

New Tehran-Baghdad Alignment Ends Israel's Safety in Iraqi Skies



Fireworks light up sky as Iraqis and members of PMF celebrate, marking first anniversary of victory over Islamic State group.

Tehran Times gains new info on Germany's war role after foreign ministry issues denial

TEHRAN – The Tehran Times reached out to its sources after the German Foreign Ministry stated in an email that Germany had not participated in Israel's 12-day war with Iran.

Days after the Tehran Times made its inquiry, and following the German embassy in Tehran's refusal to address the matter, Germany's Foreign Ministry issued a response, claiming that the Tehran Times report, which revealed Germany had deployed forces in the occupied territories during the June war with Iran, was false. ▶ Page 2

Iran-Uzbekistan trade being pursued to reach up to \$2b: Uzbek envoy

TEHRAN- The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Iran stated that trade relations between the two countries reached about \$500 million last year, and added: "Considering the agreements between the presidents of the two countries, the goal of increasing this figure to up to \$2 billion is being pursued."

Fariddin Nasriev made the remarks on Wednesday, on the sidelines of the ECO summit during a meeting with the governor-general of Iran's Zanjan province, and expressed his pleasure at being in this province, described Zanjan city (the center of the province) as a beautiful region with high cooperation potential, and thanked the provincial officials for their warm hospitality, while also referring to the history of cultural relations between the two countries. ▶ Page 4

U.S. push to disarm PMF endangers Iraq's security and stability

By staff writer

TEHRAN – U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's recent call for the disarmament of Iraqi anti-terror groups, particularly the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of Iraq's security realities and a continuation of Washington's interventionist approach.

During a phone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al Sudani, Rubio alleged that the PMF "undermine Iraq's sovereignty, threaten the lives and businesses of Americans and Iraqis, and pilfer Iraqi resources for Iran." These accusations ignore the PMF's decisive contributions to defeating the ISIL terrorist organization and restoring stability to Iraq between 2014 and 2017.

The PMF, formally integrated into Iraq's military in 2016, has been essential in liberating northern and western Iraq from ISIL control.

Al-Ghamari's enduring legacy in Yemen's defense industry

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT— The late Lieutenant General Mohammed Nasser Al-Ghamari (Sayyed Hashem) stands as one of the most distinguished leaders in modern Yemeni history—a symbol of steadfastness in the face of American-Israeli-Saudi aggression against Yemen.

Al-Ghamari was not merely a military commander; he was a comprehensive school of faith, awareness, and strategic thought who embodied the Quranic identity of the Ansarullah movement in word and deed, ultimately earning the honor of martyrdom.

Sayyed Abdul-Malik Badr al-Din al-Houthi described him as "a great jihadist leader who combined honesty, sincerity, and insight—a model of the faithful fighter who sold himself to God seeking His pleasure."

In his eulogy, delivered Tuesday afternoon, Sayyed al-Houthi offered deep insights into the martyr's strategic contributions and enduring legacy.

Will Netanyahu resume Gaza genocide?

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The New York Times reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could end the Gaza ceasefire and return to the genocidal war against Palestinians.

The occupying regime's prime minister has been pushing the narrative that Hamas's continued delay in returning all the bodies of Israeli captives constitutes a violation of the Gaza truce agreement.

Since the ceasefire began on 10 October, the remains of 15 Israeli captives have been returned by Hamas. Another 13 still need to be recovered in Gaza.

The return of captive bodies was always expected to be a key component of the truce agreement. Prior to signing the ceasefire, Hamas had informed mediators of the significant challenges involved in recovering and returning the bodies. This means the occupying regime's government was made aware of potential delays and agreed to the truce with the understanding that the handover of deceased hostages could take considerable time.

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Iranian physician grabs 2024 Kuwait Prize for control of NCD

TEHRAN – Majid Ghayour Mobarhan, an Iranian professor at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, has won the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Administered by the World Health Organization (WHO), the prize acknowledges the work of well-known scientists who have made outstanding contributions to prevention, control, or research in one or more of the following disease groups: cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

Mobarhan has received the prize for 'Predicting Cardiovascular Disease in the MASHAD Cohort Study', which is known as one of the leading health projects in Asia. Prediction of cardiovascular risk factors can help in early diagnosis, decision-making, and treatment of high-risk patients, the health ministry website reported. ▶ Page 7

Exclusive Interview

Iran-China relations through ages: an interview with National Museum director

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Opportunities for diplomacy thwarted by U.S. demands: Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has emphasized Tehran's continued commitment to diplomacy despite repeated setbacks caused by "excessive demands" from the United States.

Speaking upon his arrival to Mashhad city for participation in the second Regional Conference on Provincial Diplomacy on Wednesday, Araghchi stressed that while opportunities for an agreement have arisen, Washington's uncompromising stance has repeatedly derailed progress.

"There was an opportunity for an agreement, but the United States' excessive demands prevented it," he said. Araghchi added that recent contact had been made through intermediaries by U.S. negotiator Wittkoff, but he underscored that Iran's position remains firm. ▶ Page 3



Exclusive Interview

'No military solution to Iran nuclear issue — only diplomatic multilateralism,' argues Marc Finaud

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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.

A Strong economy is key to navigating sanctions

In a recent article, Etemad addressed the ongoing sanctions against Iran and the challenges of overcoming them. October 18, 2025, marked the final day of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2231. While some countries supported Iran's call to lift sanctions, the reality suggests that their shadow continues to loom over the nation. The reactivation of sanctions through the snapback mechanism—initiated by the E3—served as a final blow, underscoring that the issue remains unresolved. Iran currently faces three layers of sanctions: those imposed by the United Nations, reinstated via the snapback mechanism, unilateral sanctions from the United States, and additional restrictions from the European Union and the United Kingdom. Sanctions have become strong instruments for obstructing a nation's path to development and isolating it from the global community. Confronting these pressures demands more than resilience; it requires strong crisis management and a stable economic foundation. Only through sound governance and strategic planning can Iran mitigate the impact of sanctions, safeguard its currency, and prevent economic collapse.

Ham Mihan: The strategic impact of Chinese and Russian support for Iran

In an interview with international affairs analyst Hassan Beheshtipour, Ham Mihan explored the role of Chinese and Russian support in countering sanctions against Iran. Beheshtipour described the international consensus on reinstating sanctions as one of the most fragile alignments the global community has seen in recent years. Russia has made its position clear: it not only rejects the renewed resolutions but considers them expired. Consequently, Moscow does not view itself as obligated to enforce them. China has also expressed opposition, though it has yet to officially declare non-compliance. Nevertheless, indications suggest that Beijing is unlikely to implement the sanctions in practice. Iran, according to Beheshtipour, can partially manage the situation by engaging diplomatically with countries to discourage enforcement. In this context, relations with neighboring states such as Turkey and the UAE—both of which have aligned with the implementation of the resolutions—require careful attention. Ultimately, the analyst emphasized that domestic economic reform is essential. Strengthening Iran's internal economic structure is a critical step toward reducing the

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“The allegations made concerning Germany's involvement in the conflict between Israel and Iran in the Tehran Times article are baseless and entirely unfounded,” the press department quoted an unnamed spokesperson for the Federal Foreign Office as saying.

Following the response, we contacted our

impact of external sanctions and enhancing national resilience.

Iran: The 14th government's active economic diplomacy

Iran has highlighted the strategic orientation of Iran's 14th government toward active economic diplomacy, both regionally and globally. The newspaper argues that this approach is increasingly visible in the evolving landscape of regional economic cooperation. One notable example is Iran's engagement with Turkey, where trade and economic policymaking have been intelligently aligned with neighborhood dynamics. This synergy has produced tangible outcomes, not only in export and import figures but also in Iran's broader economic bargaining power and management of foreign exchange resources. The experience underscores a critical insight: while distant markets may offer allure, they cannot substitute the potential of neighboring economies. Iran's recent outreach to African nations further illustrates this shift. Following a specialized trade exhibition, the volume of Iran's commerce with the continent has more than doubled. This surge signals Africa's potential to become a major economic partner, provided that Iran pursues long-term, strategically grounded economic diplomacy and trade planning.

Khorasan: Poland's alignment with Western pressure

Khorasan examined recent remarks by the Polish Foreign Minister during a meeting at the London Parliament, in which he alleged that drones used by Russia in attacks on Polish territory were manufactured in Iran. According to Polish officials, these claims appear to reflect internal political pressures within NATO and the European Union rather than verified intelligence. In recent years, Warsaw has positioned itself as the “front line of Western security,” often amplifying perceived threats from Russia and Iran. Analysts suggest that the drone allegation is part of a broader pattern of orchestrated Iranophobia, employed by certain Western actors as a tool of political leverage. Ultimately, Khorasan argues that Poland's decision to align with anti-Iran narratives may yield short-term diplomatic favor among Western allies, but risks long-term damage to its international credibility and the historically cordial relations between Poland and Iran.

original sources, who provided us with new information regarding the German military personnel deployed in Israel during the regime's aggression against Iran.

According to the sources, two main groups of German forces were stationed in occupied Palestine. One group consisted of retired officers, primarily motivated by financial gain. The second group comprised active, younger officers whom the German government permitted to gain experience through the Iran-Israel war. Germany, having not participated in a war since WWII, is allegedly concerned about its military's competency in the event of a conflict with Russia.

Both groups of military personnel, however, decided it was not worth it to stay in the occupied territories after Israel faced heavy missile attacks by Iran during the war—an eventuality they had failed to anticipate.

Intelligence Ministry releases photos of, info on ‘Iran International’ contributors in Israel

TEHRAN –The Iranian Intelligence Ministry has released photos of the building housing the UK-based anti-Iran TV network Iran International, along with pictures of homes belonging to the staff of the terrorist-designated media outlet and Zionist guests in the occupied territories.

Based on the ministry's report, a number of individuals working at or with the anti-Iran TV network have been identified, and images of their residence as well as general information about them have been published.

The names mentioned in the report include Babak Es'haqi, a reporter and journalist linked to the terrorist organization; Miir Javdanfar, and Iran and Israeli analyst residing in Tel Aviv; Mensheh Amir, a Persian-speaking commentator introduced by the Mossad to speak against Iran, and Kamal Panhasi, the Israeli military's Persian-speaking spokesperson.

Iran has designated “Iran International” as a terrorist entity as it serves as a forum for separatist and terrorist movements.

As a case in point, Iran International gave airtime to the terrorists involved in the 2018 deadly terror attacks in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz as part of its anti-Iran propaganda. It also routinely features terrorists from the Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK) Organization, which has killed at least 18,000 Iranians in the past 4 decades.

During the 2022 protests that escalated into riots in Iran, the media outlet encouraged Iranians to attack security forces, vandalize public property, and commit acts of violence. One guest suggested that civilians should approach security forces, take them hostage, seize their weapons, and then use those weapons to kill and



capture more security personnel. The hosts routinely praised such recommendations as actions that could help people achieve “freedom.”

Most recently, during the 12-day Israeli-imposed war of aggression against the Iranian people, Iran International once again positioned itself as a media ally of the Israeli regime — triggering widespread condemnation from political, cultural, and artistic figures across Iran.

Many analysts argue that the Israeli regime launched a hybrid warfare consisting of intelligence, military, and media warfare against Iran during this period. In this multifaceted campaign, Iran International functioned as a critical cog in the Zionist regime's propaganda machine, targeting public opinion through media warfare.

Iran International targeted the minds of the Iranian people using various psychological warfare tactics in order to complement Israel's military agenda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people.

In order to advance its objectives, conceal its vulnerabilities, and deflect from the blows it suffered during ‘Operation True Promise 3’, the Israeli regime sought to initiate a new phase—

one aimed at inflicting cognitive and psychological damage on the Iranian public.

