

Aggression in Gaza Under Trump's 'Ceasefire' Deception

Trump boasts greatly about his highly publicized yet fragile and disjointed ceasefire plan for Gaza



Mourners carry the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli fire during their funeral in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Oct. 19, 2025.

The family business: Drones, crypto, and Trump's machine of corruption

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – The U.S. War Department's recent purchase of 3,500 drone motors and related components from Unusual Machines — a company in which Donald Trump Jr. holds roughly a \$4 million stake and served as an adviser — has intensified scrutiny over what critics call an administration increasingly comfortable turning policy into personal profit.

The Army has signaled a possible follow-on order of 20,000 parts next year, highlighting the company's rapid rise.

Unusual Machines' ascent has dramatic optics: the company awarded Trump Jr. over 330,000 shares — a stake worth about \$4 million — and publicly showcased components at a Mar-a-Lago demonstration after he joined as an adviser.

Shares surged when his association became public. Ethics experts and watchdogs say the proximity of family investments to procurement decisions creates an unavoidable perception of impropriety.

The overlooked Lebanese nationals in Israeli custody

By Sondoss AlAsaad

BEIRUT — Since 2024, the Israeli army has abducted dozens of Lebanese citizens, including during commando raids

While Nawaf Salam's cabinet is stunningly inert, families remain agonizingly ignorant of their beloved ones' health, location, or fate!

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been systematically blocked from access to detainees. It is unable to deliver letters, messages, or reassurances from mothers, wives, children, or relatives in a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

Among the abducted are civilians and prisoners of war alike; all are entitled to protection, dignity, and immediate release once hostilities cease.

The catalogue of Lebanon's missing reads like a chilling nightmare: Ali Nasser Younes and his uncle Fouad Habib Qataya, abducted en route to their workshop in Wadi Al-Hujayr; Hussein Amin Karki shot in the back as his mother was mercilessly murdered before his eyes;

'Gaza Metro' endures as Israel's mission falls short

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN – When Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz admitted that 60 percent of Hamas's tunnels in Gaza remain intact, he unintentionally confirmed what many have long suspected — Israel has failed to achieve its primary military objectives in Gaza.

After two years of brutal conflict, Israel claimed it had dismantled Hamas's capabilities and destroyed the vast tunnel network known as the "Gaza Metro."

Katz's statement proves otherwise. If most of the tunnels still exist, Israel's campaign — despite widespread destruction — has fallen short.

Israel launched its war on Gaza on October 7, 2023, vowing to eliminate Hamas and erase its underground network. Since then, over 68,500 Palestinians have been killed, and entire neighborhoods flattened. Yet, two years later, the tunnels persist. This means Hamas's main line of defense and movement remains functional.

► Page 5

Australian police find organized crime, not Iran, behind antisemitic attacks

TEHRAN – A formal government inquiry in the Australian state of New South Wales has fully exonerated the Islamic Republic of Iran from any involvement in a series of "antisemitic attacks", exposing the baseless nature of the accusations that led Canberra to expel Iran's ambassador in August.

The findings, delivered in a parliamentary Q&A session, concerned the NSW Police's "Strike Force Pearl," which investigated 14 serious attacks on Jewish properties and institutions. In a clear and unequivocal response to questioning, the police force stated it has "nil holdings" in relation to Iran or its agents perpetrating the incidents. ► Page 2

Persian Gulf fully secure under Iran's watch, says IRGC Navy chief

TEHRAN – Iran's Armed Forces, including both the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the naval units of the Army (Artesh), have established full security throughout the Persian Gulf and its surrounding waters, according to IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri.

Speaking at a ceremony in the southern port city of Bushehr on Saturday, Tangsiri said the strategic waterway is entirely secure under the vigilance of Iranian forces, stressing that the regional states themselves are capable of maintaining peace and stability without any foreign military presence. ► Page 2

Iran's saffron exports surge 73% as UAE tops buyers

TEHRAN – Iran exported more than 99.5 tons of saffron, valued at over \$94 million, in the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), marking a 73 percent increase in volume and a \$45 million rise in export value compared with the same period last year, according to data from Iran's Customs Administration.

The exports included various packaged forms of saffron weighing between 10 and 30 grams, shipped to countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Spain, China, Afghanistan, India, Germany, the United Kingdom, and others.

The UAE ranked as the top customer, importing about 297 tons worth \$29.1 million. Spain followed with 19.6 tons worth \$18.9 million, while China was the third-largest buyer with 12.6 tons valued at \$12.5 million. Afghanistan imported 10.5 tons worth \$10.3 million, and Germany purchased three tons worth around \$1.6 million.

In the same period last year, Iran exported 57 tons of saffron valued at \$49.5 million, highlighting significant growth in both volume and value this year.

Family as heartbeat of art and human connection

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – Marking the 63rd anniversary of diplomatic relations, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Tehran hosted the Korea-Iran Calligraphy Exhibition on October 23 in a vibrant celebration of cultural ties at the Ambassador's Residence.

Jointly organized with the Cultural Coordination Center under the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the exhibition unfolded under the poignant theme of "Family," serving as a dynamic platform to deepen mutual understanding and expand cultural exchange.

The exhibition featured a compelling dialogue between two distinct calligraphic traditions. From Korea, a delegation of twelve artists from the Korean Calligraphy Association, led by President Yoo Hyun-deok, ► Page 8



Malaysians protest Trump's support for Israel during ASEAN summit

Thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday to protest U.S. President Donald Trump's visit for the 47th ASEAN Summit, voicing strong opposition to his administration's unwavering support for Israel's war on Gaza.

The protests, organized by various non-governmental organizations, commenced in the morning at Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square), where participants waved Palestinian flags and chanted slogans such as "Free, Free Palestine." ► Page 5

Iran holds talks with Iraq on preserving ruins of Taq Kasra monument

TEHRAN — Iran has held discussions with Iraqi officials on preserving and restoring the ancient Taq Kasra monument, a major remnant of the Sassanid Empire located near Baghdad, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Saturday.

Taq Kasra, sometimes called the Arch of Ctesiphon, is the remains of a Sasanian-era Persian monument, dated to c. the 3rd to 6th centuries, which is now situated near Baghdad, modern Iraq.

Salehi-Amiri told Iranian media that protecting Sassanid-era sites, including Taq Kasra, remains a key concern for Tehran. He said constructive talks had been held with Iraqi authorities to safeguard and restore the monument, and that further results of these discussions would be announced in the future. ► Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iranian missiles send message of peace through strength

In a recent commentary, Kayhan explored Iran's national power and deterrence strategy, arguing that diplomacy must transcend mere dialogue and political exchange. It described diplomacy as the strategic application of all elements of national power to shape global outcomes. Within the framework of the Islamic Revolution, diplomacy gains meaning only when rooted in independence, self-reliance, and domestically cultivated strength. The commentary emphasized that Iran's historical experiences—including the (1980-88) imposed war, decades of sanctions, and persistent threats from hegemonic powers—demonstrate that noble ideals are vulnerable without hard power. In this context, missile capability emerges not merely as a military asset but as a symbol of national sovereignty and a cornerstone of deterrence. Iran's missile arsenal, the article contends, is not a weapon of aggression but a language of enduring peace. It conveys a message: while the Iranian nation will never initiate conflict, it will respond decisively to any act of aggression. In a world governed by the logic of power, Iran must engage oppressive forces in their own terms—through strength.

Hamshahri: A war that reinforced Iran's power

In an article, Hamshahri assessed Iran's strategic gains following the 12-day war initiated by Israel. Contrary to Western analyses and critical narratives, the article argued that the war did not diminish Iran's position; rather it served as a catalyst for a renewed consolidation of power in Tehran. The war, described as a preemptive strike by Israel, provided an opportunity to reaffirm the necessity of Iran's "extraterritorial defense doctrine"—particularly in the wake of the October 7th operation. The article further noted that the regional environment prompted a reassessment of Iran's security, military, and economic frameworks. In response to Israeli aggression, the government intensified its involvement and initiated reforms across previously ineffective systems, reinforcing national resilience.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The end of a way

In its latest editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz highlighted the shifting dynamics of Iran's foreign policy following the expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that confirmed the JCPOA. Despite persistent Western hostility, the termination of Resolution 2231 was formally announced. The expiration was backed decisively by Russia and China. As a result, Iran's interactions with the International Atomic Energy Agency will henceforth be governed exclusively by the Non-Proliferation Treaty and standard safeguard protocols. Despite continued Western efforts to maintain a precarious balance, neither war nor

Persian Gulf fully secure under Iran's watch, says IRGC Navy chief



From page 1 ► "We firmly believe that the countries of the region are fully capable of ensuring the security of this strategic waterway, and there is no need for the presence of foreign powers," he stated.

The commander revealed that Persian Gulf littoral states have expressed readiness to hold joint naval exercises with Iran, reflecting a shared commitment to regional security cooperation.

He, however, criticized foreign powers for "fabricating threats and tensions" in a bid to justify their illegitimate presence in the region and promote their arms sales.

peace, through media pressure and sanctions designed to deter international engagement with Iran, the editorial asserts that the Iranian nuclear file has officially normalized. According to the paper, the IAEA must recognize that the era of negotiations and conditional engagement with Iran has ended. Domestically, the editorial calls for a strategic pivot: moving beyond the cycles of past negotiations and focusing on self-reliance. It urges Iranian policymakers to harness internal capacities and align with emerging blocs such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, positioning Iran within a new international order less dependent on Western frameworks.

Ettelaat: The complexity of power and the call for inclusive diplomacy

In a detailed analysis, Ettelaat examined Iran's geopolitical posture amid rising geoeconomics competition. The paper warned that recent developments surrounding Iran, particularly in the Caucasus, reflect a coordinated effort to constrain its strategic influence. Iran must clearly declare to regional and trans-regional actors, through diplomatic and military means, that changing international borders and encircling Iran's geopolitical position in the Caucasus is a red line that could face a tough strategic response. As Western powers seek to reshape West Asia without Iran's participation, the paper advocated for proactive diplomacy. Tehran must redefine the regional landscape by proposing a comprehensive, indigenous framework for security and economic cooperation. This includes presenting a formal document of partnership to neighboring states, outlining shared goals in corridor development and regional stability. Such an initiative not only enhances Iran's diplomatic leverage but also reduces the justification for foreign interference and eases the burden of high-stakes geopolitical decisions. By promoting a win-win regional strategy, Iran can assert its role as a stabilizing force in an increasingly fragmented global environment.

Arman-e Melli: Our atomic bomb is ability to say "no" to great powers

Arman-e Melli reported on remarks by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who emphasized that Iran's strength lies in its people. Quoting the minister, the newspaper wrote: "Iran's atomic bomb is the ability to say 'no' to the powers, and this has been the case since the victory of the Revolution." He added that the core problem between Iran and the United States stems from Washington's domineering attitude, though relations can still be "managed."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Former IRGC commander says Iran's missiles and drones now outperform Russia

TEHRAN – Former IRGC commander Major General Aziz Jafari has highlighted Iran's advanced missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capabilities, asserting that the country's defence achievements have been developed independently and now surpass those of Russia.

The remarks were made in an interview on Saturday.

"We have never relied on the Russians for our military capabilities," Jafari said. "In the early years after the Islamic Revolution, during the first decade, Libya and North Korea provided some assistance. We would consult them on certain technologies or were granted permission to reverse-engineer some of their missiles. But Russia offered no support during that period."

Jafari stressed that while Russia may not face limitations in missile range or payload, it still lags behind Iran in precision and technological sophistication. "In terms of range and volume, they have no problem. But when it comes to accuracy and the technology we have achieved, there are clear differences. On the contrary, the Russians now need missiles and drones like ours, and I doubt they possess the same level of pinpoint accuracy," he said.

