



A shifting World Order: Iran Finds Broad Support in Nuclear Dispute With West

In letter to UN chief, Iran, Russia, and China say expiration of Resolution 2231 marks end of UNSC monitoring

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Sponge iron export up 79% in 6 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's sponge iron export rose 79 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

As ISPA reported, the country's sponge iron export also indicates 89 percent rise in terms of weight during the six-month period, as compared to the same time span in the previous year.

Iran exported 1.13 million tons of sponge iron worth \$262 million during the first half of the present year, while the figure was 596,000 tons valued at \$146 million tons in the first half of the previous year. ► Page 4



Firmly uphold UNGA Resolution 2758, uphold the One-China Principle

By Cong Peiwu

Chinese Ambassador to Iran

In May this year, I introduced the historical context of the Taiwan question to friends in Iran from the perspective of three key timelines. Today, I will explain to friends in Iran, from three dimensions of jurisprudence, historical facts, and international consensus, why we must firmly uphold UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 and adhere to the One-China Principle. ► Page 5

Deadly Israeli attacks threaten Gaza truce

At least four Israeli-backed militia groups continue to operate inside parts of Gaza still under occupation.

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli occupation regime commits further violations of the Gaza truce agreement, killing civilians and shutting down the Rafah border crossing.

The occupation regime's warplanes have carried out fresh attacks in Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip, and elsewhere, including Jabalia in the north, which killed at least two Palestinians and injured many others.

According to Gaza's Government Media Office, occupation forces have violated the truce agreement at least 47 times since it went into force on October 11.

An incident has also been reported in Rafah between the resistance and Palestinian militias that have been serving the interests of Israeli military intelligence amid the Gaza genocide. These militias remain under the protection of the Israeli military. Experts have said there is a strong possibility that occupation forces have clashed with the Palestinian resistance to protect Israeli regime-backed militias.

At least four Israeli-backed militia groups continue to operate inside parts of Gaza still under occupation by the regime. Israeli invaders have been facilitating the supply of weapons, vehicles, money, and food to the most influential of these militias, which reportedly belong to a former Daesh member, Yasser Abu Shabab, based in Gaza's far south.

According to analysts, Israel is trying to stir unrest and violence among Palestinians in Gaza. Hamas says it is trying to restore order.

The occupation regime also announced that the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt will remain closed "until further notice". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office added that reopening the crossing will be considered depending on Hamas's

actions on the return of the bodies of captives.

Blocking the entry of essential machinery needed to recover the bodies of Palestinians and Israeli captives killed and buried under the rubble in Israeli airstrikes would, ironically, delay the return of the captives' bodies that the occupation authorities publicly claim to be seeking.

Preventing the entry of much-needed humanitarian aid trucks waiting on the Egyptian side of the border, which was expected to "surge" under the ceasefire agreement, is another major violation of the Gaza truce.

In response, Hamas issued a statement condemning Netanyahu's decision, calling it "a blatant breach of the ceasefire agreement and a denial of the commitments made to mediators and guarantor states."

Hamas has warned that the continued closure of the crossing, blocking the evacuation of the wounded and sick, restricting the movement of civilians, and preventing the entry of essential equipment for locating those missing under the rubble or identifying bodies would delay the recovery and handover operations of Israeli captives. ► Page 5

Aran and Bidgol emerges as a must-visit desert destination

By Afshin Majlesi

ARAN AND BIDGOL, Isfahan Province – Nestled just beyond the renowned city of Kashan, Aran and Bidgol county is rapidly emerging as one of Iran's captivating travel destinations, offering a mesmerizing blend of vast desert landscapes, ancient history, and vibrant local culture.

From the breathtaking sand dunes of the Maranjab Desert to the mysterious underground City of Nushabad, this hidden gem invites travelers and adventure seekers alike to experience authentic Persian heritage alongside thrilling outdoor activities, making it a must-visit for anyone eager to explore the heart of central Iran.

As part of its efforts to get a foothold on Iran's tourism map, Aran and Bidgol organized the three-day International Festival of Maranjab 2025, which concluded on Friday, October 17. The event, which was a fam tour in its essence, brought together a select group of travel agency owners, representatives from tourism and airline companies, tour operators, and journalists. ► Page 6

Iran and the architecture of a new global order: The rise of a civilizational resistance

By Fatemeh Kavand

In the world after October 7, 2023, everything changed — not only within the borders of occupied Palestine but within the global conscience of humanity. The bombardment of Gaza, the silence of Western institutions, and the glaring contradiction between human rights rhetoric and the reality on the ground shook the moral legitimacy of the West.

Media outlets that had long reproduced Zionist narratives without challenge suddenly found themselves confronted by a storm of public questioning. ► Page 3

'No Kings' protests against Trump reveal deep divisions in U.S.

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN – The "No Kings" protests that took place on Saturday across the United States revealed more than opposition to President Donald Trump's policies—they exposed the nation's deep political, social, and ideological divisions.

From major cities to small towns, the demonstrations highlighted growing concern over the concentration of executive power, the role of Congress, and the overall state of American democracy. The protests brought together citizens expressing anxiety about the direction of governance and the balance of authority in the country. ► Page 5



Exclusive
Interview

Despite hunger
and trauma,
reporters keep
Gaza story alive: CPJ
regional director



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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.

Decoding Larijani's two important missions in Moscow

Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed Ali Larijani's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, saying it marked a pivotal diplomatic engagement. The paper said: The meeting—widely covered by international media—not only conveyed a direct message from Iran's leadership to Moscow but also marked the beginning of a new phase in strategic cooperation between the two nations. The primary objective of Larijani's trip was to enhance and deepen military collaboration between Iran and Russia. In a region where external threats loom large, both countries—bound by shared interests—seek to fortify their defense ties. A secondary aim of the visit was to leverage Russia's role as a mediator to facilitate dialogue between Iran and Western powers, with the broader goal of restoring lasting security to the Middle East. Amid escalating nuclear tensions and crippling sanctions that have pushed the region toward instability, Russia is positioned as a potential bridge between Tehran and Washington. More than a diplomatic meeting, this visit symbolizes the shared ambition of Iran and Russia to shape a multipolar global order. Through strengthened military cooperation, the two nations aspire to form an unyielding alliance, and with Russian mediation, they hope to usher in a new era of regional stability.

Jam-e-Jam: Benefits of Russia's announcement of the JCPOA sunset

Jam-e-Jam praised an announcement by Moscow that has officially announced the sunset of the JCPOA – the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal – and the expiry of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed it. The newspaper wrote: Russia's official declaration marking the sunset of the JCPOA and the expiry of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 offers several strategic advantages for Iran. The announcement by Russia – a key signatory to the JCPOA and the current president of the Security Council – marked a commitment to international law and a rejection of unilateral Western pressure. It not only eases Iran's path out of prolonged limits but also elevates Moscow's standing in global diplomatic circles. Moreover, Russia's resolute opposition to European and American attempts to activate the snapback mechanism reinforces Iran's image as a responsible and constructive player on the world stage. This development is expected to strengthen cooperation between Tehran and Moscow within the framework of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. At a time that Western powers are facing growing isolation due to the shortcomings of their own poli-

cies, Russia's move underscores the depth of its strategic partnership with Iran. It may also serve as a springboard for expanding their influence across Eurasia and the Middle East.

Iran: Tehran and Ankara deepen cultural diplomacy

In a recent article, the Iran newspaper highlighted the three-day visit of Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance to Turkey, describing it as one of the most significant cultural missions in recent years. It said: the visit – took place at the official invitation of Turkey's Minister of Culture and Tourism – was not only part of the Iran-Turkey Cultural Year 2025 initiative but also stood out for the depth of discussions, and the volume of cultural agreements signed. It marked one of the most unprecedented cultural exchanges between the two nations in over a decade. In a world full of tension, cultural diplomacy offers a quieter, more profound, and effective path toward fostering mutual understanding. If Iran and Turkey continue this trajectory with prudence and consistency, they could present a compelling model of cultural coexistence for the broader Islamic world. At a time when media narratives often distort the image of Islam, artistic and cultural collaboration can help reveal the true and humane face of Muslim societies. Initiatives such as Islamic art festivals, cultural weeks, joint film and documentary productions, and youth artist exchanges hold the potential to become enduring assets for both nations.

Javan: New sanctions are destined to fail

Javan addressed the declining influence of Western powers, particularly their efforts to reimpose sanctions on Iran. It said: the United States and European nations have attempted to recreate the global consensus that preceded the JCPOA, aiming to justify a new wave of extensive sanctions (on Iran). However, this time, their efforts appear to be facing significant resistance, as many countries are increasingly unwilling to align with Washington's unilateral policies. The push to revive international pressure against Iran has encountered a political impasse, largely due to growing global opposition to Western unilateralism. Without broad international support, any attempt to reapply sanctions is likely to fail and will have limited impact. Over the past three years, Russia and China—working alongside developing nations through blocs like BRICS—have actively sought to challenge Western-dominated institutions and promote a new economic order. With emerging coalitions taking shape within the UN Security Council, the effectiveness of traditional Western pressure mechanisms has been significantly eroded.

Iran condemns killing of Sunni tribal chiefs by Israeli-linked terror groups

TEHRAN – The Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has strongly condemned the killing of the elders of Baluch Sunni ethnic groups in the south east of the country at the hands of Israeli-linked terrorist groups.

“Mercenary groupings affiliated with the evil Israeli regime once again revealed their wicked and anti-Islamic nature by committing the recent crimes, i.e., the killing of a number of elders and chiefs of Sunni ethnic groups ...,” said the IRGC's Quds Force in a statement.

“Those perpetrating and ordering these crimes will soon be punished for their disgraceful acts, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong security and military forces will firmly give them a befitting response for their brutal acts,” the statement added.

“Such crimes will never sap the Iranian nation's iron will and the exemplary unity between Shiites and Sunnis in Sistan-Baluchestan province, and the watchful people in the region, who are loyal to the Supreme Leader, will remain vigilant and united and stand up to the conspiracies of enemies of Islam and Iran,” the statement also read.

Israel has a long history of funding and enabling terrorists and separatist groups in



Malakamal Salahzahi, one of the tribal chiefs assassinated by Israeli-linked terrorists on Sunday

Iran's border provinces. The regime has particularly been active in assembling terrorists in Iran's southeastern Sistan-and-Balouchestan Province, where dozens of people and security forces have lost their lives in recent years. The terrorists have also plagued Pakistan's border provinces, carrying out attacks against civilians and military officials. After the Iran-Israel war in June, it appears that the Zionist regime has intensified efforts to spur violence in the region, hoping to prepare the ground for social chaos and disorder.

Israel reconstructed air defenses after 2024 Iranian attacks, only to see them fail again in June

TEHRAN – A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force, whose name and face have not been disclosed, said in a televised interview with IRIB that Iran successfully targeted Israeli air defense centers and disrupted their operations during Operation True Promise III. The operation included at least 21 waves of missile and drone attacks against the occupied territories in the span of 12 days, after the regime initiated an all-out war against Iran on June 13.

The commander emphasized that Israel's air defenses, even after reconstruction, were unable to prevent the Iranian attacks. He noted that, despite extensive media censorship, Iran was able to strike the regime's air defense centers and impair their functionality.

Israel had renewed and upgraded its air defense capabilities between True Promise II and True Promise III, yet its function was again underwhelming during the subsequent operation. True Promise II targeted Israel in October of 2024.

