

Larijani: West Cannot Dictate Iranian Missile Range

Closing ceremony marks conclusion of the 'We and the West' conference



The Director of the "We and the West" Conference (L), Mousa Faqih Haghani, and Iran's Security Chief Ali Larijani (R) during the conference's closing ceremony in Tehran on November 10, 2025.

Iran, Uzbekistan trade up 58% as minister calls Tashkent key link to Central Asia

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Seyed Mohammad Atabak said Uzbekistan plays a vital role as a connecting hub between Iran and Central Asia, adding that trade between the two countries has risen by 58 percent this year.

According to the ministry, Atabak traveled to Tashkent for talks with senior Uzbek officials, including the prime minister and ministers of economy and industry, aiming to reach new tariff agreements, remove customs barriers, and facilitate trade exchanges. ▶ Page 4



Qalibaf's Pakistan visit affirms Tehran-Islamabad friendship

By Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my esteemed counterpart, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the distinguished members of his delegation, for their recent visit to Pakistan. Their presence in Islamabad was both an honour and a reaffirmation of the deep-rooted friendship and mutual respect that defined relations between Pakistan and Iran. ▶ Page 2

US putting pressure on Lebanon's politics and economy

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Lebanon's future is increasingly dictated by external powers, particularly the United States, as its embassy in Beirut and visiting delegations from its Treasury and State Departments are exerting decisive political, financial, and diplomatic influence.

Amid economic collapse, political fragmentation, and repeated security threats, Washington pressures Lebanon to align with its strategic objectives, focusing on two main goals: encouraging negotiations with Israel over border and security issues, and limiting Hezbollah's political and military influence.

Although these measures are officially framed as efforts to "stabilize" Lebanon and restore sovereignty, in practice they deepen domestic divisions and increase Lebanon's dependence on foreign guidance.

Confessions of carnage: Israeli soldiers admit to war crimes in Gaza

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN – The war in Gaza, which erupted on October 7, 2023, has become a defining crisis of our time — not only for its staggering human toll, but for what it reveals about the erosion of ethical boundaries in modern warfare. More than 69,000 Palestinians have been killed, many of them women and children. Despite a ceasefire announced last month, Israeli military operations have continued unabated. What began as a response to a Hamas attack has evolved into a campaign that many international observers now describe as genocidal.

Recent reporting by The Guardian, based on the ITV documentary Breaking Ranks: Inside Israel's War, offers rare insight into the war's inner workings — not from external critics, but from Israeli soldiers themselves. Their testimonies expose a culture of impunity, where civilians were killed arbitrarily, homes destroyed without justification, and human shields used as tactical tools. These confessions are not only morally damning; they are legally incriminating.

Promising high turnout in Iraqi election

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The first phase of Iraq's 2025 parliamentary elections officially ended, marking an important milestone ahead of the general vote. With a participation rate exceeding 82%, the process witnessed smooth operations and high voter engagement among members of the security forces and displaced persons.

The Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission announced that voter turnout in the special voting process for all security units and forces, as well as displaced persons, reached 82.42%, while indicating that the elections proceeded smoothly and with high accuracy.

Omar Ahmed, head of the Board of Commissioners, said during a press conference that the commission maintained neutrality toward all candidates. He noted that the total number of voters exceeded 1.1 million, adding that the commission monitored the voting process across all provinces through its field teams. According to Ahmed, the results reflect both voter commitment and the smooth progress of the electoral process.

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What Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said at his weekly briefing

TEHRAN – Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei addressed a wide range of political, legal, and regional issues at his weekly press conference on Monday.

Among the topics he addressed were Trump's recent admission of his role in the June war against Iran, Iran's membership in the NPT, Israeli aggression in the region, and other regional tensions.

'Trump's admission is evidence of war crimes'

Referring to the U.S. President Donald Trump's recent public admission that he personally authorized the attack on Iran on June 13, Baqaei said this confession amounts to "a clear acknowledgment of international crimes."