Iran has steadily cultivated an indigenous missile program since the 1980s, developing short-, medium-, and long-range ballistic missiles as well as advanced surface-to-surface and surface-to-sea systems. These capabilities have been complemented by a growing arsenal of precision-guided drones, which together form a central component of Iran's regional deterrent strategy.

Iranian commanders say these capabilities were successfully integrated during the recent 12-day confrontation with Israel. The conflict, which was triggered



Iranian Shahed drones displayed during a parade

by a blatant Israeli attack on June 13, claimed at least 1,064 lives, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Iran also condemned U.S. airstrikes on three Iranian

Iran's indigenous missile and drone programs were developed over four decades, while the country endured heavy sanctions

nuclear sites during the same period, calling them a grave violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted a wide range of strategic sites across the occupied territories and beyond, including the al-Udeid air base in Qatar—the largest U.S. military installation in West Asia. The IRGC launched a meticulously calculated series of missile and drone strikes over twelve days, reportedly executed in 22 operational waves. These strikes disrupted Israeli military,

intelligence, and technological infrastructure, forcing a halt to hostilities.

Among the key targets were Israel's Kirya headquarters, often referred to as the country's "Pentagon," as well as major airbases, intelligence training centers, and command-and-control facilities housing advanced technology such as U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighters. Iranian officials described the strikes as precise, cost-effective, and highly efficient.

International observers have also noted the strategic impact of Iran's UAV program. A report by The Wall Street Journal highlighted that firms in the U.S., China, France, and the UK are developing armed drones modelled after Iran's Shahed UAVs. According to the report, Shahed-inspired designs appeared among 18 U.S. drone prototypes displayed at a Defence Department event this summer. Companies such as SpectreWorks, Griffon Aerospace, and Sweden's Saab are producing drones modelled on Iranian systems for both

operational and target-practice purposes, demonstrating the global influence of Tehran's technology.

Jafari emphasized that Iran's successes reflect decades of independent research, development, and operational expertise. "Our missile and drone programs are the result of persistent effort, technological innovation, and the experience we gained during conflicts over the past four decades," he said. "This progress ensures that Iran remains a credible and effective deterrent against any regional or foreign threat."

Despite making significant strides, the Iranian military has been instructed to continue its technological advancements in missiles and drones. Earlier this month, Iran's security chief, Ali Larijani, stated that the constant modernization of the military is the country's top priority. Meanwhile, Iran is also in full swing to rapidly improve areas that revealed shortcomings during the U.S.-Israeli aggression, specifically its defence systems and fighter jets.

Australian police find organized crime, not Iran, behind antisemitic attacks

From page 1 ► 13 of the 14 attacks were perpetrated by "people associated with and paid by organized crime figures", the findings revealed. Only a single incident was categorized as "genuine homegrown antisemitic ideology", which allegedly involved two individuals who made threatening, antisemitic remarks in a live-streamed conversation about Jewish patients at a hospital. They were charged with using a carriage service to menace and threaten violence and ultimately, were not linked to Iran.

In August, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese gave Iran's ambassador seven days to leave the country, saying Aussie Intelligence services had linked Iran to an arson attack on a cafe in Sydney in October last year, and another on a synagogue in Melbourne in December. He provided no evidence for his claims.

Iran condemned the move, with Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei saying antisemitism was a "Western phenomenon". "If you look at history, persecution of Jews because of their religion is a matter rooted

in Europe; and it is they who must be held accountable for their historical past, which has continued to this day," Baghaei stated.

Analysts saw Canberra's unprecedented decision as an attempt to appease Israel and Zionist lobbies in Australia, who had been angered by Albanese's decision to recognize the state of Palestine. During the press conference he declared the escalatory move against Iran, Albanese said he was going to designate Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), the country's most powerful military branch, as a terrorist organization next.

Iran parliament speaker hails Russia, China for rejecting 'snapback'

TEHRAN – In a Saturday open parliamentary session held in Tehran, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf characterized a joint letter from Iran, Russia, and China to the United Nations as a clear manifestation of the "strategic solidarity" between the three nations.

The letter, which protests a European initiative to reimpose pre-JCPOA UN sanctions on Iran, was delivered to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. Qalibaf described this diplomatic achievement as a significant outcome of Iran's foreign policy, attributing it to the enduring resilience and advancement of the Iranian people in confronting years of unfair pressures and international sanctions.

"A letter by the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China to the secretary general of the United Nations and the president of the United Nations' Security

Council symbolizes strategic solidarity between these three major powers, which announced loud and clear that the move by the three European countries to activate the so-called 'snapback mechanism' basically lacks any legal foundation," said the top legislator.

The jointly signed document from the three foreign ministries stands as a symbol of the alignment among their countries. It explicitly states that the attempts by three European states—the United Kingdom, Germany, and France, collectively known as the E3—to trigger the snapback mechanism are without any legal foundation.

The core of the letter affirms that October 18, 2023, marked the official termination of UN Security Council Resolution 2231. This resolution was the document that originally endorsed the 2015 nuclear agreement, from which the United States unilaterally withdrew. Consequently, with the expiry of this resolution, the three allies assert that the

Iranian nuclear dossier is no longer a matter for the Security Council's agenda.

The E3 had initiated the 30-day snapback process on August 28, a move that Tehran immediately rejected as illegitimate. Iran's position is that since the United States abandoned the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018, it has no legal standing to invoke provisions of the deal. Furthermore, Iran contends that the E3's alignment with Washington's unlawful sanctions campaign further invalidates their position.

Despite assertions from the U.S. and its European partners in late September that UN sanctions on Iran were reinstated, the tripartite letter from Iran, Russia, and China insists that such a procedure is fundamentally flawed from both legal and procedural perspectives.

Qalibaf elaborated that, according to Paragraph 8 of the now-expired Resolution 2231,

all restrictions and provisions within the document have legally concluded. "Under Clause 8 of [UNSC] Resolution 2231, all the restrictions and obligations in this resolution have ended, the annulment of all previous resolutions will remain in place and, with the recognition of [Iran's] official right to enrichment, Iran's nuclear dossier has now been removed from the UN Security Council's agenda," he emphasized.

In a related diplomatic move, Qalibaf also referenced a separate communication sent by the ambassadors of China, Iran, and Russia to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi. This letter clarified that with the termination of Resolution 2231, the mandate given to the IAEA head for reporting on the verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear activities has also officially ended.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran ready for interaction with US on equal footing: Araghchi

TEHRAN – The Iranian foreign minister says Iran has always favored diplomacy and is ready to sit at the negotiating table with the Americans if they act in good faith.

“We have not had any positive experience with the United States despite the fact that each time we came forward honestly and opened a way. However, even without trust, it is possible to have engagement with caution,” said Abbas Araghchi in an interview with an online network.

“We have never given up diplomacy if the Americans are prepared to get engaged in serious talks on an equal footing, with an honest approach, seeking to secure an agreement that would serve mutual interests, and not a unilateral one, based on mutual respect, in a bid to work out a solution that would satisfy both sides,” said the top diplomat.

“There is no reason for either side to pay unnecessary costs...we have serious differences with the U.S., most of which stem from Washington's pursuit of dominance.”

Araghchi underscored that Iran will not give in to pressure or coercion but is receptive to respectful dialogue.

“The Iranian nation does not respond to the language of force, pressure, or sanctions”, he added. “But if you speak with the Iranian people with dignity and act with respect, you will receive the same in return.”



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) getting interviewed by an online Iranian network named Sahara

Days ago, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council rejected outright demands for the country to reduce the range of its missiles, something the Americans have been bringing up behind the closed doors in their messages to their Iranian counterparts.

“Calls to reduce the range of missiles amounts to demand for submission and stripping the country of national security,” said Ali Larjani. “The reduction of the range of missiles is tantamount to the undermining of the country's most important defensive tool.”

Iran's nuclear issue had been a bone of contention with the West since 2003. Several rounds of talks were held with the West to settle the issue until 2015 when the Iran nuclear agreement known as the

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed.

Under the JCPOA, Iran accepted confidence-building limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of UN, U.S., and EU sanctions. The agreement was endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which also set a timeline for the permanent expiration of nuclear-related restrictions in October 2025.

However, Iran repeatedly complained that the United States, even under former President Barack Obama, was reluctant to allow Tehran to benefit economically from the deal. In 2018, the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA and reimposed sweeping sanctions on Iran.

In response, and after waiting

over a year for the European parties to compensate for the U.S. withdrawal, Tehran began gradually reducing its compliance with the nuclear limits in accordance with the JCPOA, while insisting it remained open to negotiations if sanctions were lifted.

Iranians took part in several rounds of talks to revive the deal in 2022. Russia's Permanent Representative to international organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov has said the remaining signatories to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (Iran, Russia, China, France, Germany, and Britain) were about to reach an agreement on the revival of the pact before Europe left the talks in coordination with Washington in September of 2022, the time Iran became convulsed with deadly riots.

He said the Europeans are not the key players here and whether the nuclear deal can be saved or not depends on the actions of the United States.

Iran's next major attempt to find a diplomatic solution for the nuclear dispute took place this year, as it agreed to engaged in indirect negotiations with Washington. Those talks were rendered fruitless as well as they suddenly came to a halt due to U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities.

Last week, Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamaneh warned that the U.S. is in no position to dictate anything to Iran.

West Asia according to Trump: Iran as the pivot of regional strategy

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – In the pantheon of U.S. foreign policy, where doctrines bearing names such as Monroe or Truman are revered, the administration of Donald Trump attempted to forge a new one: a theology of power. Not a doctrine in the classical sense, a set of principles applicable to an external, objective world—but a pseudo-faith in which order and chaos depend on the singular will of the president.

The narrative he constructs is as simple as it is revealing. In his vision, West Asia was dominated for years by two “bullies”: Iraq and Iran. The fall of Baghdad in 2003, in his logic, did not create a power vacuum but removed one of the regional balancing poles, leaving Tehran as the “sole aggressor.” This simplification is crucial, because it translates a complex web of conflicts, national aspirations, and colonial legacies into a binary equation: peace is achieved by weakening Iran. Everything else—the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, intra-Arab rivalries, the rise of non-state actors, or the ambitions of middle powers such as Turkey or Saudi Arabia—is subordinated to this premise.

The defining moment of this theology, its trial by fire, came with the drone strike in January 2020 that killed General Qasem Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). Trump does not present it as just another episode in a long history of frictions, but as a turning point that “remade” the region. In his account, the action was not merely tactical but symbolic: a gesture of a power claiming the authority to judge regional stability. “We hit them back,” he asserts, convinced that a single extreme act of force was enough to restore balance. The operation thus takes on the character of a providential corrective: a secular intervention with a moral pretension, in which American violence is cloaked in redemptive legitimacy.

Yet this vision omits a reality perceived with clarity in Tehran: a country surrounded by U.S. military

bases, armed rivals equipped with Western technology, and decades of sanctions, which has constructed its foreign policy on a logic of survival. Iranian influence does not stem from expansionism, but from defensive calculation. Its network of allies—from Hezbollah in Lebanon to the Ansarullah in Yemen—does not constitute an informal empire, but a containment belt against threats perceived as existential. In this context, the “strategic depth” Iran seeks is a rational response to an environment that for decades has regarded it as an anomaly to be corrected.

The U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) in 2018, driven by Trump, reinforced this sense of siege. By breaking a commitment Tehran had honored under international supervision, Washington sent the message that no pact with the West guarantees security. The consequence was immediate: the crystallization of a resistance ideology, integrated into contemporary Iranian political thought, which embraces technological, energy, and military self-sufficiency as both an expression of sovereignty and a structural response to international pressure.