True Promise III, one of the largest in Iranian history, involved extensive use of ballistic missiles and drones. According to the U.S.-based CTP-ISW consortium, a joint initiative of the neoconservative Institute for the Study of War and the Critical Threats Project, Iran launched 543 ballistic missiles and

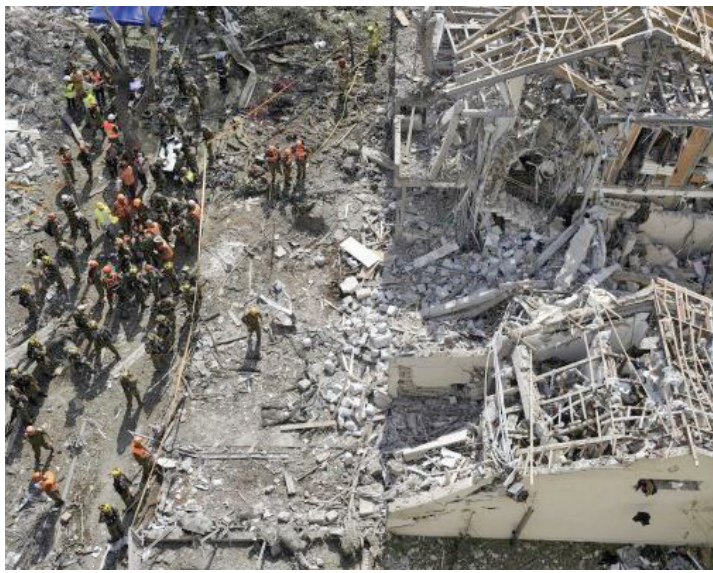


Photo shows destruction in Tel Aviv on June 22, 2025.

over 1,000 drones. The IRGC itself stated that over 3,000 projectiles were used in total, including drones and cruise missiles.

Israeli military sources confirmed 500–550 ballistic missiles were fired, largely consistent with Iranian reports. Despite claims of near-total success by Israeli and U.S. officials, post-conflict data confirmed that Israel's missile defenses were overwhelmed.

Fox News verified a direct Iranian missile strike on the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv, a central command hub. Satellite radar analysis by Oregon State University, shared with The Telegraph, revealed six successful missile impacts on five undisclosed

military installations, including an intelligence facility, airfield, and logistics hub.

Haaretz journalists Avi Scharf and Bar Peleg identified 10 previously unreported strikes, far exceeding Israel's official admission of 36 impacts. Analysts noted that many civilian injuries were caused by falling debris from interceptors as Israel attempted to block the missile waves.

Initially, Israel claimed a 90–95% interception rate, but by Day 7, The Telegraph reported that at least 16% of Iranian missiles evaded defense, an estimate viewed as conservative by experts. Post-war analysis revealed that many high-value targets were left

unprotected, exposing critical weaknesses in the Israeli-U.S. missile shield.

The United States fired more than 100 THAAD interceptors (possibly up to 150) from its two deployed systems in Israel during the 12-day conflict. This rapid expenditure consumed nearly a quarter of America's high-end stockpile, raising concerns among U.S. defense officials about the global missile defense posture and the ability to replenish supplies quickly, especially at a time when public support for Israeli defense was historically low.

Analysts now warn that, despite Israel's claims of readiness, Tehran's ability to penetrate air defenses demonstrates that critical gaps remain in the Israeli-U.S. missile network.

There is still no certain knowledge of the exact damage caused in the occupied territories in June. The regime imposed heavy censorship during the war and also detained a number of journalists who attempted to report on the reality on the ground after the June 24 ceasefire. It was Israel that proposed the ceasefire.

“If another war occurs, we will do to Israel what we did before, but worse this time,” the IRGC commander said in his IRIB interview. “We have more experience and confidence now, and all our units are completely ready.”

Armed Forces on full alert as Cmdr. says Iran's defence capabilities continue to strengthen



TEHRAN – A senior Iranian commander says the country's armed forces are on full alert and ready to deliver a stronger response than before should any new act of aggression be launched against the Islamic Republic.

Commander of Iran's Law Enforcement Force (FARAJA), Brigadier General Ahmadreza Radan, said on Saturday that complete security and stability prevail across the nation, thanks to the unity of the people and the coordination among the country's armed services — including the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and the Police Force.

“With the solidarity of our people and the cooperation of all Armed Forces, total security is established throughout the country,” Radan told reporters.

“All our forces are on high

alert, with their fingers on the trigger, ready to deliver a more crushing response than before should anyone dare act against Iran again.”

Radan emphasized that Iran's internal, public, and national security are currently in their best condition, crediting the vigilance and unity of the Iranian people for maintaining stability in the postwar period.

“The strength of the police lies in the support of the people,” he said. “Without their cooperation, we cannot fulfill our mission. I thank them for their continued assistance and call on them to keep standing beside their own police.”

The remarks come in the aftermath of Tel Aviv's 12-day war of aggression against Iran, which ended in late June following a series of Iranian retaliatory strikes that inflicted significant

damage on Israeli military and intelligence targets.

In earlier comments, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni disclosed that Iran's Law Enforcement Command (FARAJA) was among the primary targets of Israeli attacks during the war, as part of a campaign to “create internal chaos.” Nearly 150 police personnel were martyred in those strikes, which he said reflected Tel Aviv's frustration and failure to achieve its main military objectives.

Momeni explained that such direct targeting of police stations and internal security centers was unprecedented in conventional warfare, underscoring the enemy's desperation to destabilize Iran from within after its battlefield setbacks.

Analysts believe Israel's attacks on law enforcement and domestic security sites were part of a broader “regime-change” strategy aimed at undermining public order. Even pro-Israel think tanks, such as the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), have acknowledged that the strikes on Iran's Law Enforcement Command were designed to “demonstrate a credible threat to regime stability.”

In earlier weeks, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi praised the country's naval preparedness, saying that both the Army and IRGC

naval units in southern Iran possess extraordinary capability to respond to any threat. He noted that Iranian forces have implemented extensive measures since the 12-day war to enhance readiness against future hostilities.

The June conflict began on June 13, when the Zionist regime launched an unprovoked military campaign targeting military, nuclear, and residential areas across Iran. The United States later joined the assault, striking Iran's nuclear sites in Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan on June 22.

Iran responded immediately with Operation True Promise III, during which the IRGC Aerospace Force launched 22 waves of retaliatory missile strikes, causing significant damage to cities and military bases across the occupied territories. Iran also targeted the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar — the largest U.S. military installation in West Asia — in retaliation for Washington's involvement.

A ceasefire was enforced on June 24, but analysts now warn that a new Iran-Israel confrontation could erupt, as Israel failed to fulfill its stated military objectives. Many observers believe that Tel Aviv's inability to achieve its intended goals, coupled with Tehran's ongoing deterrence posture, could set the stage for a renewed conflict in the near future.

Mossad agent executed in Iran following supreme court verdict

TEHRAN – Iran has executed a Mossad agent convicted of espionage and “waging war against God,” the Judiciary of Qom Province announced on Sunday, marking the latest in a series of counter-espionage actions against Israeli spy operations inside the country.

According to the Judiciary, the execution took place early Saturday, October 18, at Qom Prison after the Supreme Court upheld the verdict and rejected the convict's appeal for clemency.

Hojatolleslam Seyed Kazem Mousavi, head of the Judiciary of Qom Province, said the spy began cooperating with Israeli intelligence services in October 2023 and was arrested

four months later, in February 2024. He confessed to gathering and transmitting classified information to Mossad and to operating under the guidance of an Israeli intelligence officer.

Following extensive intelligence investigations and the collection of conclusive evidence, the court found him guilty of espionage and intelligence collaboration with the Zionist regime under Article 6 of Iran's Law on Countering Hostile Actions of the Zionist Regime Against Peace and Security, as well as cooperation with hostile foreign governments, including the U.S. Department of State.

Mousavi said the convict had initiated

contact with Mossad for personal and professional motives, holding meetings with an Israeli intelligence officer and transmitting classified material via cyberspace. He added that swift action by Iranian intelligence and judicial agencies prevented the leakage of sensitive information.

The official emphasized that Iran's intelligence apparatus remains vigilant against Israeli infiltration attempts.

The execution follows Iran's recent crackdown on Mossad-linked networks. In July, authorities announced the arrest of 20 operatives and affiliated agents across Tehran and other provinces.

A shifting world order: Iran finds broad support in nuclear dispute with West

In letter to UN chief, Iran, Russia, and China say expiration of Resolution 2231 marks end of UNSC monitoring

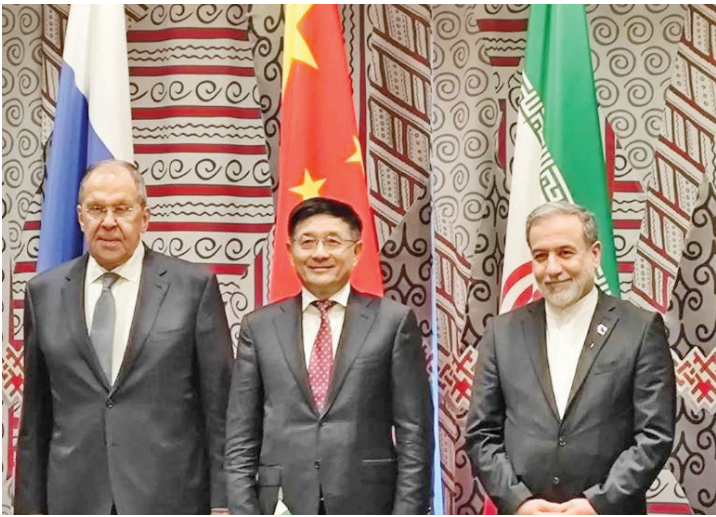
By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iran, China, and Russia have once again joined forces to prevent the implementation of pre-JCPOA UN sanctions against Tehran, which were officially re-instated last month but have yet to bear practical fruit due to growing international opposition.

The UK, France, and Germany triggered a mechanism called the ‘snapback’ on August 28, setting in motion a 30-day process to restore all UN sanctions on Iran. The snapback mechanism was part of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (officially the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or the JCPOA) which allowed non-Iranian signatories to bring back UN sanctions if they deemed Iran to be non-compliant with its commitments.

In a Saturday letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Iranian, Russian and Chinese representatives at the UN said Europe’s decision to trigger the snapback lacked any legal foundation.

“Efforts by the three European countries to invoke the so-called ‘snapback’ mechanism are legally defective and lack any legal basis,” read the letter addressed to Guterres as well as Vassily Nebenzia, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council. “The three European countries, which themselves have reneged on their commitments under [UNSC] Resolution 2231 and refused to comply with the trend set in the ‘dispute settlement mechanism’ are not competent to refer to its provisions,” the letter added.



From left to right, Russia’s Sergey Lavrov, China’s Yue Xiaoyong, and Iran’s Abbas Araghchi

The JCPOA, signed by Iran, Germany, Britain, France, China, Russia, and the United States, was designed to limit Tehran’s nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief. The embargoes which had been straddling Iran’s economy since 2006, reached their peak under the Obama administration in 2012.

When Republican Donald Trump succeeded Obama, however, the U.S. withdrew from the pact and reimposed sanctions against Iran. In 2018, Trump also came up with secondary restrictions that imposed unprecedented financial pressure on the Iranian people. Despite repeated promises to rescue the deal, European signatories failed to take the sting out of U.S. sanctions in the years that followed.