"From the outset, we had no doubt about U.S. complicity. Now, with the American president openly confessing, the matter becomes undeniable. We immediately registered this admission as part of our documentation of war crimes," he said. ▶ Page 2

Ammar Popular Film Festival unveils official poster

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The 16th edition of the Ammar Popular Film Festival unveiled an official poster for its international section during a press conference held in Tehran on Monday.

Yemeni cartoonist Kamal Sharaf has designed the poster that features a motion picture camera that is projecting an image of a keffiyeh and the Palestinian flag outward through its lens.

Speaking at the event, Marzieh Hashemi, the secretary of the festival, stated that with the beginning of the sixteenth edition, coinciding with regional developments, the Ammar Festival has commenced at a time when the awakening of nations has intensified since Operation AL-Aqsa Storm. ▶ Page 8



We sacrificed for nuclear industry and will not back down: Araghchi

TEHRAN – Following a visit to multiple departments of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi affirmed the country's unwavering commitment to its nuclear program.

"I have collaborated closely with the Atomic Energy Organization for years and visited its centers many times, yet each visit fills me with pride at the progress achieved. Our nuclear industry is vast and advancing across multiple fields," he said.

He emphasized that nuclear science is highly complex and represents a major achievement for Iranian scientists. "No one can ignore these accomplishments, because our scientists have worked tirelessly, fought, and even shed blood to achieve them," Araghchi added.

Addressing Western criticisms, he said nuclear weapons are a pretext, and the real concern is Iran's advancement in a field spanning medicine, industry, environment, and agriculture.



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Urgent need to redefine Iran's neighborhood policy before it's too late

Shargh examined Kazakhstan's accession to the Abraham Accords and explored its implications. The paper argues that this development should be viewed as a serious warning for Iran's foreign policy. While Tehran remains heavily focused on Middle East dossiers and traditional crises such as Gaza, Yemen, and the JCPOA, a new configuration of power is quietly emerging along Iran's northern border. The policy of "active neighborhood engagement" now demands a genuine redefinition. Iran must move beyond slogans and statements and begin formulating a clear doctrine for Central Asia, a region that has become not only a theater of competition between Russia and China but also a gateway for overt involvement by the United States and Israel. If Iran remains passive in this arena, the formation of a new security belt stretching from the Caucasus to Central Asia—anchored by political-security ties among Israel, the U.S., and Turkey—may become a reality. Such a trajectory could significantly undermine Iran's balancing strategy in the North and East and impose new security costs on Tehran. Kazakhstan's accession to the Abraham Accords is therefore not merely a diplomatic headline; it signals the emergence of a new regional order—one that is unfolding without Iran, and potentially against it.

Resalat: A strategic move to strengthen border security

In a recent note, Resalat addressed the expansion of border markets between Iran and Pakistan, emphasizing that this initiative is not merely an economic project. Rather, it constitutes a strategic measure to enhance border security, curb smuggling, generate local employment, and promote regional stability. When borders become platforms for legal economic activity, barter trade, and commercial exchange, incentives for illicit operations and insecurity diminish significantly. At a broader level, the development of border markets can strengthen people-to-people ties between the two neighboring nations, foster cultural exchanges, and reduce border sensitivities. When communities on both sides of the frontier benefit from stable and legitimate trade, social cohesion is reinforced, paving the way for deeper security cooperation. Moreover, economic proximity to Pakistan offers Iran an opportunity to activate its regional capacities and diversify its economy in the face of Western sanctions. If this initiative is pursued with careful planning and sustained economic diplomacy, it could open a new path for consolidating Tehran-Islamabad ties across economic, security, and cultural dimensions; a path that ultimately

serves sustainable development and regional stability.

Javan: Iran's geopolitical role cannot be excluded from regional equations

Javan interviewed Mehdi Khorsand, an expert on international and Eurasian affairs, regarding Iran's strategic significance. He emphasized that the growing importance of transit corridors—and their pivotal role in fostering economic cohesion and trade prosperity—has prompted countries worldwide to invest heavily in their development. Iran, owing to its unique geopolitical position both regionally and globally, remains a focal point of attention. Conversely, efforts to evade and exclude Iran from transit routes have become a strategic tool for its foes. The foes intend to isolate Iran internationally and put multifaceted pressure on Iran. As a result, the "corridor battle" has emerged as a new front in geopolitical confrontation. If Iran's latent advantages are actualized, neighboring countries could transport goods more efficiently, with lower costs and shorter timelines. This would enable Iran to evade sanctions, as the economies of surrounding nations become increasingly dependent on its geopolitical infrastructure. Such dependency is a major asset: once Iran's transit routes are fully operational and regional economies flow through its territory, any new sanctions would likely provoke reactions from neighboring states.