Just as the Israeli regime employed Persian-speaking military spokespersons, they clearly recognized the strategic value of a Persian-language satellite channel to influence Iranian public opinion and foment confusion within the Iranian society.

The UK-based outlet is known for blatant endorsement of terrorism, separatism, and espionage

Iran International played a key role in legitimizing the Israeli military assault on the Iranian people by amplifying Tel Aviv's fabricated justifications for the unprovoked, unlawful and brutal aggression.

One major strategy involved sensationalizing unfounded allegations regarding Iran's nuclear program—portraying the country as a so-called “nuclear threat” through repeated reports and news segments.

Another tactic was the deliberate attempt to dissociate Iranian

war casualties from the broader civilian population, thereby portraying attacks on non-combatants as somehow justified due to alleged affiliations with state institutions. This narrative was propagated despite official forensic statistics confirming the identities of at least 935 martyrs, including 38 children and 102 women—some of whom were pregnant.

Nevertheless, this terrorist network masquerading as a news outlet persistently turned a blind eye to the civilian victims of the Zionist aggression and instead made attempts to normalize and justify the imposed war on the Iranian nation.

The psychological operations of Iran International were designed to instill fear and hopelessness within the Iranian public.

These attempts included exaggerating the scale of enemy attacks, emphasizing Iran's alleged vulnerability against advanced military hardware, spreading disinformation about shortages of basic necessities and food supplies, and inciting people to abandon their jobs or leave their hometowns.

Such tactics aimed at generating a sense of fear and despair—which, during wartime, can significantly undermine public morale and national resilience. When people begin to feel that the future is uncertain and their security is at risk, their motivation to resist and stand firm diminishes.

It also tried to intensify ethnic divides with the aim of turning them into flashpoints for internal conflict, aggrandize political and cultural differences within Iranian society to undermine unity in times of national crisis, and continue to highlight the fractures that no longer exist.

‘No military solution to Iran nuclear issue — only diplomatic multilateralism,’ argues Marc Finaud

Former French foreign ministry spox underscores necessity of multilateral agreements for lasting peace

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN– In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Marc Finaud, Senior Advisor at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and former spokesperson for the French Foreign Ministry, offered his expert analysis on France's recent move to activate the JCPOA “snapback” mechanism, reinstating UN sanctions on Iran. He also explored the wider diplomatic and strategic implications for Europe and the broader West Asia.

Finaud shed light on the growing frustrations within the “E3” — France, Germany, and the UK — amid their challenges in bridging the divide between Iran and the United States following Washington's 2018 withdrawal from the nuclear deal. He examined the delicate balance Europe seeks to maintain between asserting its independent policy agenda and navigating pressures from Washington, all against the backdrop of Iran's strengthening ties with Russia and China.

Discussing the future of nuclear diplomacy, Finaud emphasized that a lasting solution requires a genuinely multilateral framework, potentially incorporating regional actors to foster trust and stability. Reflecting on the JCPOA's complex history, he offered valuable insights into lessons learned and outlined pragmatic steps for Iran and Europe to reduce nuclear risks and preserve the path for renewed negotiations.

The following is the text of the interview:

France, along with Germany and the UK, recently activated the JCPOA's snapback mechanism, restoring UN sanctions on Iran due to what they call nuclear violations. How do you assess



Inside an Iranian nuclear site before June 2025 strikes by US

the strategic rationale for this snapback move, and in your view, what are its likely diplomatic outcomes for Europe and Iran?

Apparently, there was some frustration within the “E3,” who initiated the JCPOA, due to their failure in mediating between Iran and the United States to solve the crisis resulting from the 2018 Trump withdrawal and the Iranian response in suspending most of the key provisions of the JCPOA, thereby raising suspicions that Tehran's program was no longer entirely peaceful.

With the JCPOA now considered functionally expired according to Resolution 2231's time limits, do you see any realistic path for reviving a multilateral nuclear agreement with Iran or, alternatively, a new diplomatic architecture for non-proliferation in the region?

The Israeli and US military strikes against Iran's nuclear program demonstrated that there is no military solution to the crisis, only a diplomatic one. Trump, apparently, gave preference to a bilateral agreement while the Europeans,

Russia, and China would prefer a multilateral agreement, with a role for the UN Security Council and the IAEA. Alternatively, there could be a more regional agreement with the Arab countries and possibly Turkey, that would provide some form of mutual trust and stability and contribute to regional non-proliferation.

To what extent do you think Europe's recent decision to trigger the snapback mechanism reflects a genuine independent policy choice versus alignment with US pressure?

It is clear that the US could not activate the “snapback” on its own, no longer being a participant in the JCPOA. Perhaps the Europeans wanted to placate the US to avoid being affected by secondary sanctions or being sidelined in case of a bilateral agreement. This could also be some form of compensation towards Israel after being critical of the war against Gaza.

Given the evolving geopolitical context with Russia and China's positions, how does that affect Europe's ability to act autonomously on Iran?

Iran understandably now gives preference to its strategic relations with Russia and China and no longer trusts the Europeans. However, in the long run, if there is a resolution to the crisis, it would be in Tehran's interest to restore relations with the EU because of the potential in trade and investment with the largest economic bloc in the world.

Looking back at the entire trajectory from the 2002 E3-Iran talks to today's breakdown, what are the key lessons to be drawn for future multilateral agreements involving rivals and powers with differing priorities?

The JCPOA has been considered by many as a successful model of diplomatic multilateral negotiation made of mutual concessions and benefits, with the lifting of sanctions acting as an incentive while imposing sanctions had failed to achieve their political goals that was a change in behavior by Iran.

Given today's diplomatic stalemate, what practical steps would you recommend, both for Iran and for France/EU, to reduce nuclear risks and keep the door open for future negotiations?

There should be renewed talks, preferably confidential to avoid public opinion or media pressure, aiming at a new agreement based on reciprocity and mutual concessions. The only way for Iran to obtain sanctions relief would be to give verifiable assurances that its nuclear program is only peaceful, including displaying full transparency about the peaceful applications of its current or future highly enriched uranium, especially now that Russia offered to build new reactors using nuclear fuel supplied by Moscow.

New Tehran-Baghdad alignment ends Israel’s safety in Iraqi skies

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – The United States is doubling down on efforts to pressure Iraq into distancing itself from Iran—a nation with which it shares a nearly 1600km border, religious ideologies, and centuries of history—as Iraqis simultaneously work to curb U.S.-Israeli violation of Iraqi airspace.

In a phone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Baghdad must further decouple from Iran economically, and also move to disarm Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), forces that consider themselves part of the Iran-allied Axis of Resistance and spear-headed Iraq’s fight against Daesh terrorists in the 2010s.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration said it was ending a sanctions waiver that had allowed Baghdad to receive electricity from Tehran, initially set to remain until 2028, in line with his “maximum pressure” policy against Iran. The move exacerbated the country’s long-standing electricity crisis and spurred protests in various cities and villages over the summer.

The official State Department readout of the phone conversation stated that Rubio told Al-Sudani the PMU “pilfer Iraqi resources for Iran,” without explaining how or when such an act could occur, given Washington’s full control over Iraq’s oil money. Notably, U.S.-based media outlets simultaneously tell Iranian people



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larjani (R) and Iraq's National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji attend a press conference in the Iranian capital of Tehran on October 20, 2025.

that their money is being stolen and funneled to Iraq.

The U.S. has already succeeded in compelling the al-Sudani government to exert pressure on PMU forces. This included forcing the Iraqi parliament to rescind two bills: one redefining the PMU’s structure, and another addressing the forces’ retirement benefits.

According to Mohadeseh Rezayi, an expert on Iraqi affairs, the U.S. pressure on Iraq extends beyond merely pressuring Iran economically and ideologically. In light of events in Syria and Washington’s continued pressure against Hezbollah in Lebanon, this American effort also seeks to pave the way for easier Israeli access in the future.

“The United States wants to redraw the maps and geopolitics of West Asia for Israel, a fact both

Israelis and Americans have admitted numerous times,” Rezayi explained. In Iraq, the primary obstacle to an unfettered Israeli presence is a local military possessing deterrence power. One of the most formidable components of Iraq’s military is the PMU, which played a crucial role in clearing the country of Israeli-backed Daesh terrorists during the group’s prime, when it aspired to establish a homogenous caliphate in Iraq and Syria.

Washington is also anticipated to prohibit Iraq from purchasing Iranian gas in the future, a measure that would further destabilize the nation and grant the White House greater control over the Iraqi government. “Iraq’s oil revenues are deposited in an account maintained at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The Fed subsequently auctions these

dollars to international and Iraqi banks, which, in turn, provide dinars. This mechanism empowers the U.S. Treasury to freeze or delay these transactions. An Iraqi government experiencing financial distress and internal difficulties would be more inclined to accede to Washington’s demands,” the expert stated.

The phone call between Rubio and al-Sudani occurred concurrently with Iraq’s National Security Advisor, Qasim al-Araji, being in Tehran for meetings with top Iranian security, political, and military officials. During these discussions, the Iranians appeared primarily concerned about reports of U.S.-Israeli use of Iraqi soil during the 12-day war against Iran in June. Al-Araji assured the Iranian officials that Iraq considers Iran’s security “its own” and would do everything to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a conference in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the meetings with al-Araji had been positive and constructive. “The main focus of my conversation with Mr.al-Araji was security. We talked about how we can better implement our previously signed security agreements,” the top diplomat stated. “In my opinion, both Iran and Iraq are ready to take further steps. Our Iraqi friends have explicitly told us that they will not allow Iran’s enemies to use Iraqi [air] space.”

Three Iranian domestic satellites scheduled for launch by March 2026

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA), Hassan Salarieh, announced that Iran plans to simultaneously launch three domestically built satellites by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2026).

The move is seen as a significant step in the country’s expanding space program and highlights the growing capabilities of its national launch technology.

In an interview on Tuesday, Salarieh emphasized that these satellites, designed for scientific, communications, and Earth observation purposes, will be carried into orbit by Iran’s new generation of multi-payload launch vehicles. “This simultaneous launch demonstrates our ability to reliably deploy multiple satellites at once, marking a major milestone for Iran’s space industry,” he said during a press briefing on Tuesday.

According to the ISA head, all three satellites have completed final assembly and pre-launch testing. The operation will utilize Iran’s

domestic launchers, which have been upgraded to carry heavier payloads into higher orbits. This development reflects Tehran’s long-term strategy to achieve greater self-reliance in space technology while expanding scientific and commercial applications.

The announcement comes amid growing regional and international attention to Iran’s space capabilities. Analysts note that the country’s space program, has the potential to bolster national security and technological innovation.

ISA has stated that the three satellites will have distinct roles: one for high-resolution Earth observation, another for scientific experiments in microgravity, and a third for communications and data relay. The simultaneous launch approach not only improves efficiency but also allows the country to test the interoperability of its new launcher systems under real-world conditions.

Salarieh also highlighted Iran’s commit-

ment to peaceful uses of outer space, noting that all satellites are intended for civilian and scientific applications. “Our mission is to advance knowledge, technology, and innovation in space for the benefit of the Iranian people,” he said.

He also announced that the Chabahar National Space Base is being prepared for its first test launch in the coming months, adding that due to its low latitude, the Chabahar base is considered the best location in the country for accessing key orbits, including the equatorial orbit.

The upcoming launch is part of a broader initiative to expand Iran’s satellite fleet and strengthen its space infrastructure, including the development of additional ground stations, satellite manufacturing facilities, and launch vehicle production lines. Officials say these efforts will provide Iran with sustained access to space and support national scientific, educational, and industrial objectives.