Iran began to scale-back on some of its JCPOA commitments in 2020 as it became clear that Westerners were not seeking to hold their side of the bargain. It

meanwhile, engaged in multiple rounds of negotiations, saying that if the West lifted the sanctions, it would be willing to rein in its nuclear activities. Iran’s last diplomatic effort failed in June 2025 when Israel and the U.S. launched attacks on its nuclear, civilian, and military infrastructure, just days before a new round of talks with the U.S. was scheduled to convene in Oman.

Beyond the fact that Iran was compelled to scrap some of its commitments after the West abandoned its own, Iran, Russia, and China stated in their letter to the UN chief that the expiration of Resolution 2231 provides further reason why the snapback of UN sanctions cannot be implemented. Resolution 2231, the UN resolution endorsing the JCPOA, expired on October 18 after 10 years.

“Under operative clause 8 of Resolution 2231, all of its provisions were terminated after Oc-

tober 18, 2025. Once again, we reiterate that the full and prompt termination of Resolution 2231 amounts to the end of reviewing Iran’s nuclear issue at the UN Security Council, something which would reinforce the power of the council and the credibility of multilateral diplomacy,” the letter added.

While the backing from major global powers Russia and China is significant, at least 120 other nations have also supported Tehran in its nuclear dispute with the West. Members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) voiced support for the Islamic Republic during a ministerial meeting that took place in Uganda last week.

“We clearly see a rift in the international order here,” said Shuaib Bahman, a political scientist. “Iran’s nuclear program has become one of the biggest points of contention between world powers since the end of WWII. Also, the situation and perception of Iran are significantly different than in 2012, when most of the world agreed with Obama’s handling of the nuclear issue.”

Iran’s commitment to diplomacy and the West’s blatant disregard for international accords over the past 10 years have shifted perspectives around the world, he added. “Russia and China, wielding considerable power in the UNSC, can still impede the practical implementation of the snapback, even though they legally couldn’t prevent its invocation. Consequently, other countries will also be reluctant to enforce UN sanctions when it comes to their bilateral relations with Iran.”

Vessel which caught fire off Yemen coast not owned by Iran: oil ministry

TEHRAN – An informed source at the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum told Mehr News Agency that the recent incident in the Gulf of Aden has nothing to do with the Iran, referring to an incident off the coast of Yemen where an oil tanker went up in flames on October 18, 2025.

“The vessel does not belong to the [Iranian] Ministry of Petroleum and the National Iranian Tanker Company,” said the source. The denial followed reports that an oil tanker allegedly owned by Iran heading to Yemen had been attacked by Israel

A Cameroon- flagged ship caught fire Saturday in the Gulf of Aden off Yemen after possibly being struck by a projectile, reports said, with at least one sailor missing and another still probably aboard the burning tanker after the rest of the

crew abandoned the vessel.

British and European Union officials offered differing opinions about what sparked the blaze on the LPG tanker FALCON, with the British suggesting a projectile hit it, while the EU said that it appeared to be an accident. They warned ships in the area that the vessel could explode because it was “fully loaded” with liquefied petroleum gas.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) agency said it had received a report of a projectile attack on a vessel 116 nautical miles east of Aden, sparking a fire on board. It said maritime authorities were “verifying details of the incident” and urged ships in the area to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity.

Separately, the British maritime



security firm Ambrey said the tanker had issued a distress call after an onboard explosion about 60 nautical miles south of Ahwar, a district in Yemen’s Abyan governorate. Ambrey said the blast was caused by a projectile fired from an unknown source off the Yemeni coast in the Gulf of Aden. No injuries were re-

ported among the crew, and there was no immediate comment from the Houthis.

The Indian-owned Cameroon- flagged tanker had already been detained in January 2025 in Istanbul for 13 deficiencies. The ship isn’t blacklisted by any government.

Iran and the architecture of a new global order: The rise of a civilizational resistance

From Page 1 ► Universities, streets, and digital platforms from London and New York to Johannesburg and Jakarta became the stage for a new awakening. Amid this shift, the name of Iran emerged more prominently than ever — at the center of a global discourse now called “civilizational resistance.”

For years, the West portrayed Iran as an “isolated” nation. Yet today, it stands as the conceptual heart of a movement that began in Palestine but transcended geography. In a world shaken by Gaza, Iran’s philosophy of resistance has transformed from a regional stance into a universal moral call — a call that crosses borders and redefines the meaning of justice.

The philosophy of independence and resistance, and its growth

In Iranian thought, resistance is not merely a military or political reaction; it is rooted in a civilizational tradition that links freedom to human dignity. From the wisdom of Mulla Sadra to the poetry of Hafez and Ferdowsi, from the Constitutional Revolution to the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian intellectual tradition has always carried a

sensitivity toward “humiliation” and “domination.” This sensitivity is precisely what now reemerges as the philosophical foundation of civilizational resistance.

For Iran, resistance is not simply a response to an enemy — it is a moral choice: the decision to stand against injustice as an ethical obligation. This worldview sharply contrasts with the Western logic of power, which perceives resistance as a threat. Iran understands resistance as part of its collective identity, a lived expression of a civilization that regards the human being not as an instrument of power but as a bearer of divine worth.

After October 7, this philosophy crossed Iran’s borders and became a shared discourse of the Global South. In Cairo, students spoke of “resistance as dignity.” In Johannesburg, civil activists invoked the memory of apartheid to understand Palestine’s struggle. In Caracas, media outlets described Iran as “the nation that did not surrender.” These reflections demonstrate that resistance is no longer the reaction of a single nation but a shared language among peoples who have endured centuries of domination and humiliation.

Over the past two decades, Iran has also redefined the very meaning of power. While the West measures security by the accumulation of weapons and military alliances, Iran defines it through two words: defense and dignity. This is the essence of the concept “Defense as Dignity” that distinguishes the Islamic Republic’s security philosophy from the Western pursuit of hegemony.

Iran’s role in shaping the regional “Axis of Resistance” — from Lebanon to Yemen — must be understood in this light. Iran’s aim has never been domination over other nations but the preservation of balance against external coercion. After October 7, this deterrence acquired new significance. The Israeli assault on Gaza not only provoked the armed response of resistance movements but also exposed the reality that the region’s security structure is no longer unipolar. Iran, through its strategic presence, emerged as the moral and logistical backbone of the anti-Zionist front — not from a desire for confrontation, but from a commitment to defend the dignity and self-determination of oppressed peoples.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian woman Mojallal wins gold at 2025 Asian Rowing Championships

TEHRAN – Fatemeh Mojallal of Iran won a gold medal at the 2025 Asian Rowing Championships on Sunday.

Mojallal crossed the finish line in the women’s single sculls heavyweight with a time of 8:31.11 and won the gold medal.

Also, Zeynab Norouzi claimed a silver medal in the women’s lightweight single sculls with a time of 8:24.75. Hong Kong’s rower took the gold, while the bronze medal went to a rower from Kazakhstan.

Iran had already won one gold and two bronze medals on the first day of the competition.

The competition kicked off on Oct. 17 at the Hai Phong Rowing Training Centre, in Hai Phong, Vietnam.

Branko Ivankovic close to Persepolis hot seat

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club have opened negotiations with Croatian coach Branko Ivankovic.

Ivankovic, 71, was fired as China’s national team coach in late June following his side’s elimination from the qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

The Croat has been linked with Persepolis and said he has had positive discussions with the club.

Under his leadership, Persepolis won Iran’s league titles in 2017, 2018, and 2019. He also guided Persepolis to the AFC Champions League final in 2018.

Persepolis CEO Reza Darvish resigned from his role hours after a 2-1 loss to Kheybar on Saturday night.

Vahid Hashemian is currently in charge of Persepolis, but the former Bayern Munich striker has yet to meet expectations.

Tractor to meet Sharjah aiming for first win in 2025/26 ACL Elite

TEHRAN – Sharjah FC’s focus will be on continuing their good start when they face Tractor FC in the AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26 on Monday.

UAE’s Sharjah are on four points while Islamic Republic of Iran’s Tractor have yet to register a win with both their earlier ties ending in draws.

Sharjah will have to be at their best as Tractor are unbeaten in the sides’ previous two meetings, which ended in a draw and a defeat for the AFC Champions League Two 2024/25 winners.

In fact, Tractor are the only side Sharjah have failed to score against on the continental stage and they will look to Rey Manaj to lead their search for goals, with the Albanian striker having already netted twice on the continent this season.

Sharjah will also have to be strong at the back, having conceded four goals in their opening two matches.

Tractor will be desperate to get on the winning trail after their two draws left them eighth in the standings after Matchday Two.

With only the top eight teams to advance to the next stage, Tractor have to start picking up the points if they are to stay in what is developing into a highly competitive Round of 16 race.

Iran’s women’s futsal team beat Russia

TEHRAN – The national women’s futsal team defeated Russia 4-3 in a friendly match on Saturday.

Maral Torkaman scored two goals as well as goals from Fatemeh Rahmati and Russian player.

Team Melli Banovan’s first match against Russia had ended 2-2 on Thursday.

The matches were held in Tula, Russia, as part of preparation for the 2025 FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup.

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

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

Kurash athletes win medals at 3rd Asian Youth Games

TEHRAN – Iran’s Mahsa Barzegar and Yousef Baghchighi won a bronze and silver medal respectively at the 3rd Asian Youth Games on Sunday.

Barzegar first defeated Syrine Mae Bacani from the Philippines 10-0 in the quarterfinals round of the Girls -70kg but lost to Kyrgyzstan’s Saniet Talibekova 10-0 in the semifinals.

Baghchighi lost to Uzbekistan’s Otabek Yuldashboev 2-0 in the final bout of Boys’ -65Kg.

He had defeated Indian Vaibhav Ohri and Afghanistan’s Mohammad Mohammadi 10-0 on his way to the final.

The 3rd Asian Youth Games take place in Bahrain from October 22 to 31.

The Games serve as qualifiers for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar.

Iran has sent 236 athletes to the Games.

Taremi and Azmoun among Asia’s top scorers

TEHRAN – Iranian forwards Mehdi Taremi and Sardar Azmoun have been ranked among the top 10 scorers in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifiers, according to statistics.

At the top of the list stands Almoez Ali of Qatar, who netted 12 goals in 12 matches. However, the presence of both Iranian strikers among Asia’s elite once again highlights the offensive strength of the Iranian national football team.

Taremi, with 10 goals in 15 matches, ranks third overall. The Iranian forward scored against teams such as Hong Kong, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and North Korea, contributing decisive goals in both the second and third qualifying rounds that helped secure Iran’s top spot in its group. Beyond scoring, Taremi also provided key assists, demonstrating his tactical intelligence and leadership in Iran’s attacking play.

On the other hand, Sardar Azmoun registered 8 goals in 13 appearances, making him one of Asia’s most effective forwards. The striker scored crucial goals against Kyrgyzstan, the UAE, Qatar, and Hong Kong — including a brace in Doha — and supplied several assists despite missing matches due to a knee injury.

Together, Taremi and Azmoun have been pivotal in leading Iran to the 2026 World Cup, continuing their reputation as one of Asia’s most dangerous attacking duos.

In the latest FIFA World Ranking of national football teams, Iran’s national team are ranked 21st in the world and remains second among Asian teams after Japan.

Ali Karimi terminates contract with Kayserispor

TEHRAN – Iranian international midfielder Ali Karimi has unilaterally terminated his contract with Kayserispor.