Khorasan: Sudan and the opportunity for Iran's soft power

Khorasan analyzed Sudan's strategic relevance to Iran, identifying two key dimensions. First is the geography of the Red Sea. Second is Sudan's role in regional politics. The country sits at the intersection of competing interests among Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and others, centered on ports, desert borders, and the arms market. Any ill-considered move could inadvertently entangle Tehran in complex, irreversible rivalries. In such a volatile environment, Iran's optimal strategy is to expand its influence through low-cost channels, guided by pragmatic logic. By supporting temporary ceasefires, establishing humanitarian and relief corridors, and assuming a facilitative role, Tehran can engage effectively and gain legitimacy in Sudan's evolving landscape. This approach also enhances the feasibility of pursuing Iran's political and economic interests in the country. Amid famine and institutional collapse, what will embed Iran's legitimate presence in Sudan's collective memory is its role as a problem-solver; a role that not only boosts Iran's diplomatic capital but also avoids friction with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE during this high-risk period.

Qalibaf's Pakistan visit affirms Tehran-Islamabad friendship

From page 1 ► Pakistan and Iran share a relationship that transcends geography and politics — one built upon the timeless foundations of faith, culture, and shared history. The spiritual, intellectual, and cultural bonds that unite our peoples are a reflection of a brotherhood that has endured through centuries. Our poets, thinkers, and reformers have drawn inspiration from the same civilizational values that emphasize peace, justice, dignity, and the pursuit of knowledge.

This visit of the Iranian parliamentary delegation marks a significant milestone in the continued strengthening of our parliamentary and strategic ties. The discussions we held reflected a shared vision for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous region. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to enhance cooperation in diverse sectors — including trade, energy, border, and cultural exchange — while promoting connectivity and people-to-people linkages.

The people and Parliament of Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all circumstances. We highly appreciate Iran's



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (L) met with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, in Islamabad last week

unwavering friendship and its principled support for Pakistan at regional and international forums. Likewise, Pakistan remains committed to supporting Iran's efforts for peace, security, and dignity across the Muslim world.

As Speakers of our respective parliaments, we recognize that parliamentary diplomacy is one of the most effective in-

struments for fostering mutual understanding and long-term cooperation. Legislatures, being the true representatives of the people, are uniquely positioned to strengthen the foundation of bilateral trust and collaboration. I am confident that the ongoing engagement between our parliamentary friendship groups and committees will further institutionalize this cooperation and

give it greater depth and direction.

The exchange of ideas during this visit underscored the importance of collective action in addressing shared challenges — from regional security and economic development to combating Islamophobia and promoting interfaith harmony. Pakistan and Iran, as two pivotal Muslim nations, have a moral and strategic responsibility to work together for the unity and progress of the Ummah.

I firmly believe that the future of our region lies in closer cooperation, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to justice and peace. The National Assembly of Pakistan remains fully committed to deepening parliamentary collaboration with the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, with the conviction that stronger ties between our institutions will serve as a bridge of understanding for generations to come.

May the eternal bonds between Pakistan and Iran continue to flourish, and may our collective efforts lead to lasting peace, prosperity, and unity across the region.

Iran to convene first meeting of Caspian coastal governors to strengthen regional ties



TEHRAN — Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs and Special Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Caspian Sea Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, has described the upcoming First Meeting of Governors of Caspian Littoral Provinces, to be hosted by Gilan Province, as a significant step toward deepening regional cooperation among the Caspian

states.