Trump's narrative, therefore, rests on a vicious cycle: Iran is punished under the pretext that it poses a threat, yet it is precisely sanctions, targeted killings, and unilateral designations as “terrorist” that reinforce Tehran's well-founded perception of an existential threat. The outcome is predictable: a country that strengthens its defenses, approaches diplomacy wielded as an instrument of coercion with caution, and understands that deterrence—rather than asymmetric negotiation—is the only real guarantee of sovereignty. It is a loop perpetuated by Washington's own rhetoric and its misunderstanding of the deep logic of Iranian security.

The Time interview also reveals how this theology of power projects onto the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By highlighting his role in the Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and



several Persian Gulf monarchies, Trump presents them as a proof of his effectiveness: isolating Iran supposedly allowed Arab alignment with Tel Aviv under American oversight. Yet this diplomatic success came at a cost: the marginalization of the Palestinian cause. Peace was reduced to an elite pact, sustained by economic interests and a common adversary.

U.S. is stuck in a loop perpetuated by its misunderstanding of the deep logic of Iranian security

By depoliticizing the conflict and subordinating it to an anti-Iranian logic, Washington helped bury—albeit temporarily—the prospect of a just solution. The war in Gaza, which erupted afterward, is a stark reminder that conflicts do not disappear by decree; they transform when denied resolution.

The underlying logic is deeply problematic. In Trump's vision, peace is not built among equals but imposed from above. The U.S. presidency positions itself as a moral arbiter, deciding who is “rational” and who is “dangerous.” This imperial paternalism ignores the fact that West Asian nations—including Iran—are not pieces on a chess-

board, but actors with histories, grievances, and aspirations of their own. Characterizing Iran as a “bully” reveals more about the psychology of U.S. power than about regional realities. No durable order can be based on obedience; only on mutual recognition.

The ultimate irony is that Trump's strategy, in attempting to isolate Iran, ended up reinforcing its centrality. Tehran has become the inevitable pivot in any regional security conversation, the convergence point of a diffuse yet persistent resistance to U.S. hegemony. Confrontation has turned it into a reference point for those seeking political and strategic autonomy against an externally imposed order.

Regional order does not emanate from the decree of a superpower, but from a constantly unstable equilibrium among local actors, each driven by its own fears, memories, and ambitions. Trump's vision in Time, seductive in its simplicity and appealing to an unnuanced imagination of power, is in reality a denial of that complexity. By reducing the region to a stage where a U.S. president hands out punishments and rewards, he not only misinterprets the dynamics of conflict, but also lays the groundwork for its next eruption. The theology of power, by failing to understand the logic of resistance, is doomed to confront it again and again.

Hashemian out, Osmar in: Managerial chaos hits Persepolis again

TEHRAN – Persepolis, Iran's most decorated football club, find themselves in a state of confusion and managerial chaos once again.

Barely eight weeks into the Persian Gulf Pro League season, the club's board decided to dismiss head coach Vahid Hashemian, a former Bundesliga player and one of the most educated Iranian coaches in modern football.

What makes the decision even more bewildering is that it came immediately after a 2–0 victory over Zob Ahan, where Persepolis displayed their best performance of the season.

Hashemian's short tenure was far from disastrous. With two wins, five draws, and one loss, Persepolis sat just two points behind the league leader, well within reach of the title race in an unusually tight season where the top 10 teams are separated by only three points.

Yet the club's temporary management, still without an appointed CEO following Reza Darvish's resignation, opted to part ways with a coach who was finally getting a full squad at his disposal.

In his final match, Hashemian implemented a three-man defensive system, fielding top defenders Pouraliganji, Kanaani, and Abarghuchinejad, securing a clean sheet for the fourth time this season. The return of key players such as Mohammad Omri and Oston Urunov, alongside Ali Alipour's decisive goal, showcased a tactical maturity that hinted at better days ahead. Ironically, this improvement arrived just as his dismissal was being finalized.

The decision to remove Hashemian appears to be less about results and more about pre-arranged plans. Reports suggest Persepolis had already reached an agreement with Osmar Loss Vieira, Brazilian coach, who led the team to a stunning championship in 2023–24. Vieira's return may excite some of Persepolis fans, but the timing of this transition, mid-season, amid leadership instability, raises serious concerns about management and professionalism at the club.

Hashemian, often described as disciplined and thoughtful, brought European standards of training and behavior to Iranian football. His dismissal, therefore, reflects more on the short-sightedness of Persepolis' management than on his competence. By dismissing a coach during a fragile phase of the league, the club send a damaging message: that emotional decision-making still outweigh logic and long-term planning in Iranian football.

For a club of Persepolis' stature, such instability is not merely a sporting issue—it's a cultural one. Unless Persepolis' executives learn to value process over emotions, even the return of a beloved coach may not shield the club from the consequences of its own impatience.

Azimi wins gold at 2025 U23 World Championships

TEHRAN – Freestyle wrestler Mobin Azimi earned the first gold medal for Iran after beating Takhir Khaniev (UWW), 5–3, in the 92kg final of the 2025 U-23 World Wrestling Championships.

He defeated Sherzod Poyonov of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan's Sadig Mustafazade, Joshua Barr from the US, Ukraine's Ivan Chornohuz

Bahrain's Magomed Sharipov and Sherzod Poyonov from Uzbekistan won two silver medals.

The 2025 U-23 World Wrestling Championships is the ninth edition of the U-23 World Wrestling Championships of combined events and is being held from 20 to 27 October 2025 in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Osmar Loss named Persepolis coach

TEHRAN – Brazilian coach Osmar Loss has officially taken charge of Persepolis, the Iranian

club announced.

The contract runs through the end of the 2025–26 Iran Pro League season and includes a renewal option.

He replaces Vahid Hashemian at Persepolis and will travel to Iran on Wednesday to finalize the contract.

Under leadership of Hashemian, Persepolis recorded two wins, one defeat, and five draws in eight games.

Loss has previously managed Persepolis in 2024; during his brief spell in Tehran, he steered Persepolis to the Persian Gulf Pro League title.

Muay Thai girl Jani takes gold: 2025 AYG

TEHRAN – Iranian Muay Thai athlete Baran Jani seized a gold medal at the 2025 Asian Youth Games (AYG) on Sunday.

Jani edged Natthida Kanyaburi of Thailand 29–28 in the final of the Girls' <40Kg Combat Discipline 14–15.

The 3rd Asian Youth Games takes place in Bahrain from Oct. 22 to 31.

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

Iran has sent 236 athletes to the Games.

Ex-Iran football defender Karegarjam passes away

TEHRAN – Former Iran national team player Akbar Kargarjam, who also represented Esteghlal club, passed away on Sunday in Tehran.

He died at the age of 81 at the Jam Hospital.

Kargarjam played for Iran at the 1972 Summer Olympics. He spent about a decade with Rah Ahan and Taj (now Esteghlal).

He earned 30 caps for Team Melli and scored one goal.

The Tehran Times extends its deepest sympathies to Kargarjam's family, loved ones, and friends during this time of loss.

Esteghlal move top of 2025/26 PGPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team earned a 3–0 away win over Fajr Sepasi and moved top of the 2025/26 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Sunday.

In the match held in Shiraz's Pars Stadium, Jassir Asani and Saeid Saharkhizan scored two goals from the penalty spot just before the break and Hossein Goudarzi made the scoreboard 3–0 with three minutes remaining.

In Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium, Sepahan defeated Paykan 2–1. Mohammadamin Hazbavi was on target in the 63rd minute but Mehdi Najafi equalized the match in the 74th minute. With six minutes remaining, Hazbavi completed his brace to seal a 2–1 win for Sepahan.

Esteghlal lead the table with 13 points and Sepahan moved to fourth place one point adrift of the top.

Lotfizadeh bags silver at 2025 AYG

TEHRAN – Iranian taekwondo athlete Pinar Lotfizadeh seized a silver medal at the 2025 Asian Youth Games (AYG) on Sunday.

She lost to China's Ruyue Guo 2–1 at the Girls' <63Kg final.

The 3rd Asian Youth Games takes place in Bahrain from Oct. 22 to 31.

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

Iran has sent 236 athletes to the Games.

Private sector officials meet with President Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian met with members of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) for the third time, in a session focused on restructuring Iran's economic governance and reviewing restrictive laws that hinder business and trade activity, including the Law on Combating Goods and Currency Smuggling.

At the meeting's outset, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh highlighted the country's current economic challenges, noting that exporters and importers face significant barriers in securing foreign currency and maintaining essential goods supply.

He said the government must adopt practical measures to attract investment from Iranians living abroad, creating an environment where they can safely return and invest in domestic industries without bureaucratic or financial concerns.

Payam Bagheri, a deputy head of ICCIMA, emphasized the need to amend or fully repeal cumbersome laws that obstruct traders and entrepreneurs. He called for a framework of "collaborative regulation" between the government and the chamber, enabling the private sector to play a meaningful role in shaping national economic policy.

"Such cooperation requires reforming the country's economic structure and overhaul-



ing the framework of economic governance," he said.

Mahmoud Najafi Arab, head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, echoed this view, stressing the importance of launching a "movement to eliminate redundant regulations."

He said the government should design a comprehensive plan to modernize the economic lawmaking process, making it more transparent, efficient, and supportive of production and entrepreneurship.

The meeting underscored growing alignment between the private sector and the administration on the urgency of reforming Iran's economic management system, seen as a crucial step toward improving competitiveness, investment climate, and sustainable growth.

Development of solar power plants in villages, underprivileged areas accelerating

TEHRAN- In order to develop renewable energy, enhance energy productivity, and support sustainable employment in rural areas, a joint cooperation memorandum was signed between the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) and the Headquarters for the Development and Progress of 4040 Rural Clusters.

This memorandum was signed in line with the implementation of the general policies of the system and the provisions of the Seventh Development Plan law, aiming to maintain and attract the rural population, create local employment, strengthen the rural economy, and expand the use of clean and renewable energy nationwide.

Based on the terms of the memorandum, the parties committed to increasing renewable electricity generation capacity by up to 800 megawatts by constructing small-scale renewable power plants in the country's villages within the framework of SATBA's development models and by signing long-term guaranteed electricity purchase contracts with the private sector and people's cooperatives.

The duration of this memorandum is set for five years, and its extension or revision will be done by mutual agreement and based on laws.

According to the stipulated commitments, SATBA is obligated to support the private sector and people's cooperatives in constructing renewable power plants, undertake regional planning, introduce qualified contractors, provide technical standards, train operators, and exercise supreme supervision over the construction and operation of the power plants. Furthermore, SATBA is committed to signing 20-year guaranteed electricity purchase contracts, facilitating the connection of power plants to the grid, and making timely payments for invoices.

On the other hand, the Headquarters for the Development and Progress of 4040 Rural Clusters is tasked with creating coordination mechanisms among executive bodies, identifying local capacities, informing rural municipalities and cooperatives about the plans, and pursuing financing through agent banks to facilitate the implementation of renewable projects in the target areas.

The parties also emphasized conducting joint visits, developing executive bylaws, documenting actions, and forming national and provincial steering committees to follow up on the projects. Based on the signed memorandum, the joint action plan will be implemented in the first year in the provinces of Lorestan, Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad, Golestan, Khuzestan, South Khorasan, Kerman, West Azarbaijan, East Azarbaijan, Isfahan,

and Hamedan.

On October 12, the executive secretary of Iran's 7th Solar Power Plants Conference stated that the development of solar power plants has accelerated and this trend will continue for the coming years. He predicted that the trend of interest in developing solar power plants will continue to accelerate over the next four years.

Mehdi Goodarzi noted that, in addition to major investors, the number of applicants for installing solar and renewable power plants is also increasing.

He added that the development of these types of power plants gained more momentum last year due to the electricity imbalance and has continued this year in line with adopted policies.