Opportunities for diplomacy thwarted by U.S. demands: Araghchi

From Page 1 ▶ “The Islamic Republic of Iran is a nation of peace and diplomacy. We have always demonstrated our commitment to dialogue, but that does not mean we will compromise on the rights of the Iranian people,” Araghchi stated. He further emphasized that Iran will pursue diplomatic avenues wherever its national interests can be safeguarded.

“However, the other side has repeatedly shown that it does not adhere to diplomatic principles,” he said. According to Araghchi, this year alone, after five rounds of indirect negotiations, the United States effectively joined Israel’s military attacks against Iran, further complicating any potential agreement. A subsequent opportunity for progress during talks in New York also faltered due to Washington’s “excessive demands.”

Following his arrival, Araghchi participated in the second Regional Conference on Provincial Diplomacy, held in Mashhad and also attended by the Speaker of the Parliament. Addressing the conference, he highlighted the importance of regional economic

partnerships.

“Neighboring countries enable Iran to breathe under sanctions,” Araghchi said. He noted that Iran exports more to a single neighboring country than it does to the entire European continent, underscoring the strategic importance of regional cooperation in sustaining the Iranian economy.

Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also addressed the conference, highlighting Iran’s evolving foreign policy strategy.

“Iran can align itself with China and Russia in confronting unilateralism,” he said, adding that nations around the world will no longer bow to American monopoly. Qalibaf pointed to the opposition of two permanent UN Security Council members—China and Russia—to the so-called snapback mechanism as evidence of a new global order emerging, in which unilateral actions by the West are increasingly challenged.

He further noted that Iran now shares a common understanding with its neighboring countries and strategic partners on re-



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks during the second Regional Conference on Provincial Diplomacy in Mashhad on October 22, 2025.

gional issues. “Synergy will grow through the expansion of provincial diplomacy. Today, more than ever, we must think ahead and create opportunities for the Iranian nation,” Qalibaf said.

These statements come amid heightened tensions following recent moves by Western powers. In late August, the UK, France, and Germany triggered the so-called snapback mechanism at the UN, effectively reimposing sanctions that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear agreement. Tehran has rejected this move as unlawful, citing

Washington’s withdrawal from the deal and Europe’s subsequent failure to uphold its commitments as the root cause of the current standoff.

Efforts by Russia and China to secure additional time for diplomacy at the UN Security Council in September were unsuccessful, clearing the way for the Western push. On September 29, the European Council announced that sanctions previously lifted under the 2015 deal had been reinstated.

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

Iran goalball defend title after addressing 2024 weaknesses: Doosti

TEHRAN – Iran goalball head coach Bahman Doosti Vala said that the team succeeded in defending their title at the 2025 IBSA Asia-Pacific Goalball Championships after addressing their weaknesses from the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Iran defeated China 4-2 in the final to defend their championship.

Team Melli defeated Saudi Arabia 6-4, Australia 5-1, Thailand 5-1, Iraq 8-3, and Thailand 3-2 on their way to the final.

“We have addressed the weaknesses we had in the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris and converted them into the team’s strengths. All of those shortcomings turned into opportunities for us in the 2025 IBSA Asia-Pacific Goalball Championships,” Doosti said in an exclusive interview with Tehran Times.

“The best defense and the most technical player in this competition were Iranian. As you know, Asian teams are among the world’s top teams; nevertheless, we defended our championship in Islamabad.

“From now on, we are preparing for the 2026 World Championship, which will be held in June in Hangzhou. The World Championship serves as a qualifier for the 2028 Paralympic Games, and the top two teams will secure their berths at the Games,” he concluded.

Khosravi Vafa attends OCA’s Executive Board meeting

TEHRAN – Head of Iran’s National Olympic Committee (NOC) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa attended the 101st Executive Board Meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Bahrain.

The OCA has pledged its full support to the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the organizing committee of the 3rd Asian Youth Games (AYG).

The 2025 AYG in Bahrain officially opened on Wednesday evening, marking the start of the major youth sporting spectacle featuring over 4,300 athletes competing across 253 events in 24 sports.

The Philippines is seeking hosting rights for the Asian Youth Games (AYG), with the next taking place in 2029.

Kazemi’s condition remains unclear amid transfer plans

TEHRAN - Saber Kazemi, the talented Iranian volleyball star currently playing for Qatari club Al Rayyan, remains in a critical and uncertain health condition after falling into a coma in Qatar under unclear circumstances.

Despite widespread concern and numerous reports, no official detailed explanation has been provided by either the Iranian Volleyball Federation or Al Rayyan regarding the cause of this tragic incident.

Kazemi, 26, who recently joined Al Rayyan and was actively participating in team training sessions, was hospitalized in Qatar following a sudden and severe deterioration in his health last week.

Initial reports suggested the possibility of an electrical accident at a private swimming pool near his residence, but no confirmation has been issued, and authorities reportedly limited information disclosure. The exact details of what happened to Kazemi are still unclear.

According to insiders, Kazemi has been kept in an induced coma since the incident. Medical experts treating him in Qatar have described his condition as serious and fragile, with little optimism for a full recovery. While no official

confirmation has been made regarding permanent brain or heart damage, it is understood that the severity of his injuries is profound.

The Iranian Volleyball Federation has announced plans to transfer Kazemi to Tehran for further treatment, with the process expected to take two to four days.

Kazemi’s family, after negotiations facilitated by the federation and Qatari authorities, traveled to Doha and initially decided to keep him there for treatment. However, they recently reversed their decision and expressed the desire to have him transferred to Iran. Preparations are underway to admit him to one of Tehran’s top hospitals, where he will continue his medical care under Iranian specialists.

A leading Iranian neurosurgeon commented on the case, highlighting the uncertainty surrounding Kazemi’s condition. He explained that without thorough examinations, it is impossible to conclusively determine whether Kazemi suffered a heart attack, brain injury, or electrical shock. The doctor also confirmed that transporting Kazemi via air ambulance is feasible and poses no insurmountable risk given the current medical precautions.

The silence from both Kazemi’s club and the Iranian federation regarding specific details has only fueled speculation and anxiety among the fans and the sports community. The lack of transparent communication, combined with conflicting reports, leaves many questions unanswered about the true nature of Kazemi’s condition.

As the volleyball world watches and waits anxiously, the hope remains that Saber Kazemi, a promising young talent and national icon, will recover. Yet, with the present ambiguity and his fragile status, the path ahead remains uncertain. His transfer to Tehran marks a new chapter in his ongoing battle for health, one watched closely by supporters hoping for a miracle.

Greco-Roman wrestlers win golds at 2025 U23 World Wrestling

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers Gholamreza Farokhi and Fardin Hedayati claimed gold medals at the 2025 U23 World Wrestling Championships on Tuesday.

World champion Farokhi and defending champion Hedayati, who celebrated his birthday as well on Tuesday, won gold medals in dominant fashion at 87kg and 130kg respectively.

“I was able to win two back-to-back tough matches at the World Championships and bring home two gold medals,” Farokhi said. “These were high-level competitions.”

Farokhi, a gold medalist at 82kg in Zagreb, moved up to 87kg for Novi Sad but had no troubles in switching weights. As he did in Zagreb, Farokhi brought his best game in par terre and rolled to his second gold in one month after a 9-0 victory in the final against Ivan Chmyr of Ukraine, his fifth technical superiority victory.

After being put on top in par terre, Farokhi launched a trap-arm gut and turned Chmyr four times for the win. Ukraine threw one of those ever increasing challenges for no reason but lost it to add one more point to Farokhi’s score.

“When you move up a weight class, the opponents are definitely stronger and tougher,” Farokhi said. “It was a good experience, and it gave me a better sense of how I can perform at 87 kg -- an Olympic weight class”

Hedayati, who has not lost an international bout since his 2022 U20 World Championships finals loss, showed why he will dominate the 130kg weight class for years to come.

Up against Razmik Kurdyan (ARM) in the final, Hedayati began with takedown on the edge for two points.

Kurdyan was put in par terre and from there Hedayati turned him twice to extend his lead to 7-0. With just 23 seconds left before the break, Hedayati scored a stepout to finish the final 8-0 and claim his second straight U23 world title.

Iran's consul general in Dubai meets with heads of chamber of commerce, aviation authority

TEHRAN – Iran's Consul General in Dubai Alireza Mahmoudi met with Mohammed Ali Rashid Lootah, Secretary-General of the Dubai Chambers, and Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, to discuss ways to facilitate trade and air travel between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

During his meeting with the Dubai Chambers secretary-general, Mahmoudi emphasized expanding commercial cooperation between Iranian and Emirati business communities.

The talks focused on streamlining customs and logistics processes, leveraging both sides' strategic market capacities, and promoting direct engagement between private-sector traders to boost bilateral commerce.

In a separate meeting with Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum — who also serves as CEO of Emirates Airline and Chairman of Dubai Holding — discussions centered on enhancing air transport links, addressing operational challenges, and supporting Iranian business activities in Dubai.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening economic cooperation, particularly in aviation and logistics, as part of broader efforts to strengthen bilateral economic relations.

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) for planning and international affairs, Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$7.2 billion to the United Arab Emirates in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

Akbarpour said that the UAE was Iran's third top export destination in the previous year.

Exporting commodities valued at \$21.9 billion to Iran, the United Arab Emirates was Iran's top source of non-oil import in the previous year, the official further added.

Iran and the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expanding economic cooperation in a variety of areas at the end of the two countries' third Joint Economic Committee meeting in May 1, 2024.

The MOU was signed by former Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and UAE's Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, who co-chaired the joint meeting.

During the mentioned committee meeting, the two sides stressed the need for further expansion of economic cooperation between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Bazrpash said: "We have held the joint committee between the two countries after 10 years, which is an opportunity to develop the commercial and economic relations between the two countries."

"The UAE, as Iran's second biggest trade partner, has great strategic importance for us", the minister said.

Referring to the location of Iran and the UAE in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Bazarpash said: "Access to the markets of the north and south can create an opportunity for the two countries to cooperate."

In the end, the minister emphasized solving the banking and monetary problems between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade relations.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri for his part underlined the importance of the meeting, saying: "Holding today's meeting shows the development and expansion of economic relations between the two countries. After China, the UAE has the largest amount of trade relations with Iran. The trade value of the two countries has reached 27 billion dollars and many Iranian companies are established in the UAE."

"Creating new opportunities for transportation and banking cooperation is one of the achievements of this commission," the official said.

Referring to the performance of the UAE



government in the field of investment, the official said: "The approval of the law on the formation of foreign companies and the government's support for companies that operate in the field of new energies has created a good opportunity for business with the UAE."

The 3rd Iran-UAE Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in Abu Dhabi from April 30 until May 1, 2024.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran has proposed the formation of a joint working committee between its Chamber of Commerce and the UAE Chambers Confederation to capitalize on the re-export potential of Iranian products through the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking at the Iran Expo 2025 event, in late April, Ghadir Ghiafeh, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), said the initiative would help streamline trade and improve alignment with global standards. "To fully benefit from the UAE's logistics and re-export infrastructure, a formal committee should be created between our chambers," he told the Secretary General of the UAE Chambers Federation.

Ghiafeh also announced plans to establish the ICCIMA's first overseas Trade and Investment Development Agency office in the UAE, with the aim of attracting foreign investment and enhancing joint cooperation. He added that similar offices would be set up in other countries over time.

Highlighting the need to improve Iranian traders' access to UAE business networks, he called for the official introduction of a UAE Chamber representative in Iran and reiterated Iran's interest in opening an ICCIMA office in the Emirates. "We have already formed a joint Iran-UAE chamber in Iran, but its counterpart in the UAE is essential for advancing private sector collaboration," he said.