Speaking on Sunday, Gharibabadi said the gathering will take place in the city of Rasht on November 17 and 18, following a resolution adopted at the Third Caspian Economic Forum held in Tehran in February 2024. The event will bring together governors from ten Caspian coastal provinces of Russia, Kazakhstan,

Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan, along with governors from Iran's northern and southern provinces. Ambassadors and consuls general of the Islamic Republic of Iran in these four countries, as well as the ambassadors of the Caspian states based in Tehran, will also attend.

He noted that the meeting will include discussions on strengthening economic cooperation, attracting investment, and advancing regional development, as well as on transit, logistics, and the expansion of the North-South Corridor. Environmental issues, including fisheries and the restoration of the Caspian ecosystem, will also be addressed.

According to Gharibabadi, the Foreign Minister and Interior Minister will deliver remarks at the opening ceremony, while the First Vice President is scheduled to attend and speak at the closing session.

He stressed that the meeting aims to establish a sustainable framework for trade, economic,

and transit cooperation, while encouraging the exchange of experience and expertise among the coastal provinces of the Caspian states. The two-day event will also see active participation from private sector representatives and economic actors from the littoral countries, who are expected to play a key role in promoting practical regional initiatives.

Also on Monday, the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei highlighted the significance of the event, noting that this is the first time such a meeting is being held and that it will take place in Rasht. He said the initiative was proposed by Iran and approved by all five Caspian littoral states, all of which will send delegations to participate. Several Iranian provinces will also take part in the discussions. The spokesperson underscored that the meeting seeks to enhance cooperation among the Caspian coastal countries by facilitating new channels of communication and connectivity.

What Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said at his weekly briefing

From page 1 ► "It will be used as clear evidence in any relevant international tribunal."

He confirmed that Iran is "pursuing all possible legal avenues" to file a case against the United States for its involvement in the aggression.

Before waging war on Iran, the U.S. president Donald Trump managed to get the country to engage in indirect negotiations on its nuclear program — a contrast to his first term when Tehran had refused such talks after he withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions against the nation. Yet, the U.S. President began the war only days before a sixth round of the negotiations was set to take place in Oman.

'Iran continues to fulfill its obligations to NPT'

Baqaei reiterated that as a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iran continues to fulfill its obligations.

He revealed that IAEA inspectors visited several nuclear sites, including the Tehran Research

Reactor, last week.

"Any new request by the Agency will be referred to the Supreme National Security Council," he said, adding that "Iran's situation after the recent attack is exceptional and cannot be treated as normal."

He criticized European countries for "triggering the snapback mechanism" despite the Cairo agreement that had paved the way for cooperation.

Baqaei also discussed the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors meeting, noting that Iran expects the three European members to continue aligning themselves with Washington's hostile policies.

He emphasized that Iran's representative in Vienna is in close contact with member states ahead of the meeting.

The snapback mechanism was formally invoked by the European signatories to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—the United Kingdom, Germany, and France—in late August. On September 19, the UN

Security Council voted against permanently lifting pre-JCPOA sanctions on Iran. On September 27, the Council also rejected a resolution introduced by Russia and China—both remaining JCPOA signatories alongside Iran, after the United States' withdrawal in 2018—to delay the reimposition of sanctions. A day later, the E3 announced that UN sanctions against Iran had officially been reimposed.

'Israeli regime's claim on alleged assassination plot is absurd'

Addressing claims by the Israeli regime about an alleged plot to assassinate its ambassador in Mexico, Baqaei called the accusation "so absurd that it hardly warrants a response."

He added that even Mexican and intelligence authorities had officially dismissed the claim.

"Similar false cases have been fabricated before, including in Australia, where such baseless allegations were used to damage longstanding bilateral relations with Iran," he noted.

Unnamed US and Israeli senior officials told news outlets late last week that the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) plotted to assassinate Israeli envoy Einat Kranz Neiger beginning in late 2024 and remaining active into mid-2025.

'Lifting sanctions remains Iran's invariable condition'

Responding to Trump's remarks that Iran seeks sanctions relief, Baqaei stressed that the demand to lift sanctions is "a legitimate and inherent right of the Iranian people."

"Sanctions are not a favor to be granted by the United States—they are crimes against humanity," he said.