He further stated that, given the country's approach to renewable development and the policies of the Seventh National Development Plan in this area, it was essential to examine the technical and economic dimensions of these power plants in the country. Therefore, the 7th Solar Power Plants Conference is being held, considering the role of renewable development in addressing the imbalance.

The Executive Secretary of Iran's 7th Solar Power Plants Conference recalled that since last year, with the advent of the 14th administration and the emergence of energy imbalance in the country, the development of renewables has received more attention than before with the aim of compensating for part of this imbalance. According to the latest statistics, the capacity of the country's renewable power plants has unprecedentedly increased to 2,550 megawatts.

Referring to the themes of the 7th Solar Power Plants Conference, he said that in economic discussions, various models of guaranteed electricity purchase, sales on the green board of the stock exchange, and the energy exchange will be examined. This is so that the path becomes transparent and clear for applicants, and they fully understand its costs and revenues.

SATBA had also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Organization of Municipalities and Rural Administrations, on September 1, to develop small-scale renewable power plants of up to three megawatts in rural areas.

The MOU was signed by Masoud Nosrati, deputy interior minister and head of the municipalities organization, and Mohsen Tarzatab, deputy energy minister and head of SATBA. It aims to provide rural administrations, cooperatives, and unions with a framework to establish renewable power plants and sell electricity under long-term contracts.

Iran, Armenia to launch joint B2B platform to strengthen trade relations

TEHRAN – The Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and the Embassy of Armenia in Tehran have agreed to establish a joint digital platform to connect Iranian and Armenian businesses directly, aiming to expand bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

During a meeting between Hamed Asgari, ICCIMA's deputy for international affairs, and Hayk Nazaryan, commercial attaché of the Armenian Embassy, the two sides reviewed the current level of trade cooperation and discussed practical strategies to deepen economic relations.

Asgari commended the Armenian Embassy for its active role in facilitating the Iranian trade delegation's visit to Yerevan, which coincided with the Iranian president's official trip earlier this year.

He said the two nations are working toward elevating their partnership to a strategic level, with a shared goal of increasing annual trade volume from \$737 million in 2024 to \$1 billion in 2025, and eventually to \$3 billion in the coming years.

The ICCIMA deputy emphasized that achieving a balanced and sustainable trade relationship requires the design of coordinated frameworks to enhance cross-border business activity.

He underlined the importance of using existing networks of Iranian and Armenian entrepreneurs based in other countries to identify potential partners and promote mutual investment.

Both sides agreed to launch a joint B2B matchmaking platform, which will serve as a unified and accessible digital space for companies seeking partnerships, suppliers, or clients in either market.

They also decided to develop joint protocols for issuing certificates of origin to improve transparency and prevent forgery, hold technical meetings between customs authorities to harmonize trade procedures, and organize a joint conference on the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) free trade opportunities.

The Armenian side welcomed ICCIMA's proposal to hold specialized business forums in Tehran and Yerevan to facilitate sector-specific cooperation, particularly in construction materials, food processing, and logistics.

The meeting concluded with both parties reaffirming their commitment to continuous coordination and information exchange through the joint platform to enhance bilateral trade efficiency and trust.

In September 1, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) and his Armenian counterpart discussed expanding technical and operational cooperation in rail transport among CIS member states during visit to Russia.

Jabarali Zakari, deputy trans-



port minister and head of the RAI, met the chairman of Armenian Railways on the sidelines of a Railways exhibition in St. Petersburg.

Talks covered establishing sustainable rail transport, identifying cargo potential along the corridor, activating freight forwarders, and easing rail connectivity between Iran and Russia through Armenia, contingent on the resolution of political disputes between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

With Baku and Yerevan recently reaching a preliminary agreement, officials concluded that the memorandum could help reopen the western route of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) via Nakhchivan. This would restore rail links between Iran and Russia through Yerevan after years of suspension.

The sides agreed to hold their next meeting in Tehran in the near future.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) announced that a recent trade mission to Armenia produced 10 cooperation agreements across energy, tourism, pharmaceuticals, transport, technical standards, and culture.

Mohammadreza Bahraman, ICCIMA vice president, said the delegation's visit — held in parallel with the Iranian president's official trip — marked a turning point for regional economic cooperation, opening doors to joint investment and expanded market access.

"Armenia is not only a gateway to the 184 million-strong Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) but also a bridge to Europe through its trade agreements with the EU," Bahraman said.

He cited Armenia's economic stability, investor-friendly environment, skilled workforce, tax incentives and competitive costs as key attractions for Iranian investors.

Among the key outcomes were a target of \$3.0 billion in bilateral trade using the Iran-EAEU free trade agreement, and the creation of a four-party committee of chambers and customs officials to resolve certificate-of-origin and customs barriers.

Progress was also made on infrastructure, including a second border bridge over the Aras River and completion of the third power exchange line, which is expected to boost energy and

transport capacity several fold.

Bahraman highlighted priority sectors for Iranian investment in Armenia, including mining, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, IT and R&D, as well as logistics projects linked to the INSTC.

He added that proposals were made to establish a permanent exhibition of Iranian goods and joint industrial parks in border regions.

Although a dedicated mining session was not held during the visit, Bahraman said groundwork was laid for future cooperation through customs and legal frameworks to support mineral exports.

The completion of Armenia's third power line would also enable the launch of mineral processing units, he noted.

Enterprise Armenia presented mineral opportunities to the Iranian delegation, paving the way for Iranian firms to enter exploration, extraction and processing projects.

Bahraman called for ICCIMA to organize a dedicated mining delegation to Armenia as the next step, aligned with Iran's goal of 13 percent growth in mining under the seventh development plan.

"Economic diplomacy is a marathon, not a sprint," Bahraman said. "In this trip, we cleared the initial obstacles so that in future visits, specialized cooperation — particularly in mining — can be pursued on a sustainable footing. Armenia is more than a market; it is a testing ground for new regional models of cooperation. With unprecedented incentives from the Armenian government and ICCIMA's institutional support, we can turn Armenia into Iran's strategic hub in Eurasia and Europe."

Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Minister has said tariffs on 87 percent of goods traded between Iran and Armenia have been eliminated, as Tehran presses ahead with efforts to expand a preferential trade pact with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak said Iran has been formally recognized as a permanent observer in the EAEU, a status that allows the country to broaden ties with member states.

He noted that in recent years Tehran has sought to strengthen commercial links with neighbors, particularly Armenia, which he described as Iran's gateway to

the Eurasian market.

Atabak said the preferential trade agreement that came into effect in May marked a significant milestone, reducing tariffs on the majority of goods traded with Armenia to zero. "This development has already spurred an upward trend in trade volumes with Armenia and other EAEU members," he said, adding that negotiations to expand the pact to cover other sectors are continuing.

The announcement coincided with President Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to Yerevan, where he was received by senior Armenian officials.

On the sidelines of the trip, Iranian vice president and head of the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi held talks with Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan.

The two officials reviewed opportunities to expand cooperation in infrastructure and transportation, including boosting road and transit capacity between the two countries.

They also discussed energy trade, such as electricity exchange, sales of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and potential Iranian exports of oil and natural gas to Armenia.

Iran also proposed supplying fuel to Armenian airlines.

In the meeting, the two sides agreed to establish joint working groups to monitor and implement agreements.

During the visit to Armenia, President Masoud Pezeshkian met with top Armenian officials to discuss strategic cooperation, particularly in transit corridors, regional connectivity, and economic partnerships.

In this trip, in order to enhance the level of relations, high-ranking officials of the both countries signed a joint statement and 10 memorandums of understanding and cooperation documents in the political, social, cultural, tourism, industrial, educational, road and urban development, art, and health fields in the presence of President Pezeshkian and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

On the sidelines of the visit, Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Davit Hovhannissyan held a key meeting to advance transportation infrastructure, enhance logistic networks, and resolve transit disputes.

In this meeting, Sadegh highlighted the strategic importance of north-south and Persian Gulf-Black Sea corridors and urged improvements in Armenian road, rail, and logistics systems to facilitate the transfer of goods.

She also called for a revision of the roughly \$330 disparity in tariffs between the two countries and stressed that new transit routes should avoid geopolitical disruptions.

South Pars platforms ready to ensure maximum gas supply in winter

TEHRAN – Iran's South Pars gas platforms have completed a comprehensive overhaul program and are now fully prepared to maximize gas production during the cold season, the managing director of the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) said.

Touraj Dehghani told IRNA on Saturday that maintenance operations on 35 offshore platforms in the South Pars field had been successfully completed, marking a major step toward ensuring stable gas output during peak demand in winter. He said the main objective of the annual overhaul program was to secure the reliability and sustainability of gas production at a time when domestic con-

sumption reaches its highest levels.

According to Dehghani, the timely completion of the maintenance work reflects the readiness and operational discipline of Iran's offshore energy sector.

"With the completion of overhaul operations ahead of schedule, the platforms are now in optimal condition to meet national demand throughout the coming months," he said.

The managing director noted that South Pars, which supplies around 70 percent of Iran's natural gas, plays a critical role in maintaining the country's energy balance. The overhaul program included inspection

and replacement of key components, safety system upgrades, and performance optimization measures across all production units.

He emphasized that coordination between POGC and other subsidiaries of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) ensured that all repairs were carried out without interrupting gas supply to consumers. "Our goal is to enter winter with maximum readiness and stable production from all phases of South Pars," Dehghani added.

The South Pars field, shared between Iran and Qatar, is the world's largest gas reservoir and a vital source of energy for domestic use, industries, and exports.

Aggression in Gaza under Trump’s ‘Ceasefire’ Deception

Trump boasts greatly about his highly publicized yet fragile and disjointed ceasefire plan for Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Israeli regime’s latest aggression on Gaza, under the guise of Trump’s “peace plan” masks over the guarantees offered to Palestinians.

The fragile Gaza ceasefire, announced by U.S. President Donald Trump amid cautious international optimism, has steadily unraveled under the weight of the Zionist regime’s renewed bombings and incursions.

This breakdown has been widely attributed to Trump’s highly publicized yet disjointed 20-point ceasefire plan, which he boasted would “end the violence.”

The proposal, however, was widely seen as superficial and one-sided. Trump repeatedly linked his “ceasefire plan” to the release of the occupying regime’s captives, while failing to acknowledge the ongoing genocide in Gaza, the mass killing of nearly 70,000 people, and the severe injuries inflicted on more than 170,000 others, most of them women and children.

Nowhere did he address the root cause of the violence: the Zionist occupation of Palestinian land. This approach was designed to rescue the regime from growing international isolation and preserve its image as a regional power. Yet after two years of relentless assault, its inability to crush Palestinian resistance in a tiny strip has instead exposed the regime’s waning military credibility and shattered its myth of invincibility.

Under Trump’s October 11 ceasefire plan, the Zionist regime was supposedly required to open the Rafah border crossing, allow humanitarian aid, and halt



offensive operations. Instead, Gaza faces continuous aggression and an ongoing suffocating siege with little to no medicine entering. Broken promises were offered to the Palestinians.

“Gaza needs 6,000 aid trucks a day, not just 600. The occupation (regime) is obstructing the entry of some materials into Gaza as if we were still in the middle of a war,” Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya has said.

The Gaza Ministry of Health reported that since the truce began, Israeli occupation forces have killed at least 93 Palestinians and injured at least 324 others. Hundreds of bodies have been recovered from rubble.

These numbers contradict any notion of peace, instead revealing a ceasefire in name only, maintained for show in a bid to avoid further global criticism of the occupation regime.

Another major flaw in the Trump team’s 20-point plan, which has allowed the Israeli regime to continue its aggression, was the rush to reach a breakthrough on what can be agreed on, and then scramble plans on paper to sort out the rest later. As many expected, the first phase of the plan has failed to

materialize.