Ghiafeh also emphasized the potential of B2B meetings between Iranian trade delegations—many of whom travel to the UAE annually—and their Emirati counterparts, urging the UAE Chamber to facilitate such events.

He further called for the implementation of existing trade agreements through coordinated action between the two chambers, and said the proposed working committee could help ensure Iranian goods meet international standards with UAE support. "There is ample room for joint investment, and we should actively tap into it," he added.

Hamid Mohammed bin Salem, Secretary General of the UAE Chambers Federation, welcomed the proposal and confirmed he would convey Iran's request to establish a chamber office in the Emirates. "We are ready to facilitate B2B events and support the development of bilateral trade relations," he said.

He noted that private sector players in both countries are highly capable but require structured support through their respective chambers to maximize potential. Bin Salem added that there is significant room for cooperation in sectors such as logistics, customs, transport, and food products.

He concluded by expressing readiness to share the UAE's private sector experience with Iran and emphasized that re-exporting Iranian goods through the UAE is a viable opportunity—provided Iranian traders adhere to international standards.

Iran-Uzbekistan trade being pursued to reach up to \$2b: Uzbek envoy

TEHRAN- The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Iran stated that trade relations between the two countries reached about \$500 million last year, and added: "Considering the agreements between the presidents of the two countries, the goal of increasing this figure to up to \$2 billion is being pursued."

Fariddin Nasriev made the remarks on Wednesday, on the sidelines of the ECO summit during a meeting with the governor-general of Iran's Zanjan province, and expressed his pleasure at being in this province, described Zanjan city (the center of the province) as a beautiful region with high cooperation potential, and thanked the provincial officials for their warm hospitality, while also referring to the history of cultural relations between the two countries

He stated that three months ago, a trade delegation from Khorasan Razavi province traveled to Uzbekistan and very good meetings were held between businesspeople of the two countries, adding: "An official invitation for an Iranian trade delegation to visit Uzbekistan is also being prepared."

The governor-general of Zanjan, during this meeting, referred to the province's unique capacities in various fields and invited the ambassador of Uzbekistan to visit Zanjan's industrial factories and scientific centers.

Senior officials from Iran and Uzbekistan convened in Tehran in mid-May for the 16th session of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, aiming to expand bilateral ties and boost trade to \$2 billion annually.

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad Atabak opened the meeting by acknowledging that the current trade volume between the two countries falls short of their true potential.

He called for a "fundamental transformation" and proposed drafting a practical roadmap to achieve the \$2.0 billion trade target.

Atabak emphasized the need to enhance transport and transit infrastructure, noting Iran's strategic location as a key corridor connecting Uzbekistan to international waters.

He also stressed the importance of improving banking ties,



establishing direct flights, reducing customs tariffs, and developing tools to support economic relations.

Beyond trade, the committee also discussed cooperation in tourism, science, culture, and healthcare.

Atabak pointed to the countries' deep cultural ties and expressed Iran's readiness to play a greater role in tourism, stating that the meeting serves as a platform for comprehensive collaboration.

He voiced hope that operational planning would lead to a "significant leap" in bilateral relations.

In response, Uzbekistan's minister of industry highlighted the favorable conditions for expanding trade between Tehran and Tashkent.

He said the two sides had signed a list of preferential trade goods, calling it a "practical step" toward boosting commercial exchange.

He also announced the official opening of Uzbekistan's Trade House in Tehran, which he said would facilitate trade. The number of joint Iranian-Uzbek companies has grown 2.5 times in the past five years, reaching 261. These companies are active in sectors such as construction, petrochemicals, food, agriculture, and building materials.

The Uzbek minister concluded by reaffirming his country's commitment to broadening economic and trade cooperation with Iran across multiple sectors.

On April 23, Iranian industry, mining and trade minister said that the cooperation between the private sectors of Iran and Uzbekistan will continue at an ac-

celerated pace.

Mohammad Atabak made the remarks in a meeting, at the place of the ministry in Tehran, with an Uzbek trade delegation led by the head of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan (CCI).

Iran, Uzbekistan target 2m tons of rail trade by 2026

During the meeting, the minister emphasized that the perspectives of the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both countries are being reviewed in expert working groups.

He added that several agreed-upon goods with Uzbekistan have been supplied and dispatched by Iran.

The minister further stated that these exchanges and interactions at the level of the private sector in both countries will continue at an accelerated pace. The economic and production capacities of Iran and Uzbekistan fully enable increasing the current level of trade exchanges between the two nations to higher levels.

Also, in a meeting with Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment Shokhrukh Gulamov, at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran on April 20, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh said his country's private sector is ready to pursue joint investments in Uzbekistan and called on Tashkent to implement a reciprocal visa waiver to ease travel and boost tourism

bet ween the two countries.

He said that the mutual visa exemption would facilitate travel for businesspeople and citizens while supporting the development of tourism.

Hassanzadeh further stated that the upcoming preferential trade agreement between Iran and Uzbekistan, expected to be signed next month during the joint economic committee meeting, could raise the level of bilateral trade cooperation.

He added that the current trade volume—nearly \$500 million—does not reflect the true potential of the two countries. "The Iranian Chamber, as the representative of the private sector, is ready to take all necessary steps to boost trade volume," he said.

He emphasized that Iran's government and private sector are committed to expanding relations with all countries, particularly neighbors. "Historical, religious, and cultural ties can pave the way for broader economic, cultural, and academic cooperation," he said.

Hassanzadeh welcomed Uzbekistan's move to scrap a \$400 transit fee for trucks, calling it a positive step for expanding cooperation along the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

The ICCIMA head further reiterated the call for Uzbekistan to lift visa requirements for Iranian citizens, noting this would particularly support collaboration in medical tourism, healthcare services, and pharmaceutical production, where Iran has strong capacities.

Highlighting investment interests, he said Iran's private sector is especially keen to invest in Uzbekistan's textile and garment industries. "As the private sector's representative, the Iranian Chamber seeks the necessary support for these investments," he said.

Hassanzadeh concluded by expressing hope that closer cooperation between the two chambers of commerce would push bilateral trade volume to \$1.0 billion.

In late August, Iran's Steel Producers Association and the Uzbekistan Metallurgy Association signed a memorandum of understanding on joint cooperation in the iron and steel sector, the Iranian association announced.

Kish Expo to host foreign investors in December

TEHRAN – The second edition of Kish Expo, an international investment conference and exhibition, will be held from December 9 to 14 on Kish Island, bringing together foreign investors, diplomats, and business leaders to explore new opportunities in Iran's economy, organizers announced.

Mohammadreza Qaderi, the event's executive secretary, said the exhibition aligns with Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, which targets at least \$200 billion in investment — split evenly between domestic and foreign sources — over the program's five-year period.

He noted that last year's inaugural event hosted delegations from 30 countries, in-

cluding ambassadors and commercial attachés, with participation from 156 foreign companies across 90 exhibition booths and pavilions.

"This year's expo is being organized with government support and in cooperation with the ministries of economy, industry and foreign affairs, along with international organizations such as ECO," Qaderi said.

He added that last year's Kish Expo led to the signing of \$500 million in investment memoranda, of which \$100 million have already been finalized into contracts.

Despite ongoing sanctions, Iran has seen a 70 percent increase in approved foreign investment licenses during the first five

months of this year, reaching \$900 million, compared with \$1.2 billion for the whole of last year. "We expect the figure to reach \$2.0 billion by the end of this year," he said.

Qaderi also compared Iran's investment outlook with China's, noting that Beijing attracts around \$110 billion in foreign investment annually while investing roughly \$90 billion abroad, bringing its total annual cross-border investment activity to about \$200 billion.

He confirmed that Kish Expo 2025 will be held from December 9 to 14 (Azar 18–23) on Kish Island, serving as a regional hub for promoting trade, tourism, and sustainable investment partnerships.

Alumina powder output exceeds 114,000 tons in H1

TEHRAN - Production of alumina powder in Iran reached 114,153 tons in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As IMIDRO announced in late September, Iran will begin implementing its largest alumina production project by the end of this year in the Parsian Special Economic Zone.

The project, part of Iran's Seventh National Development Plan, aims to produce one million tons of alumina powder annually. Its execution will start after securing approvals from relevant authorities and the Supreme Economic Council.

Currently, Iran's only alumina producer is the Jajarm plant, with an annual capacity of about 240,000 tons. IMIDRO said Parsian, located in western Hormozgan province and equipped with a dedicated port, will provide direct access for raw material imports and mineral exports.

Officials said the new plant would sharply reduce reliance on imports, expand domestic production capacity, and mark a major leap for Iran's aluminum industry, cementing its position as a leading producer in West Asia.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

Vance-Netanyahu talks expose US-Israel maneuvers in Gaza

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN – US President Donald Trump has publicly declared that his administration's priority is to end the war in Gaza through a ceasefire. His message has been framed as an effort to stop further escalation, but the visit of Vice President JD Vance to Jerusalem (al-Quds), where he met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, shows that the ceasefire is also being used as a political tool to protect Israel and reshape regional alliances.

Despite the formal agreement, Israel has continued its military operations in Gaza. The Gaza Government Media Office reports that Israel has violated the 20-point US ceasefire plan at least 80 times since October 10. These repeated violations indicate that Israel has accepted the ceasefire politically but not operationally, maintaining pressure on Gaza while allowing the US to control the diplomatic narrative. By doing so, Israel projects compliance internationally while weakening the ceasefire from within.

Trump has said that the ceasefire is the path to ending the war, but Washington's actions suggest



a wider strategic calculation. In his Wednesday meeting with the Israeli premier, Vance described the ceasefire as “a critical piece” in advancing the Abraham Accords, the normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab states. The ceasefire is therefore less about resolving the conflict on the ground and more about consolidating alliances that strengthen Israel's regional position.

Netanyahu defended his acceptance of the ceasefire during the meeting with Vance, stating, “One week they say that Israel controls the United States, a week later they say the United States controls Israel. This is hogwash ... we have a partnership.” He also thanked Trump for his diplomatic efforts in

the region, highlighting the administration's role in smoothing relations with Israel's neighbors. These statements demonstrate how the Israeli government seeks to project strength and legitimacy internationally, even as it faces domestic criticism for agreeing to a truce before defeating Hamas or securing the release of captives.

Netanyahu was under increasing domestic pressure for accepting the ceasefire before achieving his declared military objectives, which included the elimination of Hamas. Many Israeli politicians view this as capitulation to American pressure. “Netanyahu has turned Israel into a US client state,” one Israeli politician told The Washington Post. The ceasefire has become a political

shield for Netanyahu, allowing him to maintain Washington's backing while covering the failure to deliver a decisive military victory.

Experts also point out that the ceasefire framework is structurally weak. The planned international security force does not yet exist, Gaza's governance remains unresolved, and basic humanitarian needs are unmet for more than 2 million Palestinians living under siege. These gaps make the ceasefire more of a temporary political arrangement than a durable peace plan, giving the US and Israel room to maneuver without committing to meaningful changes on the ground.

Trump's push to end the Gaza war through a ceasefire reflects Washington's intent to shape the conflict's outcome rather than address Palestinian rights. For the US, the ceasefire is a strategic instrument. For Israel, it provides cover for military and political failures. For Palestinians, it has brought little real relief or protection. Without enforcement or accountability, the ceasefire risks becoming a pause that preserves the status quo rather than paving the way for a just resolution.

Sanctioning Hamas and the violation of the Palestinians’ right to self-determination

By Reza Sohrabi

TEHRAN – According to international legal instruments, the “right to self-determination” constitutes a peremptory norm (jus cogens) of international law.

The obligation to preserve and observe this right by other actors in the international arena falls within the category of obligations erga omnes (owed to the international community as a whole).