"Iran's position has always been that confidence-building regarding the nuclear program must be accompanied by the removal of all imposed sanctions."

He reiterated that lifting sanctions remains Iran's fundamental condition in any future negotiation with the West.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Larijani: West cannot dictate Iranian missile range

Closing ceremony marks conclusion of the ‘We and the West’ conference

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – Washington appears to be persevering with its non-starter demands for a deal to de-escalate tensions with Tehran, a situation underscored by two top Iranian officials reiterating the country's firm stance on its nuclear activities and missile range – the very weapons used in June to halt U.S.-Israeli strikes targeting Iranian infrastructure.

In April, Iran and the United States began indirect negotiations to devise a deal that would replace the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 nuclear agreement that limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. During his first term, Trump rendered the deal defunct after announcing Washington's withdrawal and re-imposing sanctions against Iran. He also derailed the diplomatic process he had started in his second term by helping Israel launch a 12-day war against Iran on June 13, just days before a sixth round of talks was set to take place in Oman. Last week, Trump admitted that while the U.S. publicly entered the war on Day 10 and bombed three Iranian nuclear sites, he was “pretty much in charge” of the aggression from the beginning.

It remains unclear whether the



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani addresses a conference in Tehran on November 10, 2025.

war destroyed Iran's nuclear sites, which are located deep underground. Iranians have adopted a policy of ambiguity, and analysts suggest that even if the sites are no longer operational, the country could quickly resume its nuclear activities, given that the industry has been fully indigenized.

Washington, however, prefers to assume Iran's nuclear capabilities no longer exist, the Tehran Times understands. Consequently, the U.S. now insists that Iran agree to lower the range of its missiles in any new talks – a condition Iran has deemed

unacceptable for years. The recent war has also made the public increasingly cautious about the potential loss of the country's main defense weapon. On Saturday, an IRGC Aerospace official declared that ordinary citizens have been asking the military to use their money to build more missiles.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani, who became the country's security chief after the war, said on Monday that the United States is in no position to dictate what the range of Iranian missiles should be. “What

does it have to do with the West that it comments on the range of Iran's missiles?” he asked. “No country is entitled to interfere in the Iranian nation's defensive power,” which is a matter of independence, Larijani added. He was speaking at the closing ceremony concluding the conference “We and the West: The Thoughts and Views of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution”.

The security chief also asserted that Western states used Iran's nuclear program as a pretext to pressure Tehran. This claim is supported by a previous Tehran Times report, which revealed that back in September Iran offered to transfer all its 60% enriched uranium to the West if the European trio would scrap the snapback of pre-JCPOA UN sanctions. The U.S. rejected the offer and told the Europeans to proceed with their plans.

Iran is not giving up on its nuclear program either; Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who led Iran's negotiating team in April, stated after a Monday visit to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran headquarters that the country has “worked tirelessly, fought, and even shed blood” for its nuclear achievements and therefore will not abandon them, regardless of the pressure it faces.

US pressure, sanctions won't deter Sino-Iranian cooperation: Chinese ambassador

TEHRAN – The Chinese ambassador to Iran says U.S. pressure will have no bearing on Tehran-Beijing cooperation.

Cong Peiwu told reporters that his country dismisses and turns a blind eye to Washington's unreasonable pressure, and will show its opposition in practice. “The United States' unilateral sanctions on Iran will not disrupt our relations, and we will continue our interactions,” he explained.

This comes as the presidents of Iran and China have pledged to fully implement a 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership document, which focuses on closer cooperation between the two sides in all areas.

During a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in early October, President Masoud Pezeshkian also expressed Tehran's backing for Xi's global governance initiative and said Iran was ready to work with Beijing under all circumstances to raise relations to their “maximum level.”

Pezeshkian said China could count on Iran as a “strong and determined” partner and expressed interest in joint projects, including high-speed railways and highways. He also criticized the United States for pursuing unilateral policies and interfering in other countries.

Xi said China was committed to advancing relations with Iran with a “future-oriented outlook” and called for faster implementation of bilateral agreements, including those

discussed at their previous meeting in Kazan.