He had previously been linked with a move to his hometown club Esteghlal.

The reasons for the termination have not yet been disclosed. The move raises questions about whether a legal dispute could arise between Karimi and Kayserispor, and what statements the parties might issue.

Turkish side Konyaspor have also shown interest in signing the midfielder.

Isfahan's entrepreneurs, industrialists plan to strengthen economic co-op with Vietnam

TEHRAN- The governor-general of Isfahan, in a meeting with the ambassador of Vietnam in Tehran, informed about the plans of Isfahan's entrepreneurs and industrialists to strengthen economic cooperation with Vietnam and stated: "Trade, industry, and tourism can be three important pillars of cooperation between the two countries, and we are fully prepared to host Vietnamese artistic, cultural, and tourism groups."

Mehdi Jamali-Nejad said that Isfahan, as the cultural capital, has very high capacity for international cooperation and is ready to develop relations with countries like Vietnam.

He elaborated on the expanse and capacities of Isfahan province and added: "Isfahan is one of the largest provinces in Iran, with more than 124 cities and 10,000 villages."

The governor-general of Isfahan also stated that the city benefits from more than 12 percent of the country's industries and numerous scientific and academic centers, adding: "Over 20 universities and research centers are active in this province, making it an important hub for the development of science, technology, and industry."

He identified the main pillars of the province's development as including tourism, new energies, and information technology, and emphasized: "Isfahan, as the cultural capital of Iran and one of the UNESCO registered cities, has a very high capacity for international cooperation and is ready to develop relations with countries like Vietnam."

Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran Nguyen Luong Ngoc, for his part, expressed his happiness at his first trip to this historical city and said: "Isfahan is a city that has been able to beautifully display a blend of tradition and modernity and possesses great cultural and historical depth."

He added: "Vietnam and Iran are both coun-



tries with rich historical and cultural backgrounds that can benefit from numerous capacities in economic, cultural, and social fields. Especially Isfahan, with over 22,000 historical attractions and valuable cultural heritage, has very high capacity for cooperation with our country."

The ambassador of Vietnam emphasized: "Vietnam, as one of the emerging Asian countries with high economic growth and a population of over 100 million, is ready to develop its cooperation with Iran, especially in the fields of tourism, culture, and economy. We are striving to increase mutual understanding between the two countries by expanding cultural exchanges, holding exhibitions, and facilitating the presence of artists."

He also pointed to the importance of developing media and cultural cooperation and said: "Plans to invite media and artistic groups from both countries are on the agenda so that we can gain a better understanding of each other and cooperation can develop more broadly."

The ambassador finally expressed hope that this meeting would be a prelude to increasing political, economic, and cultural interactions between Iran and Vietnam and emphasized his country's full readiness for extensive cooperation in the future.

ICCIMA urges currency reform, budget relief for businesses

TEHRAN – Members of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) have called for urgent reforms to the country's foreign exchange policies and greater fiscal relief for business owners in the upcoming Iranian calendar year 1405 (begin in late March 2026) budget during the chamber's 27th general meeting.

Several speakers emphasized that current currency regulations and taxation pressures threaten industrial profitability and private-sector resilience.

Ehsan Dashtianeh, a board member of the Iranian Steel Producers Association, warned that the steel industry's profit margins were being squeezed by inconsistent economic policies. "If the current trend continues, the steel sector will face the same fate as other struggling industries," he said, urging the government to align exchange-rate rules across the steel value chain.

Hamidreza Salehi, another ICCIMA representative, criticized the Central Bank's

approach to export currency repatriation, arguing that its undervaluation of export earnings discourages exporters.

He proposed the creation of a private-sector-led export bank to mobilize financial resources and support small businesses in foreign trade.

Emad Mardani, a member of the chamber's board, described entrepreneurs as "the country's true soldiers," calling for stronger protections for business owners who sustain production and employment despite economic and energy challenges.

ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh stressed the need for "exchange-rate stability" and "a gradual, coordinated move toward a unified rate," while maintaining support for essential goods.

He announced the formation of a joint working group between the Central Bank and ICCIMA to clarify and reform export currency regulations.

5,000 new rooftop solar units to be installed in Sistan-Baluchestan by Mar. 2026

TEHRAN- Sistan-Baluchestan Power Distribution Company plans to install 5,000 new five-kilowatt solar systems across the province by the end of this Iranian calendar year (late March 2026), its managing director Mohammad Raeisi said, predicting that the region's total renewable energy capacity will reach 1,000 megawatts within the next two years.

According to Raeisi, Sistan-Baluchestan currently ranks first nationwide in installing government-supported five-kilowatt rooftop solar systems.

"So far, 4,700 of these systems have been commissioned in the province, making a significant contribution to the country's renewable energy expansion," he said, as reported by IRIB.

He added that alongside the rooftop installations, 51 sites for large-scale solar power plants have been designated by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization

(SATBA), with contractors already selected.

"Construction work is expected to be completed by the end of the year," Raeisi noted.

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.

Sponge iron export up 79% in 6 months on year

From Page 1 ▶ Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining



sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such barriers.

Among the mining sector's dif-

ferent products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising

Domestic investment surges 68% in Anzali Free Zone

TEHRAN – The Anzali Free Zone has recorded a 68 percent rise in domestic investment during the first year of the 14th government, marking a strong rebound in local investor confidence, according to the zone's managing director, Mostafa Taati Moghaddam.

He said the value of domestic investment projects increased from 104.8 trillion rials (\$210 million) in the 2023–2024 fiscal year to 175.8 trillion rials (\$351 million) between August 2024 and July 2025.

The official also reported a 13 percent growth in foreign investment during the same period, reaching \$26 million compared with \$23 million a year earlier.

He said private investors have committed 363 trillion rials (\$7.26 billion) to tourism-related projects, including the redevelopment of the Marina Pier and the management of visitor traffic in the zone's trade and tourism phase.

The Anzali Free Zone, located along the Caspian coast, has become a focal point for investment in logistics, trade, and tourism, positioning itself as a strategic link in Iran's northern economic corridor.

Iran's government is moving to overhaul its free trade zones by focusing on privatization, exports, and greater private-sector participation, senior officials said at a national investment forum, in early September.

The National Conference on the Capabilities and Investment Opportunities of Free Trade and Economic Zones was held in Tehran, bringing together government ministers and private-sector representatives.

The secretary of Iran's High Council of Free Trade Zones said many restrictions on the zones had been lifted, making them valuable tools under sanctions if their legal advantages were restored.

He outlined six strategic priorities, including expanding regional cooperation, establishing a new model for border free zones, completing a financial system, rolling out a smart transformation plan and digital economy charter, strengthening exports, and reforming legal frameworks. Improving governance and easing business activity were also listed as key goals.

The official added that the government is working to launch an international stock exchange in the free zones by year-end and is seeking investors. Other plans include creating a technology park in one of the zones and expanding international transport corridors in cooperation with relevant ministries.

Also speaking at the forum, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran's Kish technology park was a promising start.

He compared Iran's vision for its free zones to China's Shenzhen, noting their potential despite sanctions.

"Sanctions have created pressure, but we must not adopt an apocalyptic outlook or think surrender is the only option," he said. "Sanctions were meant to paralyze Iran, but the country stands firm."

Araghchi stressed that free zones play a vital role as "economic lungs" when sanctions restrict the country's trade.

He said Iran remains an attractive destination for investment, with the Foreign Ministry aligning diplomacy with development goals. Talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency were progressing toward a new framework that would address Iran's concerns, and negotiations with three European states were also continuing.

He emphasized that while diplomacy is important, the government must strengthen domestic capabilities, including free zones, without waiting for foreign talks.

Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh said financing export-oriented projects and supporting free zones are priorities for his ministry. "The path to development passes through free trade zones," he said, criticizing Iran's history of government intervention.

He argued that privatization and export-focused strategies, with a strong role for the real private sector, would transform the zones into engines of growth.

One zone will be dedicated specifically to the

digital economy, he said.

The event concluded with awards presented to top entrepreneurs, investors, and managers in the free zones.

Meanwhile, at the BRICS 2025 meeting in Hangzhou, China, in late September, Iran highlighted the role of free trade zones in strengthening digital economic integration among member states, according to the Secretariat of Iran's Free and Special Economic Zones High Council.

Esfandiar Shahmansouri, deputy for economic development and investment at the council, represented Iran alongside legal deputy Meysam Safarzadeh.

He described Iran as a "crossroads of East and West" and said its free zones, with access to CIS and Eurasian markets, could become key regional logistics and trade hubs.

He pointed to southern free zones such as Kish, Qeshm, Chabahar and Arvand, which connect to Persian Gulf markets, as well as northern zones like Anzali, Aras and Maku, which link to Russia and Eurasia. The railway network connecting these hubs, he said, provides the fastest and most cost-effective north-south trade route.

Iran's proposals for deeper BRICS cooperation included developing joint transport corridors and free zones, investing in energy and bunkering projects, expanding knowledge-based industries and innovation centers, promoting medical tourism, and easing financial and banking exchanges.

On the sidelines, Iranian delegates met with BRICS country representatives and senior Chinese free zone officials, submitted draft memoranda of understanding, and advanced talks on a cooperation agreement under the supervision of Reza Masrour, Iran's top free zone official.

Back in late July, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian launched a national smart transformation initiative for the country's free trade and special economic zones, unveiling three digital platforms aimed at boosting transparency, efficiency, and tourism.

The project, announced on the sidelines of a meeting of the Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones High Council, includes a digital tourist card system to facilitate purchases by foreign visitors, an online platform offering hotel and restaurant discounts, and a cargo management system for real-time truck scheduling and shipment tracking.

Developed in collaboration with domestic tech firms and knowledge-based companies, the project is part of a broader strategy to transform Iran's free zones into next-generation digital economic hubs.

Officials said the initiative was expected to streamline service delivery, enhance governance, and reduce the impact of sanctions through increased digital resilience.

It was said that over time, the system would integrate additional service chains, potentially reshaping the role of free zones in Iran's economic governance model.

The government said the project also supports improved transparency, better resource management, and a more agile administrative framework aligned with the strategic goals of the Free Zones Council.

The secretary of Free and Special Economic Zones High Council had said that during the 12 days of the imposed war, 118,000 tons of basic commodities were cleared from seven free zones, which was aimed at meeting the country's needs.

Reza Masrour announced the important measures taken in the country's free zones in recent months and said: "One of the main priorities in these zones was to accelerate the clearance of essential goods, which was successfully carried out."

In line with this goal, detailed planning was carried out in all free zones, and as a result, during the 12 days of the imposed war, approximately 118,000 tons of basic goods were cleared from the country's seven free zones, the official reiterated, adding that of course, if demand increases from new zones, this figure will increase significantly.

The secretary of the Free and Special Economic Zones High Council has said that Iran is set to implement a major restructuring of its free trade

more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

zones in a bid to revive their role in regional commerce and national economic development.

Masrour said that although the zones were designed to drive trade, investment, and transit, they have fallen short of expectations in recent years.

He announced the beginning of a reengineering process, backed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, to redefine the function and governance of these areas.

The transformation plan focuses on deep legal, institutional, and infrastructural reforms, alongside new policies to turn the zones into export-oriented hubs.

Each zone will align its activities with its own strengths, such as transit logistics, tourism, downstream industries, or advanced technologies, he added.

Authorities also aim to transition the zones into what officials describe as "seventh-generation" areas—drawing on modern international development models.