Article 1 common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (adopted in 1966) explicitly states in this regard that: “All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.”

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has also affirmed in numerous cases, including the 2004 Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, that the “right of peoples to self-determination” is now among the obligations erga omnes.

The reflection of the Palestinians’ right to self-determination in various legal instruments

This right is also reflected in United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 1514 and 2625.

Pursuant to Resolution 2625, which was

adopted by members in 1970 under the title “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,” every State has the duty to refrain from any forcible action which deprives peoples, referred to in the elaboration of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, of their right to self-determination, freedom and independence.

Furthermore, states are obliged to “refrain in their international relations from military, political, economic or any other form of coercion aimed against the political independence or territorial integrity of any State.”

Concerning the Palestinian people, in addition to the aforementioned instances, multiple resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council over many years emphasize the applicability of this principle to the Palestinian people.

For instance, the General Assembly explicitly stated in Resolution 3236 in 1974 that “the Palestinian people are entitled to the right to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.”

The Free election of political rulers: An instance of the right to self-determination

Based on the preceding points, it is evident that among the most crucial manifestations of exercising the right to self-determination, including for the Palestinian nation, is possessing

political independence and the free election of their political rulers.

General Assembly Resolution No. A/ES-10/L.30/Rev.1, adopted on May 9, 2024, refers to the following in this context:

“The General Assembly, [...] reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine.”

Discussion regarding Hamas’s lack of political role constitutes Western interference in Palestinian internal affairs

In such circumstances, some states, regardless of their legal obligation to the principle of self-determination, in accordance with the provisions of UN resolutions and the UN Charter, speak of the Hamas group having no role in the future of the Palestinian State.

In this very context, many Western governments, in the “Declarations of Recognition of the State of Palestine” issued this year in response to the Israeli regime's repeated aggressions in Gaza, have explicitly emphasized Hamas's non-role in the future governance of Gaza.

For example, the British government, in a press statement related to the recognition of Palestine and referring to the issue of Hamas, stipulated that “[Hamas] must release all the hostages, agree to an immediate ceasefire, accept that they will have no role in the governance of Gaza and commit to disarmament.”

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

Al-Ghamari’s enduring legacy in Yemen’s defense industry

From page 1 ▶ Among Al-Ghamari's most defining traits was his transformational vision. Rather than confining himself to managing battles, he sought to build national military capabilities—manufacturing weapons, developing missile and drone systems, and thus altering the rules of engagement.

Sayyed al-Houthi highlighted his commitment to achieving self-sufficiency in military production, reducing dependence on external sources, and fostering long-term sustainability.

This vision demonstrated an understanding of a core principle of modern warfare: technological and industrial independence can shift the balance of power, even when facing opponents with superior financial and logistical resources.

Al-Ghamari's efforts led to the emergence of a homegrown defense industry, marking a historic leap for Yemen's resistance forces.

From tactical precision to strategic endurance

Martyr Al-Ghamari combined operational brilliance with strategic depth. He mastered the art of integrated warfare—balancing tactical planning with the management of prolonged campaigns under siege and limited resources.

Sayyed al-Houthi described him as

a leader who transformed constraints into opportunities, achieving “significant leaps” in performance despite ongoing aggression. His approach reflected key operational principles:

Prioritizing operations based on resources and threats;

Delivering concentrated, effective strikes rather than dispersing forces;

Maintaining logistical continuity under blockade;

Adapting terrain and natural elements into defensive assets.

These qualities reflected a doctrine of creative resilience, where innovation replaced abundance and faith replaced fear. His leadership thus became a case study in asymmetric warfare, turning scarcity into strategic advantage.

Human development and doctrinal formation

Al-Ghamari's focus extended beyond weapons to human capital. He invested in developing cadres capable of independent thinking, advanced tactical planning, and leadership under pressure. He understood that machines do not win wars—people do.

Sayyed al-Houthi emphasized that Al-Ghamari helped design training and mobilization programs that produced a new generation of capable fighters, turning the military institu-

tion into a school of resistance that continues to thrive.

His doctrine integrated training, moral education, and ideological conviction, ensuring that military performance was sustained by faith and discipline rather than mere command.

Al-Ghamari's vision of defense was proactive, not passive. He focused on establishing deterrence mechanisms through precision missiles, drones, and locally manufactured weaponry—tools that provided Yemen with a strategic balance on the battlefield.

This combination of resilience and offensive capability reshaped the dynamics of confrontation. It gave the leadership initiative and leverage, not only militarily but politically, allowing Yemen to impose new realities that the aggressors could not easily reverse.

Sayyed al-Houthi stressed that these advancements were not accidents but the result of institutional thinking—a methodology of continuous improvement rooted in faith, discipline, and technical competence.

For Al-Ghamari, war was not an isolated military endeavor but part of a broader political mission. He viewed every operation as a tool to defend sovereignty, preserve national dignity, and strengthen Yemen's political

position.

His understanding of when to advance and when to maintain reflected a rare strategic wisdom that balanced ambition with prudence.

This connection between the military and political fronts ensured that each victory served a larger national purpose rather than temporary tactical gain.

Faith as the foundation of strength

Sayyed al-Houthi underlined that Al-Ghamari's strength was rooted in faith-based discipline. He cultivated moral commitment as a foundation for combat readiness, transforming spirituality into a weapon of endurance. The massive popular and military tributes at his funeral testify to the depth of this moral influence.

Martyr Al-Ghamari left behind a living institution, not merely a memory. His methodology—rooted in self-reliance, strategic innovation, and moral conviction—continues to guide Yemen's path toward independence and strength.

He built more than weapons; he built a doctrine. He shaped not just victories, but a school of leaders and fighters capable of ensuring that the struggle for dignity and sovereignty will never fade.

UN’s top court: Israel must allow UNRWA to operate in Gaza

The United Nations' top court issued a legal opinion Wednesday stating that Israel, as an occupying power, is obligated to work with UN agencies to facilitate humanitarian aid in Gaza, a rebuke of the blockade it imposed on the Palestinian enclave earlier this year, CNN reported.

The International Court of Justice also said in its advisory opinion that the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the main UN body serving Palestinian refugees, has not violated impartiality.

“The occupying power may never invoke reasons of security to justify the general suspension of all humanitarian activities in occupied territory,” Judge Iwasawa Yuji said while delivering the opinion. “After examining the evidence, the court finds that the local population in Gaza Strip has been inadequately supplied.”

The opinion was requested by the UN General Assembly in December after Israel passed laws banning UNRWA, from operating, significantly curtailing its ability to deliver aid to Gaza.

The advisory opinion – aimed at addressing Israel's obligations to the UN, aid organizations and third-party states in the occupied West Bank and Gaza – is non-binding, but it does carry political weight and is expected to increase



pressure on Israel to cooperate with the UN and other aid agencies.

Israel has accused UNRWA of having more than a thousand employees affiliated with Hamas, and of teaching hate against Israel in its schools. UNRWA has repeatedly denied the accusations, saying there are no grounds for “a blanket description” of the whole institution as being infiltrated by Hamas.

Will Netanyahu resume Gaza genocide?

From page 1 ▶ War criminal Netanyahu is facing mounting pressure from his cabinet ministers to resume the genocide, with some threatening to bring down his government if he refuses. A government collapse would end Netanyahu's premiership and leave him vulnerable to ongoing corruption charges, as well as intense scrutiny over the intelligence and security failures that led to the October 7 attacks under his leadership.

Under the truce agreement, Hamas was expected to return all remaining living captives by last Monday, a condition it has fulfilled.

However, the return of the bodies of deceased captives is a much more complicated matter. In many cases, Hamas does not know the exact locations of burial sites. Some captives were held by other resistance groups and killed during Israeli airstrikes, along with those guarding them.

U.S. push to disarm PMF endangers Iraq’s security and stability

From page 1 ▶ The organization has consistently defended Iraq against extremist threats while operating under the Iraqi Ministry of Defense. Following the U.S. assassination of Iranian anti-terror icon General Qassem Soleimani and PMF deputy commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in 2020, calls to expel U.S. forces from Iraq surged, reflecting the PMF's legitimacy as a patriotic security force.

Rubio's push to disarm the PMF is part of a broader U.S. strategy aimed at weakening Iraq's anti-terror capacity under the flawed assumption that this will reduce Iranian influence. In reality, such actions risk undermining Iraq's sovereignty and security, while extending U.S. control over the country's military and political decision-making.

The ironic enigma of the Nobel Peace Prize

By Habib Ahmadzadeh

TEHRAN – In the Eastern lands where I live and teach as a university professor, there is no doubt that Gandhi, Mandela, and their peers stand as emblems of peace — figures I hold up to my students and my children as exemplars to learn from.

This year, the Nobel selection committee conferred the Peace Prize on Maria Corina Machado, a right-wing Venezuelan politician who has stood in full-throated support of the sanctions imposed by the United States and its allies.

Those sanctions have resulted in medicine shortages, runaway inflation, and the flight of millions of Venezuelans — shattering the quiet, everyday lives of ordinary, apolitical citizens.

In an absurdly revealing flourish, scarcely had the laurels been placed upon her head when, apparently anxious to avoid offending a certain petulant figure named Trump, she

reached out to his son and declared that she would dedicate her prize to Trump.

She then messaged Trump himself: should he assist in removing Nicolás Maduro, she promised, privatizing the country's oil companies would fling open the gates to Venezuela's vast natural wealth for the United States.

She next rang Netanyahu, and pledged her wholehearted support for what that man — accused in international forums over atrocities in Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East — is doing to confront what she alleges as Iran's “malign influence.”

Alfred Nobel — the tormented inventor whose creation, dynamite, helped wreak slaughter on tens of thousands and whose conscience drove him to found this prize as a form of atonement — set forth in his will the unambiguous criteria for the Peace Prize:

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

Kazan Kremlin hosting photo exhibit of Shiraz attractions



TEHRAN--The UNESCO-registered Kazan Kremlin, a historical citadel in the city of Kazan, Russia's Republic of Tatarstan, is playing host to a photography exhibition of Shiraz historical, cultural and religious attractions.

IRNA quoted Iranian Consulate General in Kazan as saying that a collection of works by Iranian photographers, including images of cultural and historical monuments, such as the holy shrine of Hazrat Shah Cheragh (AS), Hafezieh, Sa'dieh, Karim Khan Citadel, Takht-e Jamshid (Persepolis), Pasargadae, Vakil Mosque, Nasir al-Molk Mosque, Shiraz Bazaar, and some other natural and cultural landscapes of Fars province, were displayed in this exhibition.

According to this report, the presented works introduced a corner of the rich manifestations of Iranian civilization and art created in Fars province to visitors in the frame of the picture.

This cultural event has been launched by municipalities of Shiraz and Kazan, the cities which have previously signed a sister city

22 tourism units in Ilam receive standard quality certificate

TEHRAN—Head of Ilam Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Farzad Sharifi said that 37 tourism units in the province have entered the standardization cycle, 22 of these units succeeded in receiving a certificate of tourism service quality.

He told IRNA that the extension of the tourist facility activity license depends on the evaluation and receipt of a service quality certificate, and this evaluation is based on criteria such as technical specifications, equipment, human resources, and quality of service provision.

Sharifi added that in line with the implementation of the executive regulations for the creation, modification, completion, grading, and pricing of tourist facilities and monitoring their performance, the province's tourist facilities were examined by 'Ideh Novin Gardeshgari' company and in the presence of a representative of the country's tourism services supervision and evaluation of Tourism Department.

He said that benefiting from standard accommodation and service facilities is one of the foundations of tourism prosperity in Ilam, adding: "Currently, 127 ecotourism units and 143 service, welfare and accommodation complexes are active in the province, each of which helps attract tourists with a localization approach and strengthening the local identity.