On Sunday, the regime’s artillery fire struck near Maghazi and Bureij refugee camps in central Gaza, along with naval attacks on fishing boats.

Al-Awda Hospital said a drone strike in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed one Palestinian and injured four others.

Israeli occupation forces claimed they struck a member of Palestinian Islamic Jihad preparing an “imminent attack”, a familiar justification that the Palestinian resistance dismissed as fabricated.

“The occupation army’s claim that al-Quds Brigades members in Nuseirat were preparing for an imminent operation is a baseless lie and a fabrication aimed at justifying its aggression and its violation of the ceasefire,” said the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Such acts of aggression have become routine. Under Trump’s oversight, Israeli occupation forces continue to invoke a perpetual ‘security’ pretext while maintaining their hold on Palestinian land, leaving civilians to bear the cost.

Behind this repetition lies a deeper truth. The Zionist regime, having failed to secure any victory in Gaza, now relies on the spectacle of ongoing aggression to disguise any strategic gains.

Militarily, the Zionist regime’s genocidal campaign has failed. Diplomatically, it faces isolation. Yet, rather than de-escalate, Trump has allowed Netanyahu to carry on, because perpetual war offers political cover.

In this light, under Trump’s plan, renewed attacks on Gaza are less about “security” and more about sustaining a political narrative: that the occupation regime still brings deterrence and that its power, though battered, remains absolute. It is a fiction that Netanyahu needs to survive, and Trump offered it to him.

Humanitarian agencies and Gaza’s municipalities have been warning that infrastructure is collapsing. A young girl was killed on Sunday and several injured when a damaged building collapsed in northern Gaza City.

Yet, a matter of such importance failed to materialize under Trump’s “peace” plan, which stipulated a “surge” in aid. Gaza has not seen the heavy machinery needed amid the danger posed by devastated or unstable buildings in the wake of the occupying regime’s military bombardments.

For Netanyahu, to end the genocide would mean confronting failure, the failure to defeat Hamas and to restore the regime’s deterrence. By keeping Gaza under siege, as Trump has allowed, Netanyahu transforms defeat into a political spectacle where Palestinians continue to suffer and U.S. promises prove once again to be unreliable.

‘Gaza Metro’ endures as Israel’s mission falls short



From page 1 ► In a post on X, Katz acknowledged that destroying the tunnels has now become the army’s “central mission.” The Gaza Metro represents not just a tactical advantage, but the determination of a people who have endured years of siege and bombardment.

The tunnel’s continued operation highlights a deeper truth: Israel’s war has not met its objectives. It has devastated civilians, destroyed infrastructure, and inflicted unimaginable suffering — yet it has not defeated Hamas. Instead, the conflict has reinforced Palestinian unity and strengthened the belief that resistance, both

above and below ground, is essential for survival.

Katz’s new focus on the tunnels shows that even after the October 2025 ceasefire, repeatedly violated by Israel, Zionist leaders are searching for new objectives to justify their campaign after failing to deliver the “total victory” they promised.

For Palestinians, the enduring Gaza Metro stands as living proof that the resistance — and Gaza itself — has survived everything Israel has thrown at it.

The overlooked Lebanese nationals in Israeli custody

From page 1 ► Hassan Ahmad Hamoud taken at dawn while his home in Taybeh was set ablaze; students, fishermen, municipal employees, and paramedics, including Hassan Youssef Qashqoush and Alaa Fares.

The conditions these Lebanese endure are abominable. Neutral observers or the ICRC are banned; lawyers and relatives cut off entirely.

Survivors recount relentless physical and psychological torment: savage beatings, humiliating strip searches, starvation, denial of water and medical care, isolation, threats, and collective punishment targeting prisoners’ families.

International law is painfully clear, yet shamelessly flouted; for instance:

- The Third Geneva Convention and Additional Protocols criminalize torture, guarantee medical care, and demand humane treatment comparable to captor soldiers. Prisoners must communicate with families via the ICRC, practice their religion, and be released promptly after hostilities end.

- The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits kidnapping civilians, hostage-taking, and arbitrary detention.

- Article 8 of the Rome Statute classifies such acts as war crimes, and Rule 96 of the ICRC bans hostage-taking in all conflicts.

No security apparatus tracks detainees, no ministry documents their names, and no crisis unit advocates for their release. Lebanon’s paralysis gives Israel unfettered license to abduct, abuse, and isolate its citizens.

Nawaf Salam’s cabinet, ever eager to appear “responsible,” prefers condemnations and empty statements over decisive action. This is not oversight — it is deliberate negligence masquerading as governance!

Every hour of inaction intensely deepens national humiliation, ensuring Lebanon’s

children remain pawns on a cruel geopolitical chessboard.

History is unforgiving. UN resolutions and diplomatic appeals have never freed Lebanese prisoners. Liberation has been achieved only through armed resistance, as the enemy bows only to strength.

Each day of Salam’s inaction is a morally grotesque betrayal. Every kidnapped Lebanese citizen is a living indictment of the state’s chronic incompetence.

Families scavenge scraps of information from released Palestinian prisoners or social media fragments. Mothers discovering their sons are alive in Ofer, Ramleh or Nafha have no government to turn to. They are only given hollow promises.

Salam’s cabinet must choose: reclaim responsibility, or continue to be a passive bystander to its citizens’ suffering.

Until the state asserts itself — legally, diplomatically, and through relentless media pressure — the kidnapped will remain hostages of both the enemy and a government that shamefully abandons them at the hour of greatest vulnerability.

Available remedies abound, yet remain brazenly ignored: formally request ICRC access; meticulously document each kidnapping; submit complaints to the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council; launch global awareness campaigns; file cases at the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court; convene emergency parliamentary and cabinet sessions to formulate a decisive national strategy.

The enemy respects nothing but raw, uncompromising power; not petitions, resolutions, or political correctness. The liberation of Lebanese prisoners demands audacious courage, unflinching clarity, and the uncompromising assertion of national will. Anything less is utter betrayal!

Hamas will disarm if Israeli occupation ends: Al-Hayya

In an interview with Al Jazeera on Sunday, Hamas Gaza chief Khalil al-Hayya framed his movement’s concessions as contingent on an end to Israeli occupation, insisting “if the occupation ends, these weapons will be handed over to the state.”

He said the fate of arms remains under discussion with other factions and mediators, signaling conditional flexibility.

Al-Hayya said Hamas has “no objection” to transferring Gaza’s civilian administration to any national Palestinian body and pushed for nationwide elections as a route to unity, posi-

tioning the group as willing to step back from governance while resisting occupation.

On the humanitarian front, the Hamas official blasted Israeli restrictions, saying bluntly, “Gaza needs 6,000 aid trucks a day, not just 600,” and urged mediators to force full corridors as relief remains woefully inadequate.

He also confirmed teams will enter new areas to search for some captives’ remains and said Hamas accepts UN forces to monitor the ceasefire and borders — moves he presented as practical, not conciliatory.

The family business: Drones, crypto, and Trump’s machine of corruption

From page 1 ► The drone deal is not an isolated episode but part of a broader pattern of influence and transactional governance unfolding across the administration.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent’s stabilization package for Argentina—expanded to \$40 billion—provoked outrage within Trump’s base, many of whom viewed it as a betrayal of the America First agenda.

The deal, exchanging U.S. dollars for Argentine pesos, offered little benefit to ordinary Americans but sizable gains for billionaire hedge fund manager Rob Citrone, a longtime friend of Bessent and his former associate at Soros Fund Management.

Citrone had heavily invested in Argentine bonds and equities tied to President Javier Milei’s austerity measures. CPAC-affiliated operatives, including Matt Schlapp and Tactic Global, coordinated meetings between Milei, Citrone, and U.S. officials, illustrating a tight nexus of political influence, private profit, and foreign lobbying.

Likewise, the White House’s pardon of Binance founder Changpeng Zhao and the emergence of the Trump family’s World Liberty Financial (WLF) stablecoin (USD1) reveal an alarming convergence of regulatory roll-back and private enrichment.

Reporting shows a \$2 billion Emirati investment tied to USD1 and parallel U.S. facilitation of AI chip sales — deals reportedly

brokered by Trump envoys and close family allies — that preceded favorable policy shifts and, ultimately, a pardon for an executive whose company once paid \$4.3 billion in fines.

Observers describe the sequence as a clear pattern: market access, political access, and policy relief benefiting private interests.

This summer’s chip-and-crypto dealings deepened the entanglement of public duty and private profit. In the Mediterranean, Trump’s Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff met Sheikh Tahnoon of the UAE aboard a super yacht off Sardinia — the Italian island long known as a playground for global elites.

The meeting underscored a growing blend of diplomacy and business. Months later, the White House moved to relax restrictions on exporting advanced AI chips to Emirati firms tied to Sheikh Tahnoon’s G42.

Family advisers, G42 executives, and White House tech aides operated in overlapping roles as the negotiations unfolded, creating a web of commercial and diplomatic interests that ethics rules are supposed to prevent.

Key insiders who helped broker the deals had potential conflicts that were formally tolerated rather than barred. David Sacks, the administration’s AI-and-crypto czar and a longtime venture capitalist, received an ethics waiver to participate in chip talks de-



spite prior fund ties to Persian Gulf investors; Witkoff initially claimed to be divesting from World Liberty even as his son was publicly sealing the crypto investment.

According to the New York Times, internal dissent within the White House was overridden — after the dismissal of a key national-security official amid outside agitation — and officials who tried to tighten safeguards were sidelined.

Taken together, these episodes sketch a Washington in which governance, national security procurement, and international finance are increasingly threaded through personal relationships and private gain.

For a president who campaigned on “draining the swamp,” the pattern reads instead as a systematic corrosion of norms — where rules meant to guard the public interest bend under the weight of family fortunes.

Malaysians protest Trump’s support for Israel during ASEAN summit

From page 1 ► Many wore keffiyehs and held placards condemning genocide in Gaza.

Asma Hanim Mahoud, who traveled 300 kilometers from Kelantan to attend the rally, expressed her outrage, telling Al Jazeera, “People who have a conscience know that Trump is a genocide enabler. Without him, Israel cannot kill all the children and people in Gaza. It’s not rocket science.”

Later in the day, approximately 200 protesters reconvened

at Ampang Park, near the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, where the summit was being held. Under heavy police presence, the demonstration remained largely peaceful.

Some protesters threw shoes at effigies of Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, symbolizing their disdain for U.S. policies perceived as enabling Israeli aggression.

The protests reflect discontent in Malaysia, a Muslim-majority nation, over Washing-

ton’s support for Israel’s war on Gaza, which has resulted in over 68,000 Palestinians killed and more than 170,000 wounded, the majority women and children.

In the backdrop of these demonstrations, President Trump attended the ASEAN Summit, where he oversaw the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord between Cambodia and Thailand.

The agreement aims to de-escalate tensions along their shared border, involving mea-

sures such as the withdrawal of heavy weapons and the establishment of an ASEAN Observer Team to monitor the ceasefire.

Additionally, Trump announced trade agreements with Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, focusing on sectors like critical minerals and rare earth elements.

Despite these diplomatic engagements, the protests underscore regional unease with U.S. foreign policy, particularly its stance on Gaza.

Quranic-themed handicraft exhibit underway in Sanandaj

TEHRAN — A handicrafts exhibition showcasing various objects mainly with a Quranic theme is currently underway in Sanandaj, the capital of Kordestan province, western Iran.

The month-long exhibition was commenced last week concurrent with the 48th National Quran Recitation Competition, and it will be running through October 28, a provincial official said on Saturday.

Pouya Talebnia, acting head of the Kordestan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, told Miras Aria news agency that the exhibition aims to promote Quranic teachings, support local producers, and highlight the cultural and artistic potential of the province.