The Chinese leader described Iran as a “strategic partner” and urged closer coordination within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to counter unilateralism. After Pezeshkian's return, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei described his trip to China as significant.

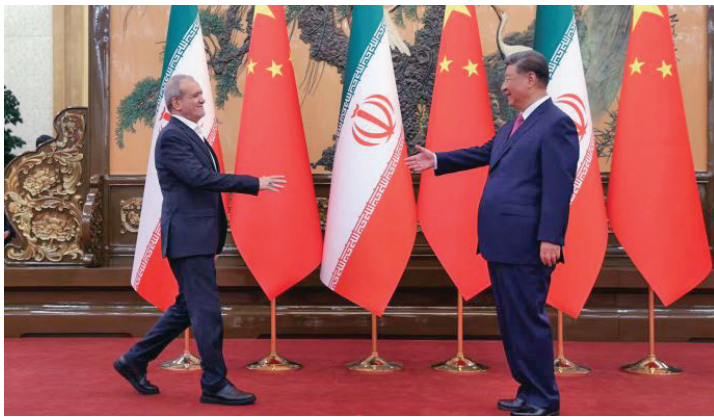
Beijing backs Tehran in its nuclear dispute with the West. Over a month ago, Iran, China and Russia, in a letter to UN Secretary General António Guterres, announced that a move by Britain, France and Germany to re-impose pre-JCPOA UN sanctions against Iran lacked any legal foundation.

The UK, France, and Germany triggered the so-called snapback mechanism on August 28, setting in motion a process to restore all UN sanctions on Iran.

These three European countries, which are U.S. allies, along with the United States expected that the sanctions could curb the flow of oil from Iran to major customers like China.

Nevertheless, experts and authorities in Iran have consistently downplayed concerns raised about the country's oil exports, arguing that U.S. pressure would not affect Iran's oil trade or its access to international markets.

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said in early October that UN



President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) met with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Beijing on September 2, 2025.

sanctions would not add any new pressure on the country's oil exports as he explained that the country had overcome some of the harshest American sanctions targeting its oil industry in recent years.

This comes as Iran has set a new record in its oil exports despite the ongoing U.S. pressure and UN sanctions, according to the latest data from a leading energy analytics firm.

The Tankers Trackers said in a post on its X account on November 9, 2025 that Iran had exported an average of 2.3 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil over the past four weeks. “These are numbers we haven't seen since the early half of 2018,” the post said.

Iran's oil exports came under sweeping U.S. sanctions in May 2018, when Washington withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal

The sanctions affected Iranian oil

shipments when they were tightened in May 2019, but they gradually became ineffective as Iran managed to restore and expand its exports, particularly to private buyers in China.

The Tanker Trackers had already reported a seven-year record in Iran's oil exports in September when shipments reached nearly 2 million bpd.

That report came just before the United Nations re-imposed six sanction resolutions on Iran that had been lifted in 2015 when the country signed the JCPOA with world powers.

Apart from the nuclear issue and oil exports, Iran is also likely to turn to China to mend shortcomings noted during the 12-day U.S.-Israeli aggression in June. Air defense systems and fighter jets are among the equipment Iranians may seek to purchase from the Chinese.

Samyar Abdoli claims Iran's first gold at 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Swimmer Samyar Abdoli claimed Iran's first gold medal at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Sunday.

Abdoli clocked 0:22.44 at the Men's 50m Freestyle to win Iran's first gold at the Games.

Egyptian Abdelrahman snatched the silver with 0:22.51 and Saudi Arabia's Zaid Al Sarraj won bronze with 0:22.57.

Iran's Men's 4 × 200m Freestyle Relay also seized a bronze medal with a time of 7:34.19.

Turkey won gold with 7:30.73 and Kazakhstan came third with 7:33.50.

The 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games, also known as Riyadh 2025, are an inter-continental multi-sport event organized by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA), which are being held from Nov. 7 to 21 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The event has brought together more than 3,000 athletes from 57 nations, competing across 25 sports in pursuit of glory at one of the Islamic world's premier multi-sport events.