Three key documents are being drafted to guide this transition: a strategic roadmap for reform, a digital economy blueprint, and a national productivity program.

The strategic roadmap is designed to identify systemic challenges, reassess the direction of the zones, and develop macro and sector-specific policies.

In that meeting, President Pezeshkian underscored the importance of fully utilizing the existing capacities of free trade zones. He called for the preparation of a strategic roadmap for these zones and emphasized the development of north-south and east-west transit corridors, with input from prominent consultants in the free trade sector.

Iran's free trade zones play a crucial role in facilitating trade, investment, and tourism by offering tax incentives, reduced tariffs, and streamlined regulations. The southern zones, such as Chabahar, Kish, and Qeshm, serve as key gateways for trade with the Indian Ocean, while northern zones like Anzali and Mazandaran provide critical access to the Caspian Sea region.

The Chabahar Free Zone, in particular, holds strategic significance as a transit hub connecting Iran to Central Asia, Afghanistan, and India via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Meanwhile, Kish and Qeshm are pivotal for tourism and energy-related industries, with advanced port infrastructure to support containerized and bulk cargo handling.

The total capacity of 61 million tons of bulk cargo and 1.4 million containers highlights the zones' potential to strengthen Iran's position as a regional logistics hub. Additionally, the ability to accommodate 12 million passengers annually reflects the zones' growing role in boosting tourism and maritime transport.

Officials emphasized the need to address challenges, including infrastructure development and modernizing port facilities, to fully capitalize on the economic opportunities offered by the free zones.

The establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 - March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azərbaycan Province and Maku in West-Azərbaycan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

The development of existing free trade zones and the establishment of new FTZs has become one of the major economic approaches of the Iranian government.

'No Kings' protests against Trump reveal deep divisions in U.S.

From page 1 ▶ The demonstrations took place in major cities including New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, as well as smaller towns. Protesters carried signs reading “Resist Fascism,” “The Constitution is not optional,” and “Nothing is more patriotic than protesting,” signaling widespread unease over executive overreach, immigration policies, healthcare cuts, and perceived threats to democratic institutions. The term “No Kings” reflects the belief among participants that President Trump and some members of his administration are behaving like monarchs rather than elected officials accountable to the public.

In Washington, Iraq War Marine veteran Shawn Howard told the Associated Press that he had never participated in a protest before but felt compelled to act. “These are un-American,” he said, citing immigration detentions without due process and the deployment of troops to U.S. cities as alarming signs of eroding democracy. “I wanted to show that the government’s disregard for the law is unacceptable.”

Massimo Mascoli, a 68-year-old retired electronic engineer from New Jersey who grew up in Italy, told the BBC he joined the protests because he feared the U.S. might follow the same path his home country did in the last century. “We cannot count on the Supreme Court, we cannot count on the government,” he said. “We



cannot count on Congress. We have all the legislative, executive, and judiciary against the American people right now. So we are fighting.” Mascoli cited immigration enforcement and healthcare cuts as key concerns motivating his activism.

Some Democratic leaders voiced support for the protests, framing them as an expression of civic engagement rather than partisan opposition. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer posted on X, “We have no dictators in America. And we won’t allow Trump to keep eroding our democracy,” alongside photos of himself holding a sign addressing healthcare concerns in New York. Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders told a crowd in Washington, “We’re not here because we hate America, we’re here because we love America,” emphasizing the patriotic motivation behind the demonstrations. Senators Cory Booker, Adam Schiff, and

Chris Murphy also acknowledged the protests, sharing images and videos of large turnouts in their states and thanking Americans for participating.

Republican officials, meanwhile, dismissed the demonstrations as “Hate America” rallies, labeling participants as “communists” or “Marxists,” highlighting the partisan disagreement over public protest and the ongoing government shutdown.

Internationally, the movement drew attention. Solidarity demonstrations were reported in Berlin, Madrid, and Rome, and several hundred protesters gathered outside the U.S. embassy in London. In Toronto, demonstrators near the U.S. consulate waved signs reading “Hands off Canada,” reflecting global concern over U.S. policies and the perception of rising political instability.

Saturday’s protests marked

a significant escalation in civic mobilization. April’s national march against Trump and Elon Musk included 1,300 registered locations, while June’s first “No Kings” day reached 2,100. Organizers say Saturday’s seven million participants reflect both the movement’s growing reach and the intensity of public concern over the trajectory of the nation’s government.

Observers note that the protests are symptomatic of broader anxiety over the expansion of presidential power. Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has increasingly used executive orders to reshape federal agencies, deployed National Guard troops to cities despite objections from state governors, and publicly pressured law enforcement to target perceived political enemies. While supporters argue these measures were necessary to manage a country in crisis, critics warn they challenge constitutional limits and the balance of power central to the U.S. system.

The protests, featuring voices from veterans, immigrants, retirees, and international supporters, underscore the scale of political polarization in the U.S. and the enduring role of citizen activism in shaping public debate. Analysts suggest the events may influence the public conversation on executive power and the responsibilities of elected officials in the months ahead.

Deadly Israeli attacks threaten Gaza truce

From page 1 ▶ This puts the entire truce under a delicate state of affairs, which the Palestinian resistance forces may respond to with a return to operations against Israeli infantry.

A senior Hamas official, Izzat al-Risheq, has said that the Palestinian resistance group “reaffirms its commitment to the ceasefire agreement and emphasizes that the Zionist occupation is the party continuing to violate the agreement and fabricate baseless pretexts to justify its crimes.”

“Netanyahu’s attempts to evade and disavow his commitments come under pressure

from his extremist terrorist coalition, in a bid to escape his responsibilities before the mediators and guarantors.”

Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, also reaffirmed that the resistance is committed to the agreement, saying it has “handed over all living captives and all the bodies it could reach.”

The movement added, “Some bodies (of Israeli captives) still require special equipment and major efforts to locate and retrieve, and we are working hard to close this file.”

The Gaza Ministry of Health released an update on the number of victims and recov-

ered bodies from the ongoing genocide.

The ministry reported that eleven bodies remain trapped under the debris in a massacre committed by the occupation regime’s forces against a family in the Zeitoun area of northern Gaza.

It also confirmed that the overall death toll from genocidal war has risen to “68,159 martyrs and 170,203 injured since October 7, 2023.”

Since the ceasefire agreement on October 11, 2025, the ministry recorded “38 martyrs, 143 injured, and 404 bodies recovered.”

Despite hunger and trauma, reporters keep Gaza story alive: CPJ regional director

Sara Qudah says resilience of journalists in Gaza is nothing short of extraordinary

TEHRAN – Despite the recent Gaza ceasefire, the situation for Palestinian journalists remains tragic. Newsrooms lie in ruins, dozens of reporters are displaced or detained, and access for international media continues to be completely blocked by Israel. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 2024 was the deadliest year ever recorded for the press, with nearly 70 percent of all journalists killed worldwide targeted by Israel in Gaza. Yet, even amid devastation, local reporters persist — documenting the destruction of their own communities while facing constant danger, hunger, and trauma.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Sara Qudah, CPJ’s Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, discusses the grim reality facing journalists in Gaza, CPJ’s ongoing legal push to end Israel’s ban on independent media access, and the organization’s wider mission to secure justice and accountability for the hundreds of journalists killed, injured, or silenced in war zones across the region.

The following is the text of the interview:

With the recent Gaza ceasefire, do you see any improvement in the safety or working conditions of Palestinian journalists on the ground?

While the ceasefire has brought a pause in open hostilities, there is

little evidence of any meaningful improvement in safety or working conditions for Palestinian journalists. Unfortunately, despite a ceasefire being in place for nearly a week, many areas remain completely destroyed and inaccessible. For example, cities like Rafah and Beit Hanoun have been effectively wiped off the map, leaving journalists from those areas either still displaced or in desperate need of housing.

Although seven Palestinian journalists were released from Israeli prisons as part of the ceasefire agreement, broader conditions on the ground have not changed. Israel continues to enforce a ban on international media access, and no new permissions or cases have been granted since the ceasefire.

On October 5, 2025, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) filed an amicus brief in support of the Foreign Press Association’s petition to the Israeli Supreme Court, demanding that Israel immediately allow independent, unrestricted media access into Gaza.

CPJ has explicitly called for Israel to end its blanket ban on independent media access to Gaza, arguing it is unlawful even in wartime and violates Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Additionally, journalists face serious threats from multiple sides. Just days after the ceasefire, journalist Saleh Aljafarawi was shot



and killed in Gaza City, reportedly by members of an armed Palestinian group. His death highlights the ongoing risks for journalists even when active hostilities have paused.

Based on CPJ’s data Israel has killed 237 journalists and media workers, of which:

- 197 were Palestinians in Gaza
- 31 Yemenis in Yemen
- 6 Lebanese in Lebanon
- 3 Iranians in Iran.

The year 2024 is deadliest year for journalists in CPJ history; almost 70% killed by Israel.

Until this moment, no investigation or justice has yet been launched to hold those responsible for the killing of journalists to account. This ongoing impunity only adds to the climate of danger and fear in which journalists are operating.

Beyond documenting casualties, what role does CPJ see for itself in ensuring justice and ac-

countability for the journalists killed during the war?

CPJ sees its role as going far beyond documenting the journalists killed, imprisoned and injured. For CPJ, documentation is just the beginning of a much broader effort to secure justice, protect press freedom, and ensure accountability for those responsible for harming or killing journalists.

CPJ actively challenges policies and actions that enable impunity. For example, in October 2025, CPJ filed an amicus brief with the Israeli Supreme Court in support of a legal petition demanding the Israeli government lift its 741-day ban on international media access to Gaza. This legal step signals CPJ’s shift from advocacy to direct legal intervention — asserting that denying access to independent media not only violates international law, but also obstructs accountability efforts.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Firmly uphold UNGA Resolution 2758, uphold the One-China Principle



China held a massive military parade in central Beijing on Sept. 3 to mark the 80th anniversary of its victory in World War II. (Photo: Xinhua/Fei Maohua)

From page 1 ▶

I. UN General Assembly Resolution 2758: An unshakable legal foundation

On October 25, 1971, at the 26th session of the UN General Assembly, Resolution 2758 was adopted with an overwhelming majority, which “decides to restore all its rights to the People’s Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its Government as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations “.

This resolution solemnly confirms that there is but one China in the world, the Taiwan region is an inalienable part of China’s territory, and the Government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China. It was clearly stated in the official legal opinions of the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat that “the United Nations considers ‘Taiwan’ as a province of China with no separate status” and the “‘authorities’ in ‘Taipei’ are not considered to ... enjoy any form of government status.” This has been the consistent position of the UN and is clearly documented.

It is important to clarify that the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 and the flight of the remnants of Chiang Kai-shek’s forces to Taiwan merely constituted a change of political power within China. China’s status as a subject of international law has not changed, nor has its sovereignty and inherent territorial boundaries. Based on the fact and premise that “Taiwan is part of China’s territory”, UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 returned the representation and seat of the whole of China, including Taiwan, to the Chinese Government. This has a clear logical chain and an irrefutable legal basis.

II. Taiwan belongs to China: Unalterable historical evidence

Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China’s territory since ancient times, and historical records are conclusive. As early as 1335, the central government of China had established administrative organs in Taiwan and exercised administrative jurisdiction over it. Since the Song and Yuan dynasties, the central government of China has begun to establish administrative organs in Penghu and Taiwan, and exercised administrative jurisdiction over the regions. In 1684, the Qing government set up Taiwan Prefecture; in 1885, it further upgraded Taiwan to a province, strengthening its governance over Taiwan.