It features 45 booths displaying a range of Quranic and handicraft products, including

Qurans and prayer books, calligraphy panels, marquetry, kilims, jajims, pottery, ceramics, and other locally made items.

The exhibition is open to visitors in two daily sessions, morning and evening, Talebnia said. Handicraft products are being offered at discounted prices, and shuttle services as well as guided visits to Sanandaj's historical sites are available for participants, he added.

Known for its vibrant culture and strong sense of identity, Kordestan boasts high, cold mountains and historical terraced villages that provide a diverse array of landscapes to explore. The capital city of Sanandaj is situated 458 km from Tehran and serves as a key tourist destination with numerous attractions. Marivan, another highlight of the province, lies on the border with Iraq and offers its own unique appeal.

Extensive restoration of historical monuments underway in Fars province

TEHRAN-- Head of Fars Cultural Heritage Department Sadegh Zare' announced the implementation of restoration operations for 34 historical monuments in different parts of the province.

According to Miras Aria, he said that these projects are being implemented with the aim of protecting the valuable heritage of Fars and providing a basis for sustainable tourism exploitation.

He added that Fars Cultural Heritage Department has developed a comprehensive plan for the preservation and restoration of historical monuments this year, and efforts are being made to preserve the heritage of the past while providing the possibility of introducing and exploiting these monuments for tourism.

Emphasizing that Fars province is a treasure trove of Iranian history and civilization, he added that preserving the historical monuments of this province is considered to be a means of preserving the country's national and cultural identity.

Zare' mentioned the restoration of the Sassanid Palace of Sarvestan as one of the flagship projects and said that the implementation of sanitary facilities, the repair of the base building, and the restoration of the main building are among the measures in this complex.

Referring to the restoration projects in

Shiraz, he added that restoration and organization of Hafezieh Tomb, Haft Tanan Stone Museum, New Mosque, and the historical houses of Salehi, Alamdar, Medhat (attributed to Saadi), and Barakat have also begun.

He continued that in the cities, the restoration of Ardeshir Babakan Palace in Firuzabad, the reliefs of the Chogan Gorge in Kazerun, the reliefs of the Parthian soldier in Qir and Karzin, and the walkways of a garden in Pasargadae are among the prominent projects in the field of historical sites.

Zare' also announced the attention to the religious and folk monuments and said that the restoration of Jame' Mosque of Neyriz, Jame' Mosque of Darab, Jame' Mosque of Surian in Bavanat, Ali Khan and Bagher Khan mosques, and a ancient bathhouse in Lamerd County are underway.

Referring to the research activities, he added that the registration of intangible monuments of the cities of Shiraz and Jahrom and the completion of the archaeological map of Sarchehan County are on the agenda.

He emphasized that the development of scientific research and documentation complements the development and physical measures in the field of cultural heritage and plays an important role in transferring the knowledge and experience to the future generations.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Archaeologists urged to examine the historical sites of Shahnameh

TEHRAN - There are numerous cities and geographical areas in Ferdowsi's masterpiece Shahnameh that can be the starting point for archaeological studies, Iranian scholar and expert on Shahnameh, Mohammad Rasouli, has said.

Questions about the origins and significance of that Persian literary masterpiece have long persisted. Consider, for instance:

Is Shahnameh a legend or a reality? In his book, did Ferdowsi narrate the history of Iran or did he present a legendary narrative of Iran and its characters based on his own thoughts? The answers to these questions are very difficult, and Shahnameh scholars do not agree on them.

Are there any historical remains and ancient sites in Shahnameh that would encourage archaeologists to search for historical signs?

Rasouli is also the author of 20 books regarding Shahnameh, the latest of which is titled 'The Complete History of Iran Based on Shahnameh and Ancient Texts'.

Speaking in a press conference on the subject of Shahnameh which was held at the Bozorgmehr Hakim Cultural and Studies Institute in Tehran, he said that Shahnameh is a completely historical text, and Ferdowsi has written the narrative of Iranian history in it in his own language.

In response to ILNA's question whether Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, like the reading of Achaemenid tablets by ancient language experts and the translation of these tablets by Professor Abdolmajid Arfai, led to the discovery of hun-

dreds of ancient sites and cities and villages from the Achaemenid period in Iran, of which no trace remains and which can currently be explored by archaeologists as an ancient site, does it contain any traces of Iranian historical cities and sites that can be used to identify unknown points within this book? he said: "This is definitely the case in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh."

Where Ferdowsi speaks of Iranovich or where he mentions earthquake-prone areas in Iran, he is talking about areas that had continuous earthquakes and archaeologists can find these areas from Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and study them.

Mohammad Rasouli said that one of the main and very helpful issues for in-depth archaeological research of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh is that if archaeologists are convinced that Shahnameh narrates the history of Iran and not a collection of stories derived from legend, then we can witness the beginning of in-depth research in the field of Shahnameh archaeology.

This Iranian university professor pointed out that Shahnameh was written by Ferdowsi almost simultaneously with the writing of the Hindu Rig Veda and the Zoroastrian Avesta.

He added that in the Avesta, a region called 'Var' is also mentioned, which was an underground city, and even the method of its construction is described.

"This issue is also present in the Shahnameh, and finding the cities or historical regions where the events of the Shahnameh took place, and the names and addresses of some of them, incidentally, are in the Shahnameh,

Iran holds talks with Iraq on preserving ruins of Taq Kasra monument

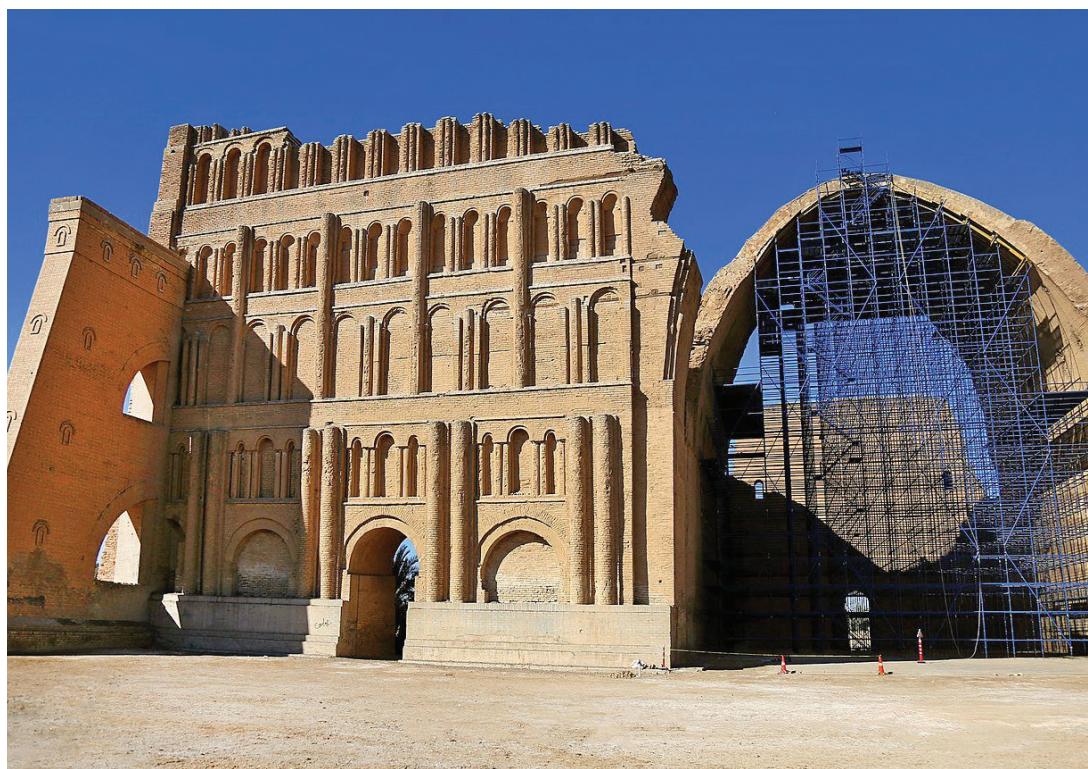
TEHRAN — Iran has held discussions with Iraqi officials on preserving and restoring the ancient Taq Kasra monument, a major remnant of the Sassanid Empire located near Baghdad, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Saturday.

Taq Kasra, sometimes called the Arch of Ctesiphon, is the remains of a Sasanian-era Persian monument, dated to c. the 3rd to 6th centuries, which is now situated near Baghdad, modern Iraq.

Salehi-Amiri told Iranian media that protecting Sassanid-era sites, including Taq Kasra, remains a key concern for Tehran. He said constructive talks had been held with Iraqi authorities to safeguard and restore the monument, and that further results of these discussions would be announced in the future.

"Our focus is on the protection of Sassanid heritage," Salehi-Amiri said. "We have had constructive conversations with Iraqi officials to preserve and restore this complex."

Last year, Iran's cultural attaché in Baghdad announced Tehran's readiness to assist Iraq



in restoring the Taq Kasra arch. He said several capable Iranian companies had been introduced to Iraq's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and were awaiting a response from the Iraqi side.

In May 2025, Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour, head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Communication Organization, also re-

affirmed Iran's offer during a meeting with an Iraqi cultural official in Tehran. "Taq Kasra is a monument deeply cherished by the Iranian people," Imanipour said. "If the Iraqi government is willing, we are interested in contributing to its preservation and repair."

According to sources, the Taq Kasra, part of the ancient roy-

al complex at Ctesiphon, was likely built between the reigns of Shapur I (242–272 CE) and Khosrow I (540 CE).

Parts of the structure have collapsed in recent years, prompting concern among historians and heritage experts in both Iran and Iraq. Despite multiple rounds of discussions, no comprehensive restoration project has yet begun.

Iran launches pilot program for tourist currency exchange and payment cards at airports



TEHRAN – The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CBI) said it has begun a pilot phase of a plan to buy foreign currency from international tourists and

issue "tourist cards" at the country's international airports.

According to a CBI statement, the purchases will be made at rates corresponding to transac-

tions in the CBI's center for the exchange of currency and gold.

The initiative aims to channel foreign exchange inflows through official platforms, facilitate rial payments for tourists, and increase transparency in foreign currency transactions.

Under the pilot program, one designated commercial bank will act as the authorized operator, purchasing foreign currency from tourists and issuing tourist cards. The cards will allow holders to use their exchanged funds in rials for payments within Iran.

The central bank said the plan marks an initial step toward expanding Iran's tourism payment system and strengthening links between the currency market

and the tourism sector.

Tourism Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri announced the plan last year, citing the lack of a proper foreign exchange mechanism and the absence of international credit card services as key barriers to the tourism industry. He urged the central bank to develop new payment solutions for foreign visitors.

Iran hopes the initiative will make travel easier for international visitors and boost revenues from its cultural and historical attractions. The country has 29 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including centuries-old mosques, gardens, bazaars, and ancient monuments.



Invitation to a Two-Phase Tender for Purchasing Liquid Whey Protein Processing Equipment by Isfahan Pegah Dairy Industries Co.

Isfahan Pegah Dairy Industries Co. intends to buy "**Liquid Whey Protein Recovery, Processing and Demineralization Equipment to Produce D90, WPC 80%, and WPI Whey Powder Used in Infant Formula**" via bidding process from qualified supplying companies. Applicants can send their resumes to the below-mentioned email address from the publishing date of this notice so that tender guarantees are sent with the finalized conditions of the tender after their resumes are reviewed and ultimately approved. Sending participation requests and resumes to the following Email Address shall be allowed after this notice is officially published. Bidding documents will be sent to primarily qualified companies. The closing date is 30 days after the published date of this notice.

Purchasing & Procurement Department, Commercial Deputy Manager, on the Corner of 18th St., 5 Kilometers down Isfahan – Tehran Road, Isfahan, IR
Iran Tel: +98313898 – Extension 247
Email address: Pegah.esfahan@yahoo.com.