2025 ISG: Iranian boxer Shahbakhsh takes bronze

TEHRAN – Danial Shahbakhsh of Iran won a bronze medal at boxing in the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG).

He lost to Kazakhstan's Daniyar Madiyarov of Kazakhstan 4-1 in the men's 60kg semifinals.

Madiyarov will face Mohammadali Gasimzade of Azerbaijan in the final match on Monday.

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Tabatabaei comes first at 2025 Open Bavarian Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian grandmaster Mohamadamin Tabatabaei won the title of the 2025 Open International Bavarian Chess Championships.

Tabatabaei won the title with eight points, followed by German Luis Engel and Szymon Gumularz from Poland both with seven points.

With an Elo rating of 2700.3, Tabatabaei is ranked 33rd in the live world rankings.

The 28th edition of the Bavarian International Open was held in Gmund am Tegernsee, Germany from Nov. 1 to 9.

It was a 9-round Swiss system tournament with a time control of 90 min/ 40 moves + 30 min + 30 sec/move.

More than 550 chess players had registered for the event.

Australia beat Iran at 2025 IWBF Asia Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Australian men's wheelchair basketball team defeated Iran 79-71 at the 2025 IWBF Asia Oceania Championships on Monday.

Team Melli had defeated China 89-30 in their opening match but lost to Japan 64-46.

The competition takes place in Bangkok, Thailand, from Nov. 7 to 15 at the Centara Life Government Complex and Convention Centre.

Bringing together the top men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams from across the Asia Oceania region, the Championships will serve as a key qualification tournament for both the 2026 IWBF World Championships and the 2026 Asia Para Games.

The championship has brought Afghanistan, Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, New Zealand, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Thailand together in the men's division.

Australia, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Japan, Laos, Philippines and Thailand compete in the women's division.

Iran U23 football to participate at MANAS CUP

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team will participate at the MANAS CUP International Football Tournament in Manas city, Kyrgyzstan.

The event brings Kyrgyzstan, Bahrain, Iran, and Russia at Kurmanbek Stadium together.

Iran will meet Russia on November 12 and also play Kyrgyzstan and Bahrain on November 15 and 18, respectively.

All participants in the upcoming games are preparing for the 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup final tournament, which will be held in January in Saudi Arabia.

Bam Khatoon leaves Kerman for AFC Women's Champions League 26-2025

TEHRAN – Bam Khatoon left Kerman for China on Monday to take part at the AFC Women's Champions League 2025-26.

The 12 teams were divided into three groups for the second edition of the continental showpiece and will do battle in a centralized league format between November 9 to 23.

Group A will see top seeds and last season's beaten finalist Australia's Melbourne City FC doing battle with host Ho Chi Minh City FC of Vietnam, Philippines' Stallion Laguna FC and Lion City Sailors FC of Singapore.

Group B comprises defending champion and host Wuhan Jiangda Women's FC of China, Iran's Bam Khatoon FC, East Bengal FC of India and Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf.

The Group C challenge will be between Suwon FC Women of Korea Republic, Japan's Tokyo Verdy Belezza, Naegohyang Women's FC of DPR Korea and Myanmar's ISPE WFC who will host the group.

Bam Khatoon's fixtures:

November 17:

Bam Khatoon vs East Bengal

November 20:

Bam Khatoon vs PFC Nasaf

November 23:

Bam Khatoon vs Wuhan Jiangda

Men's volleyball victorious over Chad: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iran's men's volleyball team swept past Chad in straight sets (25-15, 25-19, 25-20) in the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Monday.

Iran, who had previously defeated Bahrain 3-2, Qatar 3-0 and Turkey 3-1 in the Games, will play Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

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Three Iranian satellites to be launched soon

Paya, Zafar, and Kowsar could reach space as early as this winter

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Space Agency says three domestically developed satellites are to be launched into space soon.

“As for the three satellites, namely Paya, Zafar and Kowsar, based on the latest situation at the launch station, they will be launched in early winter,” said Hassan Salarieh. He said all three satellites are going through final preparation stages, adding the exact launch date will be announced as soon as it is finalized.