Sharifi continued that the province's first three-star rural hotel in Ilam city is ready to

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley

The cultural landscape of Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley offers a microcosmic perspective of the way people have harvested the resources of the high Pyrenees over millennia.

The property is an exceptional geographical unit located in the southeastern part of the Principality of Andorra, in the heart of the Pyrenees. It covers an area of 4,247 ha or a little more than 9% of the national territory. A protective buffer zone of 4,092 ha surrounds this area.

The upper part of the valley is an exposed glacial landscape, with spectacular steep cliffs, rock, and lake glaciers. Lower down, the valley narrows and becomes more wooded, while in its lowest section, the river flows into

agreement.

This exhibition will be open to visitors for one month until November 20 at the Kazan Kremlin Tourist Complex.

Iran's consul general to Kazan, Davoud Mirzakhani, paid a visit to the works on display at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, he pointed to the importance of cultural collaboration between nations. He added that exhibitions of this kind play an effective role in introducing Iranian culture, history, and art and act as a cultural bridge between nations.

He noted that Shiraz, as the shining pearl of Iran, is a symbol of Iranian poetry, literature, and civilization, and holding such an exhibition in Kazan can help develop mutual understanding and expand cultural and tourism cooperation between the two countries.

Mirzakhani expressed the hope that with the continuation of such events, the ground will be prepared to further strengthen cultural and people-to-people relations between Iran and the Republic of Tatarstan.

open, and the project to build a four-star hotel is also underway with more than 20 percent physical progress in Quran Square in Ilam city.

According to Sharifi, this project requires 400 billion rials (\$400,000) of credit from Iran's National Development Fund (NDF), which is being pursued with the support of the governor-general and representatives of Iranian parliament (Majlis).

He also pointed to the increase in the number of tourists on various occasions, especially during Nowruz holidays, and added: "During the Nowruz holidays, more than 360,000 people chose Ilam province as a travel destination, a statistic that is the result of effective media advertising and the extensive activity of virtual activists in introducing the attractions of Ilam."

He noted that the unauthorized tourism centers in the province are also being identified and regulated, and the owners of these centers must register and obtain an activity license in the comprehensive system for monitoring, statistics, and information on tourism facilities called 'JANA' at myst.mcthi.ir.

Sharifi said that this department continuously evaluates tourism facilities and deals with illegal activities with the aim of protecting the rights of tourists and developing healthy tourism in cooperation with the public and regulatory agencies.

a short gorge. A secondary valley, the Perafita-Claror Valley, merges with the Madriu Valley from the South-West.

The Madriu-Perfita-Claror Valley is a microcosm that illustrates the way in which man has harvested mountain resources over the past millennia. It also reflects the persistence of an ancient communal system of land management – four communities own land within the property. Its spectacular glacial landscapes with vast pastures and wooded valleys reflect climate change, the economy and social systems, as well as the persistence of pastoralism and a strong mountain culture.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran-China relations through ages: an interview with National Museum director

By Afshin Majlesi

In an exclusive interview with the director of the National Museum of Iran, we explore the remarkable "Silk Legacy" exhibition currently underway in Tehran. The show offers an unprecedented look at the deep and enduring cultural ties between Iran and China, tracing a connection that stretches back over four millennia.

On Tuesday evening, speaking from his office to the Tehran Times, director Jebrael Nokandeh highlighted some of the exhibition's most significant pieces, shared the historical context behind them, and discussed what this centuries-old relationship means for modern cultural dialogue between Iran and China.

Featuring carefully selected artifacts, Silk Legacy highlights not only the famed Silk Road but also the lesser-known maritime routes that fostered rich exchanges between these two ancient civilizations. From Parthian-era silk textiles to exquisite Safavid-era blue-and-white porcelains commissioned by Shah Abbas himself, the exhibition paints a vivid picture of a friendship built on trade, artistry, and diplomacy.

Below is the full text of the interview in questions and answers:

Tell us about the number of objects on display in this exhibition, as well as some of its key highlights?

The Silk Legacy (aka Armaghan-e Abrisham) exhibition is mainly based on archaeological findings and artistic artifacts being kept at the National Museum of Iran and the Golestan Palace Museum. In total, around 90 objects are on display in this exhibition. These items reflect the long-standing cultural connections between Iran and China, which go back as far as 4,500 years. For instance, during Iran's Bronze Age, there were already interactions with regions of ancient China.

However, the more well-known phase of Iran-China relations began through the route later known as the Silk Road, starting from the Parthian period. Some of the oldest artifacts we have on display are silk textiles discovered at the Germi archaeological site in Ardabil and the Qumis site near Damghan, both important Parthian-era locations. These finds, as presented by the National Museum of Iran, highlight the interactions between the Iranian and Chinese cultural spheres.

For example, in the Sasanian era, we see Sasanian coins that have been unearthed in multiple cities across China, clearly pointing to the wide commercial network and deep trade relations between the two civilizations.

Another highlight of the exhibition is the Sasanian silverware on display. These items were not just luxurious objects; they served a promotional purpose. The Sasanians sent such items to their neighbors and within their territories as symbols of prestige -- essentially functioning like a billboard, promoting their cultural and political identity.

Interestingly, the exhibition also features a collection of blue-and-white Chinese porcelain that was specifically commissioned during the reign of Shah Abbas of the Safavid dynasty. These porcelains were custom-made in imperial kilns in China -- not the ordinary kilns used for local or commercial production. These pieces were produced at the direct request of the Iranian king



and were intended for Iran.

What makes them particularly remarkable is that some of these porcelains bear small inscriptions or seals with the name Shah Abbas, indicating that they were dedicated to the shrine complex of Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili, itself a UNESCO World Heritage.

In fact, the National Museum of Iran houses one of the largest collections of Chinese art in the region, including over 1,000 pieces such as blue-and-white porcelains, celadon wares, and other documents and objects related to this cultural exchange. It is an incredibly valuable and significant collection.

What were the main routes of connection between Iran and China, and what is your assessment of the nature of these cultural, economic, and commercial relations?

In addition to the overland routes, later known as the Silk Road(s), which linked us to China, we were also connected through the maritime Silk Road. In this exhibition, we showcase findings that confirm both types of routes. For example, Chinese coins and ceramics have been discovered at the port of Siraf in southern Iran. These include Chinese coins dating back to the early Islamic period, clearly demonstrating that we had extensive trade relations with China both over land and by sea.

When you study Chinese history and culture, you realize that when the Chinese referred to "the West," they were often referring specifically to Iran. The Persian Empire was what lay to the west of China.

In contrast, for Iranians, the word "West" tends to evoke Europe and beyond, but in the Chinese mindset, Iran is the West. Another interesting point is that the Chinese have historically referred to Iran as "Pars" (Persia).

Culturally, economically, and commercially, the relationship between Iran and China has always been characterized by mutual cooperation and goodwill. China would transfer its wealth through the Iranian imperial corridor toward the Mediterranean and Europe, and these two great civilizations shared friendly, collaborative, and productive relations. The Silk Road was one of the key communication and trade routes connecting them.

If we look deeper into the history of these interactions, how far back do such cultural exchanges go?

The connection between the Iranian plateau and China may date back to prehistoric times, potentially even to the Paleolithic period. There is evidence to suggest that the two regions were in contact in very early eras.

Is there anything else you'd like to add about this exhibition or any future similar exhibitions?

As for the current exhibition, I would say it has the potential to

be expanded on a larger scale, with more items and greater diversity. In the future, we could collaborate with other museums. For instance, Moqaddam Museum in Tehran and organize joint exhibitions. The Moqaddam Museum houses many valuable artifacts that could help portray, on a larger scale, the historical connections between Iran and China.

Many of these artifacts were either exchanged through trade or influenced by cultural interaction-- that is, their designs and production techniques reflect the impact of the other side's traditions and aesthetics. For example, we have celadon wares, blue-and-white porcelain, and other types of ceramics. Some researchers believe that the techniques used to make these objects were adopted from Chinese methods, although this remains a topic of scholarly debate. Nevertheless, it is clear that we had broad cultural interactions.

Interestingly, among the pieces Shah Abbas acquired for the Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili complex, not all were contemporary to the Ming dynasty of that time. He also purchased antique Chinese items, some of which date back two to three centuries earlier than his own era.

These artifacts are still preserved in the Sheikh Safi complex, and it's noteworthy --even for Chinese scholars -- that the Iranian collection contains Chinese pieces that were already considered historical antiques in their own time, with some over 100 years old when they were acquired.

Considering that Mr. Cong Peiwu, the Beijing's ambassador to Tehran, along with a number of diplomats and Chinese citizens, attended the opening ceremony of this exhibition, how can this exhibition be represented in modern Chinese society, and how might it encourage them to visit Iran?

On the opening day, a group of Chinese visitors attended, including four journalists. They had already visited another exhibition at the National Museum, and as they were leaving, their attention was drawn to the Chinese-language labels of the Silk Legacy exhibition. They entered, showed great interest, and were genuinely engaged.

Exhibitions like this serve as a platform for cultural dialogue. They allow us to show that our connection with China is not something new or solely political -- it's a friendship that goes back over 2,000 years, and according to some sources, even 4,500 years. This is not a recent alliance; it's an ancient relationship.

For Chinese visitors, it's a fascinating and meaningful experience. They observe the artifacts with deep interest, and many express how moving it is to see an exhibition about their own heritage in another country. It gives them a sense of national pride.

Even now, when Chinese tour-

ists visit the exhibition, I try to speak with them directly, and I find they are delighted to discover such historical and cultural connections between Iran and China.

At the National Museum of Iran in recent years, we've worked to present our museum's global role. In fact, just a few days ago during my visit to China, I tried to emphasize that Iran is a safe country, one open to dialogue and cultural exchange.

As a senior cultural heritage expert, do you personally have a favorite object in the exhibition?

As the museum director and as a heritage specialist, it's truly difficult for me to choose. For example, should I pick the lustreware tile with the dragon motif from Takht-e Soleyman, or the blue-and-white porcelain from the Sheikh Safi al-Din collection, which is registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List? Or perhaps the artifacts from Siraf, or the silver objects from Garmsi and Qumis?

Each of these items tells a unique story and offers a different interpretation of Iran-China relations. Every one of them opens up a whole world of information about our historical ties.

Take the dragon motif, for instance, during the Ilkhanid period, it was prominently featured in Iranian architecture. Questions like this are hard to answer definitively, so I prefer not to single out any one object, as they are all important in their own right.

Given the current sanctions against Iran, are there any challenges in organizing international exhibitions in the country?

Yes, one of the main challenges in hosting international exhibitions in Iran today is insuring historical objects, which has become difficult due to sanctions. There are only a few specialized companies that provide insurance for such items, and some refuse to work with Iran under pressure from the sanctions regime.

However, we managed to resolve this issue with China, and were able to insure and exhibit the objects we previously sent there.

Over the past year, Iran has held exhibitions in several Chinese cities -- such as "The Glory of Ancient Persia" and "Land of Kindness". To what extent have these encouraged visitors to consider traveling to Iran?

Museum exhibitions are essentially a long-term investment in the future. For example, when a first-grade student in China visits the Splendor of Iran exhibition, they are introduced to the depth and richness of Iranian civilization. You're not just engaging with the present. You're investing in the next 80 years.

Just a few days ago, during an event at the Palace Museum in Beijing, as the museum director presented the centennial history of the institution, the first slide of the presentation featured the Splendor of Iran poster. Directors from various museums that had hosted the exhibition spoke about Iran's ancient civilization and praised the warm public reception in China. In fact, in the first few days of the exhibition, all tickets were sold out in advance.