In 1894, Japan launched the First Sino-Japanese War, forcing the Qing government to sign the Treaty of Shimonoseki the following year, ceding Taiwan and the Penghu Islands. This historical fact precisely proves that Taiwan had already been part of China’s territory before 1895. In 1943, the Cairo Declaration clearly stated that “the territories stolen from China by Japan - including Manchuria, the island of Taiwan and the Pescadores Islands - would be returned to Chinese sovereignty. In 1945, the Potsdam Proclamation reaffirmed that “the terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out”. In September of the same year, Japan signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, undertaking to fulfill the obligations stipulated in the Potsdam Proclamation. On October 25, the Chinese government held the “China War Theater

Taiwan Province Surrender Acceptance Ceremony” in Taipei, formally declaring the resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Taiwan.

The question of Taiwan’s status was completely resolved in 1945 when the Chinese people won the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. The victory, won through bloody battles and immense sacrifice by the Chinese people, including our compatriots in Taiwan, cannot be shaken by the false narratives of individual countries. Clear historical evidence has consistently confirmed that Taiwan is a sacred and inalienable part of China’s territory.

III. The One-China Principle: An irreversible international consensus

At the time when the 26th session of the UN General Assembly opened in September 1971, there was prevailing support for the seat of the People’s Republic of China to be restored. Unwilling to accept this outcome, the U.S. persisted in its attempts to obstruct the process. Putting forward a so-called “Dual Representation” draft resolution, which essentially trying to create “two Chinas” and “one China, one Taiwan”. This attempt failed and the proposal was effectively invalidated. This fully reflects that the general trend of the international community upholding the One-China Principle is irresistible, and the One-China Principle, as an international consensus, is irreversible.

For some time now, individual countries are distorting and challenging Resolution 2758, laboriously peddling the pernicious falsehood of “Taiwan’s status being undetermined”, and misled international public opinion. Such acts are not only gross interference in China’s internal affairs, but also a flagrant challenge to the fruits of victory in World War II and the post-war international order.

The One-China Principle is the fundamental prerequisite and political basis for China to establish diplomatic relations with all countries, and has become a basic norm of international relations and a universal consensus of the international community. Over 50 years since the resolution was adopted, the number of countries that have established diplomatic relations with China has increased from over 60 to 183 on the basis of upholding this principle. Behind this figure is the respect of all countries for historical facts and their adherence to international law.

China and Iran are comprehensive strategic partners and have always supported each other on issues concerning each other’s core interests and major concerns. The One-China Principle is not only the foundation of China-Iran diplomatic relations, but also has been reaffirmed and confirmed in documents such as the two countries’ joint statements on many occasions. China highly appreciates Iran’s consistent and correct stance of supporting the One-China Principle, and is willing to work with Iran to continuously enhance political mutual trust, jointly safeguard the authority of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758, adhere to the One-China Principle and other basic norms of international relations, and make due contributions to maintaining world peace and stability and promoting international fairness and justice.

Iran seeks to attract more visitors from neighboring countries, tourism minister says

TEHRAN — Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, on Sunday stated that Iran is currently focusing on attracting tourists primarily from nearby countries.

He highlighted 13 countries that celebrate Nowruz, including Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, as key target markets. Additionally, Iran is prioritizing outreach to the Persian Gulf littoral states, with particular emphasis on Iraq, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

Speaking in a meeting with head of Islamic Culture and Communication Organization and cultural consultants, he said: "Before the start of 12-day Israeli war against Iran, our goal was to attract 15 million tourists by the end of the Seventh National Development Plan."

He also said that the most important need of Iran's current society is to create hope. "After the recent 12-day war, our most important task is to create public pride, social vitality, and strengthen attachment to Iran, the system, the revolution, and Iranian society."

Salehi-Amiri said: "Currently, Central Asia, Caucasus, and Nowruz region are our major tourism basket."

Pointing to the regional cooperation, he said that Uzbekistan has welcomed cooperation and the paths have been paved.

Georgia is also cooperating three times more than before, he said, adding: "The Nowruz region, which includes countries such as Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan, is of particular importance. Afghanistan has great potential that we should not neglect."

He said: "Pakistan has a deep cultural commonality with Iran, and it is necessary to review and strengthen cultural cooperation with this country. Also, with restoration of political relations with Egypt, a suitable platform has been provided for the expansion of cultural and tourism cooperation. In addition, Indonesia and Malaysia are also interested in developing religious tourism with Iran, and it is expected that tourism interactions with these countries will increase in the near future."

On importance of tourism markets of East Asia and North of Eurasia, he said that Iran's share of Chinese tourists is meager compared to the neighboring nations. "We should increase this share by setting precise goals and focusing on China. Also, planning to establish travel service offices in this country is on the agenda. Russia is also an important target destination in the field of Iranian tourism, and considering the country's natural capacities, including desert tourism, tourism cooperation

with this country can be expanded."

He continued: "Social asset is our today's vital need. Because, the driving force of society is social trust, satisfaction, and people's participation."

Pointing to the role of social asset during the Sacred Defense, he said: "Our social asset increased during the war. Today, preserving it is more important than producing it. Satisfaction is linked to the concept of efficiency, and efficiency is the most basic and urgent need of society for hope for the future."

Recalling the historical experience of the government during the 12-day war, he said that during the war, the government distributed more than one million tons of basic goods in the country, which is one and a half times the normal conditions, so that people would not worry about the supply of goods, and this was the same approach of efficiency.

The minister considered the next important point to be national cohesion and stated that cohesion does not mean apparent unity, but rather that all the country's capacities, including cultural ones, should come together for a common goal, which is the survival of Iran.

Salehi-Amiri continued: "In the past year, our focus has been on strengthening the attachment and dependence of the young generation on the concept of Iran and cultural Iran. We are also obliged to connect the Iranian community abroad with the country. The population of Iranians abroad is between 7 and 9 million people, and the Supreme Council of Iranians was formed with the mission of various agencies for this purpose."

Emphasizing that cohesion is the factor of political life, he said: "Today, we are facing a set of enemies in the political, media, and military arenas. Therefore, we must focus on strengthening attachment of overseas Iranians to the homeland."

He added: "The more the Iranian community abroad can breathe in Iran's cultural atmosphere and remain connected to Iran, the more capital and expertise will be attracted to the country. The government has decided not to hinder this connection."

The minister announced the formation of four specialized working groups in the fields of tourism, education and technology, legal and consular, and economic and attracting capitals of Iranians, adding, "If Iranians feel secure, the attraction and return of capital will be unparalleled."

Referring to the 30-percent growth in tourists in April and May of this year, he stated that if the stability continues, the number of tourists is expected to exceed 8 million by the end of the year.

Artworks by Mahmoud Farshchian unveiled at Sa'dabad palace museum

TEHRAN – Four paintings by the late Iranian master Mahmoud Farshchian, held by the Mostazafan Foundation, unveiled and displayed on loan for one month at the Farshchian Museum located within Sa'dabad palace complex in Tehran.

The unveiling ceremony was held on Friday coincided with the 23rd anniversary of the museum's founding. It also put on show parts of Farshchian's painting tools, and a section of his design for the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam. The event was attended by cultural figures, painters and art enthusiasts.

The four paintings on display are titled The Broken Pitcher (Sabouye Shekasteh), The Glory of Flight (Shokouhe Parvaz), Birds on the Branch (Parandegan Bar Shakhsar), and Sama'.

The Broken Pitcher, created in 1969 using gouache with white and gold on cardboard, marks a turning point in Farshchian's style, moving away from traditional miniature textures toward a deeper, three-dimensional space. The central figure expresses sorrow and longing, symbolizing philosophical and mystical themes of liberation and loss.

Birds on the Branch, painted in 1970 with

acrylic on cardboard, is a modern reinterpretation of the classical "flower and bird" motif. The dark background contrasts with golden birds in motion, symbolizing life and growth amid darkness.

The Glory of Flight, also from 1970, depicts fourteen birds in flight with golden lines on a black background, emphasizing movement and freedom.

Sama', created in 1975 with ink and watercolor on paper, showcases dynamic and fluid line work that reflects Farshchian's mystical calligraphy. The swirling forms evoke spiritual dance and trance, merging space, form, and content into a unified expression.

Born in 1930, Farshchian was an influential Iranian painter and educator who revitalized Persian miniature painting by blending classical aesthetics with innovative techniques. His works are exhibited worldwide and contributed to renewed international recognition of the art form.

According to organizers, the temporary exhibition aims to offer visitors a rare opportunity to experience these important works in the artist's dedicated museum at Sa'dabad palace.

Aran and Bidgol emerges as a must-visit desert destination

From Page 1 ► As mentioned by organizers, the event aimed to closely explore the region's diverse offerings with a particular focus on the iconic Maranjab Desert.

During the fam tour, visitors toured the striking landscapes of the serene desert, a part of the greater Dasht-e Kavir basin, renowned for its vast sand dunes, salt pans, and seasonal wetlands. The desert also features significant historical sites, including the 17th-century Shah Abbasi Caravanserai -- a striking remnant of Safavid-era architecture that provided shelter to travelers on ancient trade routes.

In addition to natural beauty, the fam tour introduced guests to various cultural and historical landmarks around the county, including centuries-old mosques, historic houses, and boutique hotels that preserve traditional architecture and hospitality. Traditional restaurants served local delicacies, while visits to heritage sites such as the ancient Assarkhanehs (traditional oil extraction houses) shed light on the region's historic role in supplying oil for multiple uses.

One of the festival's highlights was a visit to the underground city of Nushabad. This labyrinthine complex of hand-carved tunnels, chambers, air ducts, and staircases dates back approximately 1,500 years. Widely regarded as a marvel of ancient engineering, the underground city remained largely unknown until its accidental discovery by a local villager just a decade ago. Today, it stands as a testament to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of past civilizations in the region.

The festival also featured a series of panel discussions and conferences addressing vital topics such as the preservation of local heritage, sustainable tourism development, and strategies to increase tourism's contribution to the local economy. Experts and officials examined ways to balance economic growth with environmental and cultural preservation.

Speaking at one of the conference sessions, Ali-Mohammad Yusefian-Arani, the governor of Aran and Bidgol, emphasized the enormous potential of the Maranjab Desert as a national and international tourism hub. He stated, "With principled planning, adequate infrastructure, and smart management, the Maranjab Desert can become one of the key tourism poles in Iran and the world."

Yusefian-Arani underscored the importance of tourism development running in parallel with industrial progress, describing tourism as a vital tool to address



future challenges and a platform for introducing Iran's ancient customs and culture to a broader audience.

Highlighting the region's attractions, he said, "Maranjab Desert and the nearby Salt Lake area are among Iran's most beautiful desert landscapes. The historical caravanserai combines history, culture, and nature, offering visitors a unique chance to experience life during the Safavid era."

He further elaborated on the natural and recreational attractions, including the clear skies ideal for stargazing, expansive sand dunes, and the salt lake, alongside activities such as desert trekking, off-road driving, and sand skiing -- all valuable assets for boosting the county's tourism economy.

Governor Yusefian-Arani stressed the need for responsible and respectful tourism, stating that "the first requirement for a pleasant experience for travelers is the creation of a safe and peaceful environment. Aran and Bidgol require healthy, responsible tourism based on mutual respect between guests and hosts, preservation of cultural heritage and nature, and adherence to social ethics."

