of diverse voices in cinema.

Over the course of its illustrious history, the TISFF has evolved into a vibrant hub for global storytelling, attracting thousands of submissions from filmmakers worldwide—a reflection of its unparalleled reputation as a cornerstone for emerging talent and visionary cinematic voices.

To support emerging filmmakers and promote diversity, the TISFF allows free film submissions; ensuring financial barriers never hinder talented filmmakers from sharing their unique visions.

Organized by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS), a leading organization in short film production and education, the TISFF benefits from an extensive infrastructure comprising 57 branches across Iran and a thriving network of filmmakers and alumni.



The IYCS supports the production of countless short films annually and trains aspiring filmmakers each year. Many of its graduates have risen to prominence as some of the most celebrated filmmakers in international cinema, reinforcing its profound influence on the global filmmaking stage.

An OSCARS®-qualifying festival, the TISFF is renowned for embracing innovation while celebrating cinematic tradition. For its 42nd edition, TISFF proudly showcases its established categories of fiction, documentary, animation, and experimental films—genres that have long been at the heart of its commitment to cinematic excellence, with the Grand Prize winner becoming eligible for Academy Awards® consideration.

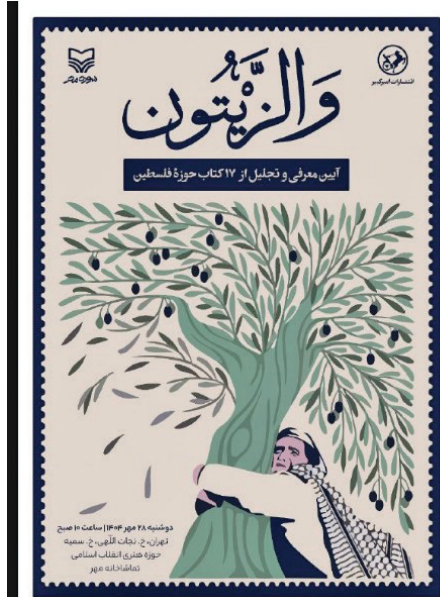
In addition, the festival spotlights its AI Competition Pro-

gram, highlighting the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in redefining storytelling and artistic expression, reflecting TISFF's vision for the future of filmmaking.

New this year, the TISFF proudly presents the Emerging Horizons Award which reflects TISFF's enduring focus on emerging talent. This category is dedicated to first or second short fiction films from filmmakers in the MENA region, offering a platform for fresh and visionary voices from this dynamic part of the world.

As ever, TISFF remains a global platform for filmmakers to present their work, fostering the evolution of short film as a compelling artistic and cultural medium. The 42nd Tehran International Short Film Festival will run until October 24.

Books on resistance, Palestine to be unveiled in Tehran



TEHRAN- The Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization in Tehran will host the “Walzayyaton” ceremony, fea-

turing the unveiling of 17 new books focusing on resistance and Palestine on Monday.

The event, which will showcase recent publications by Amir Kabir and Sure-Mehr, will highlight the struggles and sacrifices of the Palestinian people and the resistance forces.

The program will feature prominent cultural figures, but will be devoid of speeches or formal addresses by officials or personalities, allowing attendees to focus on the books and their content.

The 17 new titles include 11 works as part of Amir Kabir's collection “Your Suffering Flows Through,” and six books published by Sure-Mehr.

The 11 books published by Amir Kabir in the “Your Suffering Flows Through” series include “Roots,” “The Crimson Girl,” “Atlas of the Zionist Regime,” “Shabbat Morning,” “Laughter in Occupation,” “I Am Shireen Abu Akleh,” “Shadow of Keys,” “A Tank Under the Christmas Tree,” “Bethlehem's Eye,” “The Sky Wept,” and “Mirrors of Angels.”

The six titles released by Sure-Mehr en-

compass “Sumud,” “Eleven Lives,” “A Foot in Gaza,” “Gazan Dialects,” “Life in the 21st Century,” and “The Thorn and the Carnation.”

These books will be introduced through video clips, artistic presentations, and radio plays during the event.

Books published in Iran on Palestine and resistance play a significant role in shaping public awareness and fostering solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

These publications encompass a wide range of genres, including historical accounts, poetry, political analyses, and personal narratives, all emphasizing themes of resistance, resilience, and justice.

They serve to educate readers about the struggles faced by Palestinians, highlight acts of resistance, and promote the ideals of freedom and sovereignty. Through compelling storytelling and scholarly insights, these books contribute to a broader understanding of the ongoing conflict and inspire support for the Palestinian people within Iranian society.

Cartoon of Day



Peace over Ruins

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

“Miss Julie” on stage in Ahvaz

she compared to training a dog.

Jean comments on Julie's character, saying she's “too stuck-up in some ways and not proud enough in others,” traits from her mother. Despite her flaws, Jean finds her beautiful and sees her as a stepping stone to owning an inn.

Miss Julie invites Jean to dance the waltz. He hesitates, citing a promise to Christine and fear of gossip. She justifies her request by claiming social rank and convinces him to dance with her. During the dance, Julie shares a dream of climbing a pillar but being unable to descend. Jean responds with a childhood fantasy of sneaking into her garden, “the Garden of Eden,” guarded by angels. He also describes how he once tried to die “beautifully” by sleeping in oats and elderflowers.

Later, Jean admits his earlier



claim of attempting suicide was a lie, driven by love. Julie, proud and independent, plans to run away and start a hotel, with her and Jean's share of her father's money. She insists on bringing her pet bird, claiming it's the only creature that loves her. Jean kills the bird out of disgust.

Christine returns, refusing to join the plan and offering spiritual advice. Soon, Julie's father arrives, and they abandon their plans. Julie, realizing she has nothing, asks Jean for help. He gives her a razor, and she walks off, likely to commit suicide.

“Miss Julie,” written in 1888, is a naturalistic play set on Midsummer's Eve on a Swedish estate. It explores themes of Darwinism, portraying characters Jean and Miss Julie as fighting for survival in an evolutionary struggle.

The play examines social class, desire, and family trauma, highlighting the conflict between old aristocracy and rising adaptability. The characters are driven by multiple motives, reflecting naturalistic portrayals of human complexity.