In conclusion, I can say that the world has a deep interest in Iran's cultural heritage. People want to explore and understand this rich and ancient civilization.

Iran attending Extraordinary Session of World Meteorological Congress

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation led by the head of Meteorological Organization, Sahar Tajbakhsh, is participating in the extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext(2025)) being held from October 20 to 23, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Bringing together 193 members, the session aims to accelerate efforts toward universal early warning coverage by 2027.

It will be centered around the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, ensuring that everyone across the globe is protected by early warning systems by 2027, and exploring the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in weather forecasting, exploring ways to bridge the digital divide between developed and developing nations.

The session also deliberates on the prioritization and funding of the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) core programs and the financial situation and budget of the organization for the biennium 2026–2027.

The event provides a great



opportunity for boosting international synergy and exchanging views on global challenges in the field of meteorology and climatology, as well as strengthening cooperation to improve forecasting and early warning systems around the world, particularly in vulnerable regions.

The four-day session also aims to enhance the scientific, technological, and operational capacities of the WMO and facilitate financial and technical support for less-privileged countries.

Climate change impacts

Iran is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, floods, and droughts, as fires in forests and pastures are mainly a result of climate change.

It affects the intensity and frequency of precipitation. 94 percent of food production in the world depends on soil, but floods result in loss of soil quality, make lands less productive for agriculture, and create deserts.

By affecting rainfall patterns,

pollination, flowering, and even harvest time, climate change has greatly affected the agriculture sector and food security in many countries, most significantly in Iran, according to the country's former permanent representative and ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In some parts of the country, the air temperature has increased by 2 degrees while the highest temperature set in the world amounts to 1.5 degrees, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Hossein Emadi as saying.

Studies have shown that for a degree increase in temperature on the planet, the amount of evaporation rises by 23 percent, which negatively affects the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors.

Climate change also alters plant growth patterns, disturbing the nutritional values of crops, he stressed.

In addition, unexpected effects of climate change, like drought, flood, and landslides, have all affected food security.



Deputy Health Minister, Alireza Raeisi, received the prize on behalf of Mobarhan.

indicators, IRNA quoted Peyman Salehi, deputy science minister, as saying.

Based on the report, the number of highly cited Iranian researchers in the one-year performance index has increased from 2,326 in the Iranian year 1403 (2024-2025) to 2,533 in 1404 (2025-2026).

This figure represents an increase of 207 persons compared to the previous year and clearly demonstrates the improvement in the quality and impact of the country's scientific production in 2024, he explained.

Also, the number of highly cited Iranian researchers in the

career-long index has grown significantly from 1,018 in 1403 to 1,021 in 1404. A five-year trend analysis shows that Iran has achieved this remarkable achievement from 433 in 1399, and has experienced nearly threefold growth in this time period, Salehi added.

“The career-long index refers to a researcher's scientific performance over their entire career and includes the total number of citations received by the researcher's articles through the end of 2024. This index evaluates metrics such as the number of citations, h-index, and the researcher's contribution to collaborative articles.”

Iranian physician grabs 2024 Kuwait Prize for control of NCD

TEHRAN – Majid Ghayour Mobarhan, an Iranian professor at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, has won the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Administered by the World Health Organization (WHO), the prize acknowledges the work of well-known scientists who have made outstanding contributions to prevention, control, or research in one or more of the following disease groups: cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes.

Mobarhan has received the prize for ‘Predicting Cardiovascular Disease in the MASHAD Cohort Study’, which is known as one of the leading health projects in Asia. Prediction of cardiovascular risk factors can help in early diagnosis, decision-making, and treatment of high-risk patients, the health ministry website reported.

He is also the founder of the International United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Center for Health-Related Basic Sciences and Human Nutrition.

The prize consists of a bronze medal and a sum of money.

Deputy Health Minister, Alireza Raeisi, received the prize on

behalf of Mobarhan during the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (RC72) held in Cairo, Egypt, from October 15 to 17. He missed the award ceremony due to a delay in visa issuance.

Davood Khalili, an epidemiologist and professor at the Center for Research on the Prevention of Metabolic Diseases at the Institute of Glandular Sciences at Shahid Bahshti University of Medical Sciences, Afshin Ostovar, a professor at Tehran University of Medical Science, and Fereydon Azizi, the director of Iran's Institute for Endocrine Sciences, won the prize in 2023, 2022, and 2007, respectively.

Iranian researchers in world's top 2% list

The latest international data shows that the presence of Iranian researchers in the top two percent list of the world based on citation indicators continues to trend upward, indicating an improvement in the quality of the country's scientific production.

The reputable “updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators”, which provides updated versions of scientist rankings based on standardized indicators, reported on September 19 that Iran has experienced an unprecedented growth in both one-year performance and scientific career-long

ENGLISH IN USE

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Northern forests store 3.6bcm water annually in Iran

The forests of northern Iran storing 3.6 billion cubic meters of water play an important role in strengthening the aquifers.

Apart from physical care of natural resources, biological protection of these resources is also on the agenda of the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), Abbas Ali Nobakht, deputy head of FRWMO, said on Wednesday.

In this regard, development, rehabilitation and enrichment operations in more than 232,000 hectares of rangeland, desert and forest lands of the country are underway, he added.

Referring to the northern forests of the country, especially Golestan province, as the reserves of the rarest plant species, Nobakht noted that the importance of these natural resources is so high that some European countries requested to receive seeds of plant species of northern Iran.

جنگل‌های شمال ایران سالانه ۳.۶ میلیارد متر مکعب آب ذخیره می‌کنند

جنگل‌های شمال ایران با ذخیره سالانه سه میلیارد و ۶۰۰ میلیون متر مکعب آب نقش بسزایی در تقویت سفره‌های زیرزمینی دارد.

به گزارش ایرنا، عباسعلی نوبخت معاون سازمان جنگل‌ها، مراتع و آبخیزداری روز چهارشنبه بیان کرد: در کنار مراقبت‌های فیزیکی از منابع طبیعی، صیانت و حفاظت بیولوژیکی از این منابع نیز در دستور کار سازمان جنگل‌ها قرار دارد که در این خصوص امسال عملیات توسعه، احیا و غنی‌سازی در بیش از ۲۳۲ هزار هکتار از اراضی مرتعی، بیابانی و جنگلی کشور در حال انجام است.

نوبخت با بیان اینکه جنگل‌های شمال کشور بویژه استان گلستان ذخیره‌گاه نادرترین گونه‌های گیاهی هستند، اضافه کرد: اهمیت عرصه‌ها به حدی بالا است که برخی کشورهای اروپایی در مکاتبه با سازمان جنگل‌ها خواستار دریافت بذر گونه‌های جنگلی شمال ایران هستند.

National Nurses Week to be marked

TEHRAN – National Nurses Week will be observed throughout the country with the theme of ‘Iran, the heart of the nurse’, from October 24 to 30.

During the week, various national programs will be held. The event's main objective is to appreciate hardworking nurses, promote their scientific knowledge, and motivate them to provide better services to patients.

Each day of the week will focus on a specific topic.

Friday, October 24, ‘Nurse, physical and spiritual health’

Saturday, October 25, ‘Nursing, sacrifice and martyrdom’

Sunday, October 26, ‘Nurse, science, research’

Monday, October 27, ‘Nurse, manifestation of knowledge and service at the bedside’. It is the National Day of Nurses, which coincides with the birth anniversary of Hazrat Zeinab (SA). The Day is celebrated annually on Jumada al-Awwal 5 [the fifth lunar month on the Islamic calendar]

Tuesday, October 28, ‘Nursing, honoring senior nurses’

Wednesday, October 29, ‘Community-based nursing, playing a role in promoting public health’

Thursday, October 30, ‘Family, supportive of nursing community’

International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated annually on May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

Building on the success of the 2024 IND theme, The Economic Power of Care, the 2025 theme shifted focus to the health and well-being of nurses. This theme underscored the critical role a healthy nursing workforce plays in strengthening economies, improving health systems, and ensuring better outcomes for communities worldwide.

President honors nurses

In November 2024, President Masoud Pezeshkian underscored the vital role of healthcare professionals in the country, while emphasizing a commitment to fairness and

support for vulnerable populations.

He made the remarks while addressing a ceremony celebrating the contributions of nurses.

In his speech, Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of taking an informed, scientific approach to national issues, highlighting teamwork and collective responsibility.

“We are all one team,” he said, “and if we work together, we can achieve progress.” He expressed gratitude for the work of nurses and other healthcare workers, acknowledging their role in improving the nation's well-being.

The president used the event to articulate his vision of social justice, particularly in healthcare, pledging government support to those often overlooked.

“We’re committed to advancing fairness in our institutions,” Pezeshkian stated, “especially for the underprivileged.

Our duty is to ensure that resources and attention go to those who are most at risk.” He highlighted that the poor and underserved face higher risks of illness and mortality. “These individuals are often unseen and unheard.

They lack resources and education, and it is the government's responsibility, especially through the Ministry of Health, to prioritize their needs over those who have money and influence,” he explained.

Pezeshkian stressed that the government's mission is not only to identify these issues but to work diligently towards solutions. “Our focus is on fairness and support for the disadvantaged,” he said.

“Within the limits of our resources, we are working alongside the healthcare sector to address the challenges facing these communities.”

Through his speech, President Pezeshkian reaffirmed his commitment to serving the Iranian people and addressing the nation's pressing issues with fairness, transparency, and a focus on social justice.

Knowledge-based companies to attend AgroExpo Uzbekistan

TEHRAN – Supported by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, Iranian knowledge-based firms will set up their pavilions at the AgroExpo Uzbekistan 2025, which is scheduled to take place from November 26 to 28 in Tashkent.

The exhibition offers an excellent platform for showcasing innovative products and solutions, as well as expanding the business network, ISNA reported.

As one of the leading exhibitions in Central Asia, the 19th edition AgroExpo Uzbekistan will cover different areas including agricultural machinery (agricultural machinery and inputs, tractors and trailers, logistic and transportation, harvesting and post-harvest equipment, fertilizers), Greenhouse Horticulture (horticulture solutions, greenhouse construction companies, hydroponics, greenhouse Management), Irrigation technologies (overhead irrigation systems, drip irrigation, pumps, piping, accessories for irrigation), Primary processing (packaging and materials for packaging, sorting equipment, cold Refrigerators, printing and labelling,...).

Other topics include Plant production (fertilizers and additives, plant breeding, seeds machinery and equipment for mechanical plant protection), Feed production (feed silos, feed containers, compound feed, feed additives), Animal breeding (animal housing, cattle and poultry breeding, veterinary medicine, milk and meat processing, slaughtering technologies for livestock and poultry), Animal health (animal identification, animal care equipment, animal health, livestock scales, hygiene, disinfection and cleaning equipment, safety at work, accident prevention), and Milking technology (milking installations and milking parlours, automatic milking methods, milk containers and cooling installations).

Tashkent seeks to boost sci-tech ties with Tehran

In April, Daliv Shahrukh Khozhakbarovich,

Uzbekistan's First Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, called on Iranian universities and scientific institutions to help develop technology and innovation in Uzbekistan, saying that face-to-face interaction between scientific officials is much more effective than diplomatic communications.

The Uzbek official made the remarks in a meeting with Farhad Yazdandoost, the head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed the potential for developing scientific and technological collaborations between the two countries.

The official said the cooperation can be centered around sharing expertise, expanding scientific collaborations among universities' chancellors, and joint funding in technological fields.