Concluding his remarks, he called for a paradigm shift in the region's tourism approach, from mere sightseeing to "experience-based, event-driven tourism that offers real and profound experiences." He noted that achieving such development demands the collaborative efforts of local communities, government bodies, the private sector, and national authorities.

Tour highlights

Handicrafts bazaar: Participants in the festival first visited a special handicrafts bazaar, which was essentially a live workshop showcasing the production of various handicrafts such as traditional locks, traditional clothing, different types of ceramics and clay pottery, handwoven fabrics, and more.

Maranjab Desert: Characterized by its sand dunes, salt flats, and unique flora and fauna adapted to the harsh desert climate. The site supports tourism activities like star gazing, desert trekking, and off-road adventures, though sustainable tourism practices are critical to minimize environmental impact.

Nushabad Underground City: The largest underground city in Iran, featuring an extensive network of hand-carved tunnels and chambers designed as a refuge against invasions, showcasing ancient Persian architectural and engineering ingenuity.

Shrine of Imamzadeh Hilal ibn Ali: The shrine in which the son of Imam Ali (A.S.), the first Shia Imam, is laid to rest, attracts hundreds of visitors daily, including devoted Muslims and tourists from around the world. The shrine is surrounded by stunning examples of Islamic architecture, featuring blue-tiled minarets, arched arcades, domes, and intricately designed halls and chambers. The shrine is especially beautiful in the late afternoon, when the sun's last rays illuminate the blue tiles of the minarets and domes, casting a warm red glow over the surrounding area. It is a remarkable destination for those exploring Iran's cultural and religious heritage.

Cultural heritage sites: Including Vigol archaeological site, centuries-old mosques, historic residential buildings, boutique accommodations, traditional dining establishments, and ancient oil extraction houses, which collectively reflect the region's rich cultural fabric.

Local dishes: Traditional foods of Aran and Bidgol, made with simple and natural ingredients, clearly reflect the lifestyle of the people in these cities. Goosht Loobia (White Bean Stew) and Shefteh Somaq (Sumac Meatball Soup) were among the local dishes that participants of the fam tour tried:

Goosht-e Loobia is one of the most famous traditional dishes of Aran and Bidgol, and even Kashan. It holds a special place in religious ceremonies and offerings in the city. It is made with a combination of white beans, meat, onions, cinnamon, and saffron. Some serve it like a thick stew with dill rice, while others eat it like a broth with Sangak bread and fresh herbs. Shefteh Somaq, aka Kofteh Ab-e Somaq, is a meatball soup is prepared with ground meat, chickpea flour, onions, and sumac. The soaked sumac gives the dish a tangy and appealing flavor. Shefteh Somaq can be enjoyed with either rice or bread.

By the help of local communities and private investors, Aran and Bidgol seeks to gain a recognition as one of Iran's most compelling desert destinations, captivating travelers with its unique blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and historical significance.

31 film reels from Qajar era discovered in Golestan Palace

TEHRAN—A total of 31 film reels from Qajar era has been discovered in the UNESCO-designated Golestan Palace, located in downtown Tehran.

According to related officials those works are likely to be some of the first captured images in Iranian history and even the beginning of Iranian cinema.

According to Mehr news agency, Afarin Emami, director of the Golestan Palace World Heritage site, said that while organizing and preserving the objects in Album Khaneh (album house) and examining boxes of film reels from a collection called raw film that had been recorded in the past, 31 film reels containing images from the Qajar period were identified.

She said that these works include 28 reels of 35mm film and three reels of 16mm film, which have been identified by experts and the trustee of the Album House of Golestan Palace.

Emami added that more time and expert studies are needed to accurately identify and



examine the content of these films.

She emphasized the importance of these historical works and noted: "These films, in addition to the films of the Mozaffari era, can provide researchers and enthusiasts with valuable and new information about the understanding of the Qajar era and the atmosphere of that time, and even influence the view of the early history of Iranian cinema."

Based on this news, the Album House of Golestan Palace keeps more than 61,000 historical artifacts, including Qajar cameras and films, photo albums, photographs, paintings, glass negatives, and other related works. This collection is considered the second and most important album house in the world.

The royal album house features 1,040 old photo albums taken by famous photographers lived in Qajar times as well as more than 4,000 single pictures in small and large sizes providing a rare and rich treasury of pictorial documents about the history and society of Iran and the world in the 18th and 19th centuries CE.

This album house is indeed regarded as the second-best reservoir of old photos after the album house of the Royal Museum of Britain and can be considered as one of the best resources for historical research of the time. In fact, it was founded based on documentation of great cities of Iran and abroad during the trips of Naser al-Din Shah and Mozaffar al-Din Shah to Europe.

Iranian scientist wins UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Award

TEHRAN – Behzad Qiasi, a faculty member of the University of Tehran, has won the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Young Scientists Awards for his project titled ‘Develop a sustainable hydrotourism model in Iran’s Miankaleh Biosphere Reserve’.

Qiasi has a Ph.D. in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering. His project aims to restore wetlands while supporting local livelihoods. He will work with communities, NGOs, and government agencies to design eco-friendly tourism that reduces pressure on water resources. Through environmental and economic assessments, he will identify viable green jobs linked to cultural heritage and nature conservation. His project will empower local voices, especially youth and women, and produce a replicable model for other fragile wetland reserves.

This year, 11 young researchers from across the globe, including Morocco, China, Congo, the U.S., Brazil, Ghana, and Algeria, have received MAB Young Scientists Awards for their outstanding efforts and contributions.

These projects were focused on addressing the impacts of climate change on soils, pollinators, and wildlife, developing indigenous knowledge, promoting sus-



tainable tourism, and analyzing the socio-environmental effects of resource extraction. They will contribute to the achievement of the MAB Program goals while offering replicable solutions to build more resilient and sustainable societies.

The prize announcement took place during the 37th session of the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC), held in Hangzhou, China, after the fifth World Network of Biosphere Reserves’ global summit, which took place from September 22 to 26.

Held every 10 years, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves comes together to identify priorities, strengthen collaboration, and define a Global Action Plan for the future.

Iran grabs two awards at IUCN World Conservation Congress

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) has presented two awards, namely Reverse the Red and the International Ranger Awards 2025, to the country at the World Conservation Congress.

The congress was held in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, from October 11 to 15.

Reverse the Red is a global movement that ignites strategic cooperation and action to ensure the survival of wild species and ecosystems and reverse the negative trend of biodiversity loss.

The Iranian Ambassador to Abu Dhabi, Reza Ameri, received

the award on behalf of the country.

The IUCN WCPA has presented 13 rangers and ranger teams with the 2025 International Ranger Awards, recognising their incredible dedication to nature conservation.

The International Ranger Awards are intended to honour the courage, resilience, and perseverance of rangers across the world; displaying their achievements, raising public awareness about the importance of such professionals, and providing winners with funds to support the land they help protect.

Iran is the first country in West Asia to have won this award. Saidvaa National Park and the southern Parvar Protected Area Ranger Team (nine members) in Semnan province are awarded for determinedly overcoming social and ecological challenges to advance conservation.

Azin Saeedi, as the representative of the rangers, has received the award, doe.ir reported.

WCPA is the world’s premier network of protected and conserved areas expertise. The Commission has over 3200 members spanning 140 countries who provide strategic advice to policymakers and work to strengthen capacity and investment for protected areas establishment and management.

Iran to attend International Nano Olympiad 2026

TEHRAN – Iran will participate in the third International Nano Olympiad (INO), which is scheduled to take place in Taipei, Taiwan, from December 12 to 18, 2026.

The INO aims to provide a platform for young innovators and researchers to showcase their talents, collaborate with global experts, and address some of the world’s most pressing environmental and technological challenges.

INO 2026 will focus on nano-biotechnology and health. It aims to address critical challenges and opportunities in healthcare through nanotechnology. By uniting the brightest minds across the globe, the INO promises to push the boundaries of innovation and contribute to shaping a healthier future.

The Olympiad will be centered around different topics, including nanodrug delivery systems, nano-sensors and diagnostic technologies, nanomaterials in medical devices and tissue engineering, nano-biotechnology for sustainable health, nano-biomimetic technology in biomedical applications, and the application of artificial intelligence and big data in nano-biotechnology.

In 2018, the first INO was held from April 10 to 15 at Tehran’s Pardis Technology Park, and nine teams from four foreign countries competed at the event.

The participants presented their solutions for the global challenges related to water and

wastewater treatment, agriculture, food and packaging, alternative energies, drugs and medication, information and communication through nanotechnology.

The second INO 2024 was held from October 17 to 18 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Isfahan University of Technology represented Iran and won the gold medal.

The Iranian team competed with participants from Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Malaysia.

Hamid-Reza Qorbani, Ph.D. student of metallurgical engineering, and Nima Dehqan, B.S student of metallurgical engineering, proposed a project named ‘Using sunlight to produce clean hydrogen fuel’, IRNA reported.

The presented projects focused on global challenges facing nanotechnology applications in the development and production of new (alternative) energies, including hydrogen fuel, wind energy, solar energy, nuclear energy, tidal energy, geothermal energy, and biomass energy.

This year, Tehran played host to the first INO for high-school students aged 16-19, on September 29.

Participants from 20 countries, including Germany, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, England, the United States, Venezuela, India, and Australia, attended the event online.

The INO 2025 presented a unique opportunity for participants to delve into the world of nanotechnology and its potential to address pressing environmental challenges. It emphasized a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical creativity. By combining rigorous assessment with creative project work, the competition aimed to cultivate a deeper understanding of the transformative potential of nanotechnology in addressing global challenges.

The Initial phase evaluated participants’ grasp of fundamental concepts in nanotechnology and its environmental applications. To support their preparation, participants could access nine educational films and a comprehensive booklet available on the official website, which covered essential topics and relevant applications. Additionally, they would receive four specialized educational films and a targeted booklet that focuses particularly on nanotechnology’s applications in the environment. This constituted 70 percent of the overall score.

It emphasized a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical creativity. By combining rigorous assessment with creative project work, the competition aimed to cultivate a deeper understanding of the transformative potential of nanotechnology in addressing global challenges.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Non-repayable loans for e-bikes must increase: Tehran City Council chairman

While an important strategy to contain Tehran’s air pollution is using clean energies, non-repayable loans to incentivize the owners to replace their motorcycles with electric ones is not sufficient and must increase, Mohsen Hashemi, Tehran City Council chairman, has said.

The scheme on encouraging the citizens to replace carbureted motorcycles with electric ones has started over a few years ago, however, the process has been evolving slowly, he said, adding, we hope to increase the use of electric motorbikes by allocating the necessary funds along with supporting the manufacturers next year (March 2019-March 2020).

The handouts supporting the residents to purchase the motorbikes has been about 25 million rials (nearly \$600), which is not adequate anymore given the current economic condition, he stated, Tasnim reported on Saturday.

تاکید رئیس شورای شهر تهران بر افزایش وام بلاعوض خرید «موتورسیکلت‌های برقی»

محسن هاشمی رئیس شورای شهر تهران با اشاره به اینکه یکی از راه‌های کاهش آلودگی هوای تهران استفاده از انرژی‌های پاک است، گفت: رقمی که به عنوان وام بلاعوض خرید موتورسیکلت برقی برای تشویق دارندگان موتورسیکلت پرداخت شده است، پاسخگوی این شرایط نیست و این رقم باید افزایش یابد.