*Regards,
Commercial Deputy Manager; Isfahan Pegah Dairy Industries Co.*

National Cancer Institute making strides in improving public health

TEHRAN – The Motamed Cancer Institute, which has recently raised its status to the Iranian National Cancer Institute, continues to make significant steps toward improving the public health and well-being of society.

Dr. Ramin Sarrami-Foroushani, the President of the Motamed Cancer Institute, affiliated with the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), publicized the center's elevation to the "Iranian National Cancer Institute", highlighting it as a milestone in improving public health.

He noted that ACECR, by fulfilling its mission to address national challenges and leveraging scientific and technological capacities, continues to take significant strides toward improving the health and well-being of society.

In this regard, a press conference was held on Monday, October 13, on the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) to announce the 7th Nationwide Campaign on Screening for Common Cancers in Women.

The event was attended by Dr. Zahra Sheikhi, Deputy for Research and Technology of ACECR; Dr. Ramin Sarrami Foroushani, President of the Motamed Cancer Research Institute; and Dr. Asieh Olfat-Bakhsh, Deputy for Research and Education of the institute.

Dr. Ramin Sarrami-Foroushani, President of the Motamed Cancer Institute of ACECR, announced that the center has been officially elevated to the status of the Iranian National Cancer Institute, with the support of the ACECR Board of Directors, the Central Headquarters, and the Vice-President of Research and Technology.

He explained that under the



new structure, three specialized research centers — the Research Institute for Regenerative Medicine and Advanced Cancer Therapies, the Research Institute for Converging Technologies in Cancer, and the Research Institute for Personalized Medicine and Quality of Life — will operate under the umbrella of the National Cancer Research Institute, comprising around 10 research departments in total.

Sarrami-Foroushani added that this significant achievement is the result of three decades of dedicated efforts by ACECR's scientists and researchers, expressing hope that with continued support from national authorities, the institute will become a leading national hub for the development of innovative technologies in the field of cancer.

Cancer innovation tower

Elsewhere in his remarks, Sarrami-Foroushani announced the start of construction of the 15-storey cancer innovation tower and advanced therapy ecosystem in Tehran.

He stated that the project has been initiated with the strong support of the Parliament, particularly the Health Commission, as well as the Plan and Budget Organiza-

tion and the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy. Part of the funding has already been secured, and the upper floors of the tower will be dedicated to the production of innovative technologies for advanced cancer treatments.

He emphasized that preserving ACECR's cultural identity alongside technological development remains a core value of the institute. He added, "While focusing on innovation, we continue to embed cultural principles in all our scientific and health-related initiatives — a hallmark of ACECR's approach at the Motamed Cancer Institute."

National program for early cancer detection underway

Sarrami-Foroushani also said that the national program for early cancer detection is being implemented, highlighting the institute's 30-year experience in cancer screening and diagnosis.

He noted that the institute's work began nearly three decades ago as a small clinic on Shahid Nazari Street, at a time when the concept of early detection and cancer screening was not widely recognized in Iran. Today, this mission continues in the form of a comprehensive, scientific, and

nationwide program carried out in collaboration with ACECR's research, healthcare, and cultural divisions.

He went on to say that the National Cancer Research Institute is the outcome of long-term dedication that transformed a small clinic into a national scientific and technological center committed to improving public health.

He also announced the launch of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, coinciding with Global Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October), stating that the campaign operates across three main axes — promotion, education, and treatment — to deliver tangible and accessible health services to the public.

The campaign includes public awareness activities such as city-wide symbolic events, educational workshops for healthcare professionals, and free screening and treatment services for diagnosed patients.

He stressed that breast cancer remains the most prevalent cancer among women worldwide, and early detection greatly improves survival rates while significantly reducing treatment costs. He added that the average tumor size at diagnosis in Iran remains around 32 mm, compared to the global average of 8 mm — underscoring the need for stronger early detection strategies.

He concluded by expressing appreciation for the efforts of researchers, clinicians, cultural experts, and volunteers involved in the nationwide campaign, emphasizing that supporting women through education and early detection is, in fact, supporting the foundation of families and society as a whole.

Some 400,000 authorized foreign nationals working in Iran

TEHRAN – Around 400,000 foreign nationals are legally working in the country, and the rest are unauthorized, Ali Baqeri, an official with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare, has said.

Referring to the employment status of foreign nationals, Baqeri said that foreign workers in Iran include individuals from different nationalities, the majority of whom are Afghans, IRNA reported.

"If Iranian employers are interested in hiring/employing foreign workers, they should apply for a legal permission," he added.

Regarding foreign nationals who have returned to their home countries, Baqeri said that in the event Iranian employers request to re-employ them, these foreigners can apply for a passport and work visa to return to the country. They will be able to work for nine months in Iran, and then get back to their own countries for three months. If needed, they will obtain a work visa through a special online platform.

Employed refugees in Iran will all be covered by health insurance. Employers are committed to assuming the responsibility for employment and the legal presence of the employees, as well as their safety at the workplace, so that they can be held accountable to the relevant authorities if necessary.

The plan will contribute to organizing the labor market, "it will definitely help foreign workers to switch from informal to formal employment market," he said.

The comprehensive refugee registration plan (known as Amayesh), the family passport plan, and the refugee program are still available in the country, and their family members also receive annual residence and work permits.

IOM lauds Iran's services to refugees

On October 7, the Senior Advisor to the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Kim Eling, appreciated the efforts of the country in hosting and providing services to Afghan refugees.

The IOM official met the Iranian Deputy Interior Minister, Mohammad Bathaei, on October 6, on the sidelines of the 76th annual session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, held from October 6 to 10 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Commending the country's efforts in hosting Afghan nationals, Eling said that the reduction in the amount of aid from donor countries is the main challenge for the United Nations in advancing projects.

The Iranian official, for his part, underlined that "despite unilateral coercive sanctions, Iran has provided significant services to foreign nationals."

Iran hopes donor countries carry their share of responsibility by allocating appropriate aid to projects being implemented in the country, the official added.

Delivering a lecture, meeting the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, as well as the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Re-



duction, Kamal Kishore, are among other plans for the Iranian official.

The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Program (ExCom) meets in Geneva annually to review and approve the agency's programs and budget, advise on international protection, and discuss a range of other issues with UNHCR and intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

In August, Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni announced that more than 1.2 million Afghan nationals—mostly undocumented migrants—have left Iran over the past year, with the highest number of departures recorded at the eastern borders of Khorasan Razavi province.

Momeni said the country is not planning to deport documented and authorized refugees.

"We are only deporting the two million Afghans who are illegally residing in Iran," he said.

"Iran is not an anti-immigrant country, as it is hosting six million foreign nationals. Since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 21), some 800,000 out of the two million undocumented refugees left the country," ISNA quoted Momeni as saying on July 18.

"These are honorable people who have contributed to the country's production. Based on regulations, unauthorized refugees must leave the country. If they wish to live here, they have to follow legal procedures," the official further noted.

Voluntary return up by 30%

The voluntary return of undocumented Afghan refugees to their homeland via the Dogharon border terminal in the city of Taibad, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, has increased by 30 percent since the beginning of autumn compared with summer.

Since the start of the current Iranian year (March 21), more than 1.2 million undocumented Afghans have returned to their home country through this border, yjc.ir quoted Hossein Jamshidi, the governor of Taibad, as saying.

Moreover, the number of identified and deported undocumented Afghan nationals across the country has increased by 10 percent during the same period, the official noted.

The official went on to say that the Dogharon border terminal will soon be equipped with a biometric identification system, the first of its kind in Iran's border checkpoints.

The system will be used for detecting and preventing illegal entry into the country.

Kunming Biodiversity Fund to support Iran in addressing SDSs

TEHRAN – The Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has allocated financial resources to Iran to help the country mitigate sand and dust storms' (SDSs) impacts.

According to the secretary of the national policymaking headquarters for dealing with SDSs, Behzad Rayegani, it is for the first time that the KBF has approved a project, proposed by the national headquarters, to manage SDSs, doe.ir reported.

The initiative is part of the 'environmental diplomacy and regional cooperation in combating dust' within the framework of the comprehensive dust combating program under the seventh National Development Plan (2023-2027), which has been developed in close collaboration with the UNDP country and regional offices, Rayegani noted.

Iran's proposal represents the first example of a multifaceted approach to sandstorm control at the international level with a focus on protecting both plant and animal biodiversity, the official said.

This project includes three key areas: enhancing institutional and technical capacities

to protect biodiversity in areas affected by dust; developing and implementing innovative measures to protect plant and animal species in sensitive ecosystems; and raising public and specialist awareness about the link between dust, ecosystem health, and biodiversity, he further noted.

The national headquarters for dealing with SDSs will use the funding to connect plans for combating SDSs and enhancing resilience against SDSs at the regional and global levels.

This achievement is an effective step towards realizing resilient land and biodiversity protection against dust, the official added.

In 2024, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and China launched the KBF, which provides financial and technical support to developing countries for the implementation of the biodiversity plan.

Since then, the KBF has been rapidly developing as a full-fledged fund. The Fund aims to support countries to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (the KMGFBF).

The Fund prioritizes implementing a

whole-of-society approach to address nature and biodiversity loss, improving policies for biodiversity across all national and sub-national levels, strengthening capacities and cooperation, and mobilizing additional resources.

Comprehensive plan for combating SDSs approved

In August, the national specialized working group on SDSs, in cooperation with other governmental bodies, approved a comprehensive plan to address SDSs, which will be used as a national reference document to enhance the country's resilience against one of the most acute environmental threats.

At the 29th meeting of the national specialized working group on SDSs management, held on August 19, the 150-page comprehensive plan was developed with cross-sectoral collaboration of 15 executive agencies and government bodies including the Department of Environment (DOE), the ministries of agriculture, health, energy, and transport, as well as Natural Resources Organization, Crisis Management Organization, and Meteorological Organization, IRNA reported.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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20% of areas in Iran at high risk of flood

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), has said.

"Precipitation in Iran is one-third of the world's average, as the country is located in a dry and fragile region where we experience 11 millimeters decrease in precipitation each 10 years and an increase in evaporation of more than 50 millimeters every year," he explained, ISNA reported.

Rainfall fluctuations usually lead to flood and devastation, so a comprehensive planning for watershed management and flood control is required, he noted.

بیست درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است

سرپرست سازمان جنگلها، مراتع و آبخیزداری می گوید ۲۰ درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است. به گزارش روز جمعه ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی افزود: میزان بارش در کشور ما یک سوم متوسط آن در دنیا است و از نظر جغرافیایی در منطقه ای خشک و شکننده واقع شده‌ایم که هر ۱۰ سال با ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارش و بیش از ۵۰ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تعرق مواجه هستیم که همه منجر به این شده که بارش‌ها در منطقه ما سیلابی و ویرانگر باشد، به همین خاطر نیازمند برنامه ریزی جامع برای مدیریت حوضه‌های آبخیز و کنترل سیلاب‌ها هستیم.



Education, a right for refugee children

Nader Yar-Ahmadi, the head of the National Organization for Migration, paid a visit to a school for Afghan refugee children in Tehran on Saturday.

Iran spends 100 million dollars annually on providing educational services to foreign nationals.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Filippo Grandi, has lauded the efforts of the Education Ministry in supporting and providing services to foreign students.



OCTOBER 27, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Often your utterances and expressions of your face leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:34 Dawn: 4:57 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:22 (tomorrow)

Billy Wilder's "Witness for the Prosecution" screened at TMoCA cinematheque



TEHRAN – The cinematheque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) screened the 1957 American legal mystery melodrama “Witness for the Prosecution,” directed by Billy Wilder, on Sunday.