For his part, Yazdandoost elaborated on the country's scientific achievements and significant growth in the number of students after the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before the current administration took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000 with a total value of two billion dollars.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A king's friend is like one riding a lion. The people envy him and wish to be in his place, but he himself is well aware of his dangerous position.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:37 Dawn: 4:55 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

Adaptation of “A Bomb in the Heart” to go on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN—An adaptation of Lebanese-Canadian writer Wajdi Mouawad's play “A Bomb in the Heart” will go on stage at Tehran's Hamoun Theater Hall on November 5.

Mohammad Amin Saadi is the director of the play, which is based on a translation by Nazanin Mihan.

Faeqeh Shalalvand is the only actor in this performance, who will play three different roles in this work.



“A Bomb in the Heart” is a powerful and emotional play that explores the depths of human suffering, loss, and identity amidst chaos and conflict. The story begins with a late-night call that jolts Wahab into urgent action. Despite facing a blinding snowstorm, an irritating bus driver, and a whirlwind of worries, Wahab embarks on a journey to reach his dying mother's hospital room. The play captures this arduous journey, symbolizing both a physical and emotional voyage.

At its core, “A Bomb in the Heart” delves into a young man's complex relationship with his mother, highlighting themes of love, pain, and the inevitable confrontation with mortality. Wahab's journey is not only through treacherous weather and external obstacles but also through the tumultuous landscape of his inner emotions. As he navigates these challenges, the play offers a profound reflection on the human condition, particularly in times of war and upheaval.

The production provides a humane and touching perspective on suffering, loss, and the search for self-identity amid destruction and death. It examines how individuals grapple with their inner demons and external conflicts, seeking meaning and redemption. “A Bomb in the Heart” is considered a significant work in contemporary Arab drama, distinguished by its poetic storytelling and

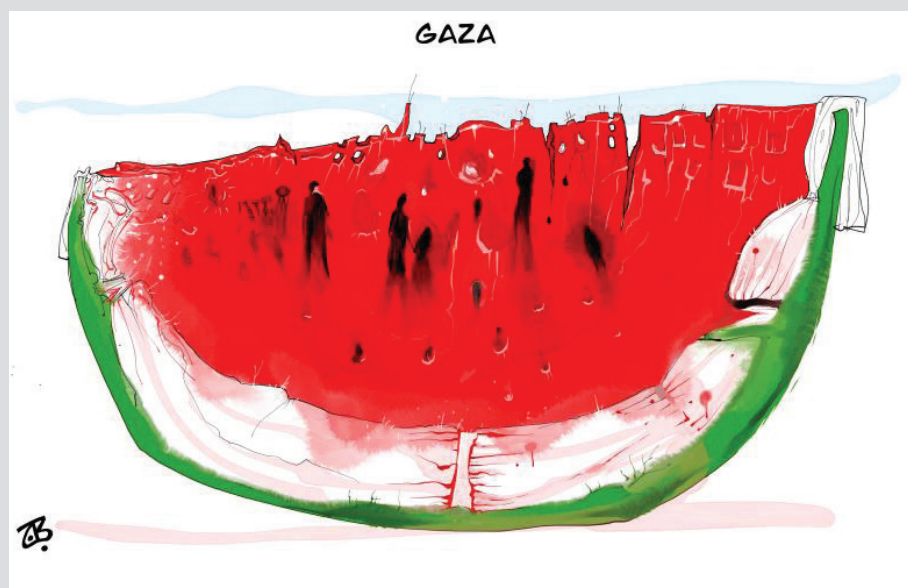
intense emotional depth. It is a compelling attempt to reinterpret concepts of love, death, and forgiveness against the backdrop of inner and outer chaos, making it a resonant and thought-provoking piece for audiences worldwide.

Wajdi Mouawad, born in 1968, is a renowned Lebanese-Canadian playwright, actor, and director. He gained international acclaim for his politically engaged works, notably the play “Incendies” (2003), which has been staged worldwide and adapted into an Oscar-nominated film by Denis Villeneuve. Mouawad's work often explores themes of family trauma, war, and youthful betrayal, reflecting deep human struggles amidst conflict.

He graduated from the National Theater School of Canada in 1991. Throughout his career, he has led major theaters, directed acclaimed productions, and written numerous plays, novels, and screenplays. His notable works include “Littoral”, “Forests”, and “Victories”.

His contributions have earned him many awards, including the Governor General's Literary Prize and France's Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Mouawad's work continues to influence contemporary theater, blending poetic storytelling with profound social and political reflections.

Cartoon of Day



Free Palestine
Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

“Intoxicated by Love” released in 335 cinemas in Europe

TEHRAN – Coinciding with the start of its international screenings, the Iran-Turkey joint production “Intoxicated by Love” directed by Hassan Fat'hi has signed a distribution agreement for North America.

The global release of “Intoxicated by Love” began last week, on October 16, across eight European countries. The film received an enthusiastic reception, with all tickets for the first three days of screenings selling out, IRNA reported.

European distribution of the film is handled by AF Media Group. The film is also set to open soon in Russia, India, and the Persian Gulf countries, followed by its North American release.

The film is currently on display in 335 cinemas in various cities of Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Norway, and Austria.

The biographical historical drama tells the story of the great Iranian poet Molana (Mevlana) Jalal ad-Din Rumi, his friendship with the wandering sage Shams Tabrizi, who later became the mentor of Rumi in the 13th century CE.

The movie chronicles the love Rumi had for Shams and the great influence of Shams over Rumi in his life, his poetry, and his love for God.

Rumi undertook journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish, Shams. He was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit to Konya, and for months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi



neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.

“Intoxicated by Love” was released in Iran last year, attracting over two million viewers and grossing 1.2 trillion rials (approximately \$1 million) — making it the highest-grossing non-comedy film of the year.

Ehsan Javanmard and Farhad Tohidi are the screenwriters. The cast includes Shahab Hosseini, Parsa

Pirouzfar, Ibrahim Çelikkol, Bensu Soral, Boran Kuzum, Selma Ergeç, Burak Tozkoparan, Halit Ergenç, and Hande Erçel.

The filmmakers expect that the Turkish release of “Intoxicated by Love,” thanks to cultural ties between Iran and Turkey regarding Rumi, and the shared admiration for this great mystical poet, will repeat its domestic box office success.

According to the producers, release contracts have also been signed for Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, and Jordan, as well as East Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indo-

nesia, and India, plus Russia, the U.S., Canada, and South America.

The filming of “Intoxicated by Love” took place in Istanbul, Konya, Izmit, and Gebze, with special sets built for recreating the historical atmosphere. The late Morteza Poursamadi, an acclaimed Iranian cinematographer, captured the visuals.

The soundtrack features Alireza Ghorbani performing a mystical poem by Rumi, with an original score composed by renowned Turkish musician Fahir Atakoğlu.

The distribution of the film in Turkey is managed by Content Turkey.

Qasr Garden Museum to host international exhibition of children's artworks

TEHRAN – The international exhibition “One World, A Thousand Dreams” featuring artworks by children and teenagers from Iran, South Korea, and Germany will open on October 24 at the Qasr Garden Museum in Tehran.

The artistic event showcases more than 140 works created by young artists, conveying a message of peace, coexistence, and respect for diversity through the universal language of art, Mehr reported.

The exhibition will open on Friday evening with the presence of the Ambassador of South Korea in Iran. It seeks to promote a culture of peace, friendship, and dialogue among nations through the cre-

ative expression of children and teenagers.

A total of 81 artworks by Iranian participants, 35 by South Korean artists, and 25 by German children will be on display. The pieces, created in a variety of techniques on canvas and paper, reflect the dreams and imaginative visions of the younger generation — a world without borders, full of hope and understanding.

Organized by the Pishro (Pioneer) Art Institute, which has successfully held over 200 national and international art events, the exhibition is curated by Abdolreza Rabeti from Iran, Eunha Chung from South Korea and Luba Holland from Germany.

Persian version of “Crime and Punishment” republished

TEHRAN- The 18th edition of a Persian translation of the Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky's 1866 novel “Crime and Punishment” has recently been released by the Kharazmi Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Mehri Ahi, the first edition of the Persian translation was published in 1972.

“Crime and Punishment” is considered Dostoevsky's second major novel after his return from ten years in Siberia and marks a turning point in his literary career, often regarded as the first of his mature works and one of the greatest classics of world literature.

The story centers on Rodion Raskolnikov, an impoverished ex-law student living in Saint Petersburg. He is deeply troubled and isolated, brooding over a radical theory that certain extraordinary individuals have the right to commit crimes if it benefits humanity.

Raskolnikov devises a plan to murder an unscrupulous pawnbroker, whom he views as a parasite on society, believing that her money could help him achieve greatness. After much internal debate, he carries out the murder but is overwhelmed by guilt, paranoia, and moral confusion.

The novel explores his psychological torment and the consequences of his crime, highlighting themes of morality, redemption, and the nature of evil.

Dostoevsky wrote the novel under financial pressure, suffering from debts and the need to support his family after his brother's death. Initially, he conceived “Crime and Punishment” as a story or novella exploring the dangers of radical ideas and nihilism, intending to critique the

dangerous philosophy that justified crime in the name of higher goals.

Over time, he reworked the story into a full-length novel, shifting from a first-person narrative to a third-person perspective to better capture Raskolnikov's complex psychology. The process involved multiple drafts and revisions, as Dostoevsky experimented with different narrative structures, including diary entries and confessional formats.

The novel's plot unfolds in several parts. In the first, Raskolnikov plans and commits the murder, killing the pawnbroker and her sister. He then falls into a feverish state of guilt, leading to suspicion from the police. Despite his efforts to hide his involvement, he is haunted by his crime. He encounters various characters, including the kind but naïve Razumikhin, the tragic Marmeladov and his daughter Sonya—who becomes a symbol of faith and redemption—and the mysterious Svidrigailov, whose dark motives complicate Raskolnikov's moral journey.

Throughout the story, Dostoevsky explores Raskolnikov's internal conflict, his philosophical justifications, and his eventual acknowledgment of moral responsibility. Raskolnikov's interactions with the police detective Porfiry Petrovich reveal the growing suspicion and psychological cat-and-mouse game. The narrative also delves into the suffering of other characters, such as Katerina Ivanovna and her children, emphasizing themes of poverty, guilt, and salvation.

Ultimately, Raskolnikov confesses his crime, driven by Sonya's unwavering faith and his own moral awakening. He is sentenced to eight years of penal servitude in Siberia, where his spiritual redemption begins. The novel concludes with

the hope that Raskolnikov's suffering and love will lead to moral regeneration, highlighting Dostoevsky's belief in the possibility of salvation through suffering and faith.

The first parts of “Crime and Punishment” published in “The Russian Messenger” in early 1866 gained widespread popularity, marking it as a literary sensation in Russia that year.

While Tolstoy's “War and Peace” was also serialized at the same time, critics divided in their views. Conservative critics expressed sympathy for the novel's depiction of a troubled youth, while radicals saw it as a reflection of social issues like poverty.

Later, the Symbolist movement reevaluated the novel's spiritual themes, viewing Sonya as embodying divine wisdom and Raskolnikov as a “son of Earth” alienated from his source of strength. Philosophers saw it as illustrating the dangers of human hubris and self-deification.

The novel influenced 20th-century movements such as psychoanalysis and existentialism, with thinkers like Freud, Sartre, and Camus recognizing its profound impact.

There have been over 25 adaptations of “Crime and Punishment” in film and television. Notable films include the 1923 silent version by Robert Wiene, the 1935 French and American versions, the 1956 French film, the 1970 Soviet adaptation, and the 2002 Russian film. TV adaptations include BBC series from 1979 and 2002, the 2007 Russian series, and the 2024 streaming series directed by Vladimir Mirzoyev. These adaptations reinterpret the story across different eras and settings, showcasing its enduring relevance.