وی تصریح کرد: جایگزینی کردن موتورسیکلت‌های برقی به جای موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری از چند سال پیش آغاز شده است اما این کار با کندی پیش رفته است و امیدواریم در سال آینده با تخصیص اعتبارات لازم و حمایت از تولیدکنندگان، میزان استفاده از موتورسیکلت‌های برقی افزایش یابد.

به گزارش روز شنبه خبرگزاری تسنیم هاشمی با اشاره به میزان تسهیلاتی که تا به امروز به‌عنوان وام بلاعوض برای خرید موتورسیکلت برقی در نظر گرفته شده است، یادآور شد: با توجه به افزایش قیمت خرید موتورسیکلت برقی، رقم ۲ میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار تومان رقم قابل قبولی به‌عنوان وام بلاعوض نیست و باید این رقم افزایش یابد.

‘UNECE ready to help Iran implement environmental programs’

TEHRAN – The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has announced its willingness to support the country in implementing environmental conservation programs.

UNECE Executive Secretary, Tatiana Molchan, also voiced the organization’s readiness to provide technical consultation to the Department of Environment (DOE), and collaborate with the DOE in different environmental sectors, doe.ir reported.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Shina Ansari, the head of the DOE. The officials met on the sidelines of the global Zero Waste Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from October 17 to 19.

Focusing on technical issues and utilizing international experts, UNECE plays an effective role in fields such as transboundary waters, air pollution, and waste management, Molchan added.

For her part, Ansari elaborated on the critical situation of the Hamoun wetland in the southeast of the country, which has been drastically dried up over the past two decades, and called for UNECE to support restoration projects aimed at reviving the wetland, highlighting that sanctions should not impact the implementation of environmental projects that are directly connected to the local community’s lives.

The two sides highlighted the importance of developing procedures to initiate cooperation and accelerate working relationships.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947. It is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations.

UNECE’s major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. UNECE includes 56 member States in Europe, North America, and Asia. However, all interested United Nations member States may participate in the work of UNECE.

Over 70 international professional organizations and other non-governmental organizations take part in UNECE activities.

As a multilateral platform, UNECE facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its member countries and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity.

Global Zero Waste Forum

The global Zero Waste Forum was organized by the Zero Waste Foundation and Turkish ministries, and was centered on the



theme of ‘People, Places, Progress’.

The three-day event focused 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 provided great opportunities for enhancing environmental interactions between Iran and other countries.

Ansari, 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.

“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.

World Statistics Day highlights role of reliable data in global progress

TEHRAN – Marked on October 20 every year, the World Statistics Day 2025 underlines the key role of reliable data in global progress.

Statistics have been foundational not only to the UN’s operations but also to addressing worldwide challenges such as peacekeeping, sustainable development, climate change, and public health.

The global statistical community exemplifies international cooperation, bringing together professionals from all regions to establish standards, share methodologies, and ensure the collection, analysis, and dissemination of accurate and timely data. Trusted statistics enable policymakers, businesses, and citizens to navigate complexity and make informed decisions, helping to reveal critical issues and drive meaningful change.

Reliable data underpins effective policymaking, economic planning, and societal development, especially in today’s complex world. Trust in statistical systems fosters transparency and ethical use of data, while collaboration across countries and experts promotes innovation and best practices.

Equally important is building data literacy within communities, making statistics accessible and understandable to all. This empowerment helps bridge the gap between data producers and users, promoting inclusivity and better policy outcomes. With evolving technology and new tools, the potential to collect, analyze, and visualize data continues to expand, offering fresh opportunities to advance sustainable development and social



equity worldwide.

In 2010, acknowledging that the production of reliable, timely statistics and indicators of countries’ progress is indispensable for informed policy decisions and monitoring implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the General Assembly designated October 20 as the first-ever World Statistics Day under the general theme “Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics.”

The General Assembly decided to designate October 20, 2015, as the second World Statistics Day under the general theme “Better data, better lives,” as well as to celebrate World Statistics Day every five years on 20 October.

This year, the day will be observed under the theme of ‘Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone’, emphasizing that access to high-quality data is the right of every citizen and a cornerstone of effective governance.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who engages in various tasks, cannot do any of them properly, and brings himself into troubles.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:41 Dawn: 4:52 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:16 (tomorrow)

Palestinian documentary “No Other Land” to be released on U.S. streaming platforms

The team behind the Oscar-winning documentary “No Other Land” says it is planning to self-release the film on U.S. streaming platforms beginning October 20.

The team cites those platforms as including Apple TV, Amazon, Google Play and YouTube, and says that 100 percent of VOD proceeds will go directly to Palestinian communities of Masafer Yatta, the occupied West Bank region portrayed in the acclaimed film about Israeli settler violence and Palestinian displacement, Deadline reported.

In an unusual move, the “No Other Land” team disclosed in a press release Friday that it had struck a domestic streaming deal with distributor Mubi after months of negotiation, but that the filmmakers ultimately decided to “reject” the pact due to the emergence of Mubi’s well-publicized backing from Sequoia.

Sources have confirmed that Mubi was on the verge of completing a streaming deal for the movie over the summer but that things suddenly went quiet.

“This film shows the reality of Israeli occupation and oppression against Palestinians — but that truth apparently didn’t fit the narrative that big U.S. streamers wanted to promote. We talked to Mubi for months, and initially thought our film had found its home, but in the end, we learned that they were accepting a huge investment from Sequoia Capital,” said “No Other Land” co-director Basel Adra.

“In addition to being unethical, it made no sense to us that they would take our film showing Israel’s oppression of Palestinians, and then also partner with a company contributing to that oppression,” added “No Other Land” co-director Yuval Abraham.

Mubi has faced a major PR headache following its investment from U.S. venture capital firm Sequoia which has ties to Kela, an Israeli military tech startup founded by Israeli military intelligence veterans. The company

Cartoon of Day



Freed Palestinian Prisoner
Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

Artists from 13 countries to attend 4th Homam International Festival

TEHRAN – The 4th Homam International Festival for People with Disabilities will be held in Tehran from October 23 to 30, with the presence of more than 200 artists from 13 countries, the festival’s secretary Mohammad Reza Mashhadi said at a press conference on Saturday.

Over 400 works in the fields of visual arts, handicrafts, and music have been selected from about 3,000 submissions by disabled Iranian and foreign artists for this year’s edition of the festival, ISNA reported.

“This year, the festival will host artists from Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, South Korea, Turkey, South Africa, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Spain, Japan, Nigeria, and Iran. Lebanon will also collaborate in part of the visual arts section,” Mashhadi added.

Speaking about the domestic section of the festival, the secretary said: “This year, works have been received from 30 provinces of the country and the number of participants has increased by 67 percent compared to last year, indicating the active presence of the disabled community in the field of art.”

HOMAM

4th International Festival for People with Disabilities



Dedicated to artists with disabilities
وژه هنرمندان دارای معلولیت و چاباییان
فرمانده طایه هنرهای تجسمی مساجد اصفی موسیایی

Opening Ceremony:
23 October 2025 _ 5 pm to 8 pm (Tehran time)
آیین بازگشایی: ۱۴ آبان ماه ۱۴۰۵ ساعت ۵ تا ۸

Exhibition:
October 23rd to 30th, 3 pm to 8 pm
بازدید از نمایشگاه: ۱۴ آبان ماه ۱۴۰۵ ساعت ۳ تا ۸

 Instagram: [homamfestival](https://www.instagram.com/homamfestival)
 Website: homamfestival.com
 Email: homamfestival.aff@gmail.com

“Tehran ranks first with the most submitted works, followed by Khorasan Razavi, Fars, Kerman, Isfahan, Mazandaran, and Gilan provinces,” he noted.

Tehran hosts “Storm Architect” event on anniversary of Yehya Sinwar’s martyrdom

TEHRAN- On the anniversary of Commander Yehya Sinwar’s martyrdom, the House of Thinkers in Tehran hosted the event “Storm Architect” on Sunday.

Organized by the Sima Fekr’s multimedia team, the event explored martyred Hamas Leader’s intellectual, political, and cultural dimensions, as well as his influential role in the recent battle against the Zionist regime, Mehr reported.

This gathering aimed to examine the cultural and resistance-oriented facets of Yehya Sinwar’s personality, the report added.

Several thought, cultural and policy activists analyzed recent developments in Palestine and Sinwar’s pivotal role in the fight against the Zionist regime.

The first segment featured Alireza Shafah, a member of the Council of the Eshraq Institute of Science and Politics, delivering a lecture titled “War with Israel; The Battle of Wills.”

Following this, Alireza Samiei, a researcher and literary critic, presented a socio-literary

42nd TISFF exhibiting remarkable accomplishments in global short films

TEHRAN – Four non-competitive side programs will be held during the 42nd Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF), which kicked off in Tehran on Sunday.

The programs aim to exhibit remarkable accomplishments in the realm of global short films, in addition to engaging in retrospection of the heritage of Iranian short films, ILNA reported.

“Seekers: A Quest for Place in Contemporary Turkish Cinema,” “China’s Emerging Short Cinema,” “A Selection of Film7days,” and “Pioneers: Iranian Echoes from Tampere” are the programs scheduled to be held during the festival.

“Seekers: A Quest for Place in Contemporary Turkish Cinema” explores humanity’s search for belonging, from intimate family struggles for love and connection in contemporary Turkish films such as “Good Morning Mom” and “Southwest” to individual battles against indifference in the movies “The School Bus” and “The Moisture”.

It also spans broader quests for a future in borderlands in the movie “Garan” and for survival and global justice in “Bishwa Ijtema”, reflecting the enduring human will to find meaning and a place in the world.

festival secretary said.

“The number and high quality of the works have made art associations and curators from different countries eager to attend the festival. This year, three cultural agreements are on the verge of being signed, with Japan, Tajikistan, and Turkey, which focus on the exchange of artistic experiences, education, and exhibition of works by disabled artists,” he stated.

Also speaking at the event, Ehsan Hajipour, artistic secretary of the festival, said: “Specialized sessions will be held in the fields of visual arts, handicrafts, music, art economics, accessible applications, and digital space. The drama therapy section will focus on the therapeutic relationship between art and the psyche, and 36 environmental performances will be performed as well”.

“In the theater section, for the first time, a play has been designed with easy access for all people with disabilities, written and directed by Maryam Yasinza-deh. Special attention has also been paid to digital art, and the media is supporting the disabled audience to increase accessibility,” he added.

aimed at achieving a ceasefire in Gaza since the onset of increased tensions on October 7, 2023. Sinwar is recognized as the architect of the 7 October attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

Born in Khan Younis, Gaza, Sinwar earned a BA in Arabic Studies from the Islamic University of Gaza. An early member of Hamas, established by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in 1987, he became immersed in anti-occupation activism during his university years. Throughout the 1980s, he faced multiple imprisonments, ultimately being sentenced to four life terms in 1988 for his alleged involvement in attacks against Israeli forces.

During his incarceration, Sinwar mastered Hebrew and translated banned autobiographies of former Shin Bet leaders, indicating a commitment to education and preparation for future leadership. Released in 2011 as part of a prisoner exchange deal for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, Sinwar quickly rose through Hamas ranks. In 2021, he was re-elected and played a significant role in the Al-Quds Sword war.

is a n OSCARS®-qualifying festival, 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 Program, 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.

The 42nd Tehran International Short Film Festival will run until October 24.