The screening was a part of the “Law in Cinema” series on the theme of “Courthouse Dramas,” which was followed by a review session in the presence of Kaveh Rad, a lawyer and art law researcher, Mehr reported.

The film, which has elements of black comedy and film noir, is a courtroom drama set in the Old Bailey in London and is based on the 1953 play of the same title by Agatha Christie.

In the film, a man accused of killing a wealthy widow, who had named him as the main beneficiary in her will, undergoes a trial during which his wife testifies against him. A veteran British barrister must defend his client in the murder trial that has surprise after surprise.

Tyrone Power, Marlene Dietrich, Charles Laughton, Elsa Lanchester, and John Williams are in the cast among others.

“Witness for the Prosecution” was acclaimed by critics and received six Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture. It also received five Golden Globe Award nominations including a win for Elsa Lanchester as Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

Additionally, the film was selected as the sixth-best courtroom drama ever by the American Film Institute for its AFI's 10 Top 10 list. Agatha Christie herself considered it the finest film derived from

one of her stories.

Agatha Christie (1890–1976) was an English author known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers, particularly in the mystery genre.

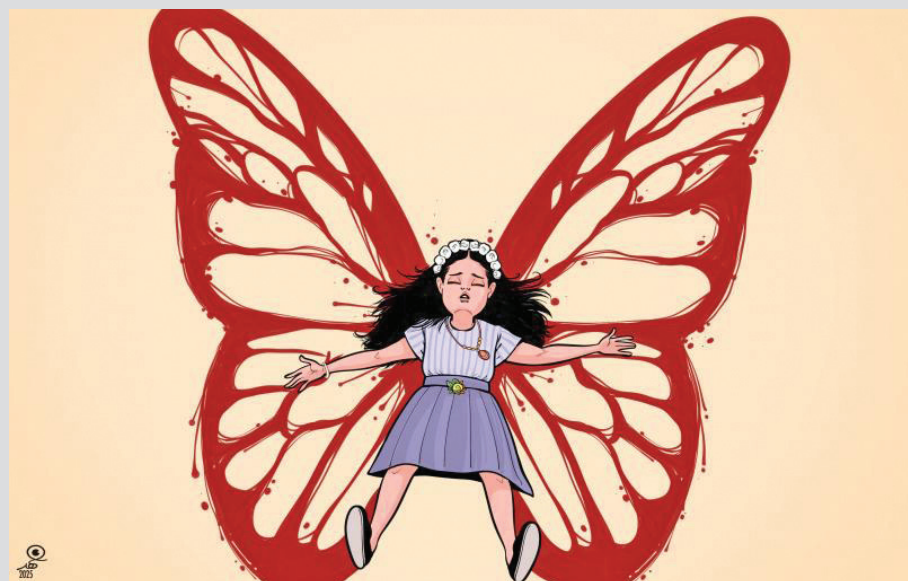
A writer during the “Golden Age of Detective Fiction,” Christie has been called the “Queen of Crime” —a nickname now trademarked by her estate— or the “Queen of Mystery”. She is the best-selling fiction writer of all time, her novels having sold more than two billion copies.

Billy Wilder (1906–2002) was an American filmmaker and screenwriter. Wilder's career in Hollywood spanned five decades, and he is regarded as one of the most brilliant and versatile filmmakers of classical Hollywood cinema. He received seven Academy Awards (among 21 nominations), a BAFTA Award, the Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or and two Golden Globe Awards.

Wilder received various honors over his career, including the AFI Life Achievement Award in 1986, the National Medal of Arts in 1993 and the BAFTA Fellowship Award in 1995. He also received the Directors Guild of America's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Laurel Award for Screenwriting Achievement and the Producers Guild of America's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Seven of his films are preserved in the United States National Film Registry of the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically or aesthetically significant”.

Cartoon of Day



Hind Rajab
Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria

Family as heartbeat of art and human connection

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN – Marking the 63rd anniversary of diplomatic relations, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Tehran hosted the Korea-Iran Calligraphy Exhibition on October 23 in a vibrant celebration of cultural ties at the Ambassador's Residence.

Jointly organized with the Cultural Coordination Center under the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the exhibition unfolded under the poignant theme of “Family,” serving as a dynamic platform to deepen mutual understanding and expand cultural exchange.

The exhibition featured a compelling dialogue between two distinct calligraphic traditions. From Korea, a delegation of twelve artists from the Korean Calligraphy Association, led by President Yoo Hyun-deok, showcased the refined harmony of their art. The delegation's visit was particularly significant as it marked the first time in nine years that Korean calligraphy artists have traveled to Iran for such an event.

During the event, the Tehran Times conducted an exclusive interview with Mr. Yoo Hyun-deok, which follows.

What effect has the theme of this exhibition, which is the universal concept of family, had on your artistic process?

In fact, the choice of the family



theme for this exhibition was mine.

The concept of family truly holds a special place in human relationships and life.

In my opinion, there is absolutely no need to know the language; the mere existence of the concept of family in human relationships means that they can easily connect with each other.

In truth, organizing this exhibition had many ups and downs and difficulties for us, but it was precisely because of this concept of family that we did this work, a concept whose value remains preserved and its meaning is

very beautiful.

Please tell us about the similarities between Korean and Iranian calligraphy.

The main understanding and the principal commonality in Iranian and Korean calligraphy is that we don't necessarily write just to leave something behind and record it; we display our heart, our feelings, our power of imagination, and our logic through calligraphy.

How does holding such exhibitions and conducting such cultural actions strengthen Iran-Korea cultural relations?

In fact, I don't use the concept of cultural exchange much because I believe that if people connect with each other and this connection is established beautifully, very normally and smoothly, this cultural transfer also happens. As a result, human relationship comes first for me.

I am sure that when I return to Korea and think of Iran and Iranians, my heart will beat faster and I will feel encouraged.

I record my art with this feeling, and when art is recorded with this feeling, it turns into a valuable work.

Iranian cartoonists win awards at Brazilian contest



This work by Iranian cartoonist Abbas Nasser received second place in the cartoon category at 20th Caratinga International Humor Exhibition in Brazil.

TEHRAN– Three Iranian cartoonists were honored at the 20th edition of the Caratinga International Humor Exhibition in Brazil, which came to an end on Sunday.

Abbas Nasser received second place in the cartoon category, while Hamid Souf earned an honorable mention in this section. In the Comics category, Ali Rastroo was awarded third prize.

The 20th Caratinga International Humor Exhibition 2025 centered on the theme “Dreams / Challenges,” highlighting hopes and achieve-

ments. The event celebrated creativity and resilience through humor, emphasizing the interconnectedness of dreams and challenges in human life. Dreams and obstacles are vital to human growth, requiring resilience, grit, and adaptability to turn challenges into opportunities.

Organized by the Caratinga Cultural Station with support from the Caratinga City Hall, the event was held in four categories of cartoons, comic strips, caricatures, and tribute caricatures, each limited to one entry.

Iranian play “Larva” performed at Ethos International Theater Festival in Turkey

TEHRAN – Paniz Acting Academy from Iran performed “Larva,” a comedy drama play, at the 17th Ethos International Theater Festival in Turkey on Sunday.

Written, designed, and directed by Sina Safavifar, the 60-minute play was staged at the Yaşar Kemal Hall in Istanbul, Honaronline reported.

The play is about characters who visit a

mysterious company and want to have their memories erased. Each of them comes for a different reason: one who wants to forget the conflict with his mother, another who claims his inheritance fraudulently, a peasant man whose memory is accidentally erased in a funny scene, a young woman who identifies with Marilyn Monroe, and a poet who learns of his execution. However, in the end, they all

lose not only their memories but also their entire identities.

Masoumeh Fakhrazakeri, Alireza Rahimzadeh, Amin Akbarinasab, Paniz Esmaeili, and Amirhossein Mirfendereski performed in the play.

The one-act play explored memory, identity, and the desire to escape pain by blending drama and comedy.

Gaza artists' biennial finds a home in Istanbul

Launched in 2024 by a handful of artists on a Gaza beach under siege, the Gaza Biennale has grown into a constellation of independent “pavilions” stretching from London, Berlin, and Athens to Toronto, Washington, and New York. Each city curates its own response, drawing on the same pool of Gazan artists and redefining what an international biennial can look like when the center does not hold,

“The biennial is one of the most colonial inventions in contemporary art,” said Shulamit Bruckstein, founder of House of Taswir, which co-curated the show that is now underway in Istanbul. “It was born of world's fairs and national pavilions. We turned it inside out. The Gaza Biennale is completely diasporic and dispersed, a collective act of joint production,” Al-Monitor quoted her as saying.

“I love this way of working,” Bruckstein, a Berlin- and Istanbul-based curator and philosopher, told Al-Monitor. “We didn't only create a biennial; we created a way of working. When you can't exhibit, you invent new forms of showing. When you can't travel, the exhibition travels to you.”

Gaza Biennale — The Istanbul Pavilion is taking place at the same time as the Istanbul Biennial, the city's flagship art event, which runs until the end of November. The 18th edition of the Istanbul Biennial, “The Three-Legged Cat,” curated by the Lebanese artist-activist Christine Tohme, also has a strong Palestinian backbone, including works by Soheil Salem, whose ink-on-paper Gaza diaries

are also being exhibited at the Gaza exhibition.

This edition of Gaza Biennale – The Istanbul Pavilion, themed “A Cloud in My Hand,” is spread across two floors of the Depo Istanbul, in the Tophane quarter, walking distance from many of the Istanbul Biennial's venues.

To realize the Istanbul Pavilion, the House of Taswir and associates collaborated with the Gaza Biennale Initiative; the Forbidden Museum of Jabal al-Risan, in Ramallah; and Addar, a community center for Palestinians and Syrians, in Istanbul.

More than 50 artists are represented through reconstructed works, texts and voice recordings — a “multi-voiced act of cultural survival,” as Bruckstein puts it. Many of the artists could not leave Gaza, nor could their works travel. Others, already in Egypt or the United Arab Emirates, were grounded by visa and transport barriers.

More than once, Turkish co-curator Kubilay Ozmen traveled abroad to physically retrieve works and bring them to Istanbul. Mostly, however, curators and artists worked through encrypted WhatsApp calls, exchanging images of paper textures and print proofs for approval, a process Bruckstein called “co-production at a distance.”

“We created a biennale without artworks and without artists,” she said. “In a few minutes of connection, new works were born. Some artists sent notebook drawings, others only photographs. We turned them into eight-meter murals or prints on pine wood, where the grain becomes part of the image.”

Ozmen added, “We didn't want a photography show. We needed to re-create originals.”

The first work that greets visitors is by Mohammed Alhaj, a Libyan-born Palestinian artist from Gaza. It depicts a semi-abstract figure, bare-chested and wearing a traditional kaffiyeh, who wanders between Gaza and the West Bank in search of belonging, a symbol of vulnerability and endurance.

Alhaj sent images of four or five small notebook drawings from Gaza — modest sketches of rural life as he imagined it, some of which have now been lost as a result of his many displacements. Together with the Turkish artist Furkan Akhan, the curators transformed his contributions into an eight-meter storyboard mural.

“The story of that mural is also the story of the exhibition's title,” Bruckstein recalled. “A friend saw an image of a white horse and immediately thought of Mahmoud Darwish's ‘Don't Leave the Horse to Others.’ That remark sent us to the library. We opened the collection and saw the poem ‘A Cloud in My Hand.’ Those associative steps shaped the exhibition's inner architecture.”

The fragility of life, and the thin line between survival and loss, is also painfully represented in one of the most photographed works of the biennial. Yasmeen Al-Daya's “Life” began in Gaza as a small, kiln-clay mask inspired by an eight-year-old girl killed in a bombardment. In Istanbul, it was reborn as a monumental diasec print, whose depth and sheen lend the work a spectral vitality.