Iran has made major breakthroughs in its space program despite decades of illegal Western-imposed sanctions.

The planned launches of the Kowsar 1.5, Zafar, and Paya satellites mark a major milestone, demonstrating the nation's growing self-reliance.

These satellites, developed by Iranian engineers associated with various knowledge-based

companies in collaboration with the Iranian Space Agency, reflect a strategic push to establish an independent satellite constellation that will support agricultural, environmental, and surveillance needs.

This ambitious program highlights the country's efforts to deepen strategic space cooperation with international partners, cementing its position as an emerging leader in space technology.

The Kowsar 1.5 satellite is a state-of-the-art, upgraded version of its predecessor, representing a significant step forward in Iran's space-based remote sensing capabilities.

This modern satellite is designed for high-resolution imaging with a primary focus on precision agriculture. It will provide daily imagery of plant greenery every 24 hours, supporting agricultural monitoring, crop health assessment, and efficient resource management.

The Zafar satellite marks another significant landmark in Iran's space program. It is an advanced earth-observation satellite designed to provide high-resolution imaging for critical applications in agriculture, environmental monitoring, and disaster management. The project has been developed by the Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST) in partnership with the Iranian Space Agency.

The joint venture exemplifies the close collaboration between Iran's academic institutions and its governmental space bodies.

The Paya satellite completes this trio of advanced spacecraft, serving as an earth-observation satellite designed for sophisticated imaging and data collection. It will complement the Kowsar and Zafar satellites in agricultural, environmental, and surveillance applications, strengthening Iran's integrated satellite constellation.

Iranian brands gain traction in Chinese market

TEHRAN – A Chinese media outlet highlighted the strong presence of Iranian companies at the eighth China International Import Expo (CIIE), reporting that the appeal of Iranian fragrances and skincare products has drawn large crowds and captured consumer interest in China.

Shanghai Observer wrote that the Iranian booth at Hall 6.1 stood out with its signature “Persian blue” theme, traditional motifs, and the scent of rose and saffron, creating what it described as a “garden of Persian aroma and beauty.”

The report said the lively foot traffic reflected the growing popularity of Iranian brands among Chinese visitors.

The booth, run by Shanghai Genius Biotechnology Co., showcased a range of Iranian products alongside the national pavilion of Iran, which officially opened on Thursday.

Zhang Guicai, CEO of Shanghai Genius Biotechnology, said Iran supplies about 65 percent of the world’s Damask rose and that his company combines these natural ingredients with modern skincare technology to suit Chinese consumers. He noted that this year’s debut products include saffron-based face and eye creams.

Zhang said his company now offers more than 30 products, ranging from essential oils and rosewater to saffron-based skincare and wellness items. Some are made in China with Iranian ingredients, while others are directly imported, ensuring both authenticity and faster market response.

He added that the Iranian brand Barij, once known mainly in Iran, has become one of the most popular foreign skincare brands among Chinese consumers over the past five years.

The China International Import Expo, the world’s first exhibition dedicated to imports, features participants from 120 countries. Iran not only operates a national pavilion but also holds one of the largest commercial spaces among all exhibitors.

Also, as reported by Iranian media, the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Union of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Shanghai to expand bilateral industrial and economic cooperation, including a proposal by Chinese companies to help establish a smart industrial park in Iran.

During the meeting, Yang Dongsheng, deputy head of the Shanghai-based union, said the partnership should focus on a few practical, high-impact projects rather than broad frameworks.

He added that Chinese member companies are ready to transfer technology and equipment to Iran, beginning with joint production for domestic and regional markets.

Mahamoud Najafi-Arab, head of TCCIMA, said the creation of a smart industrial park in Tehran could serve as the first tangible step in bilateral cooperation. He noted that the Tehran chamber could provide the land and infrastructure, while Chinese partners would handle design, technology transfer, and implementation.

Najafi-Arab said the park could become a hub for small and medium-sized enterprises specializing in innovation-driven sectors such as artificial intelligence, smart agriculture, and blockchain technology. He also pointed to renewable energy and pharmaceuticals as additional areas of cooperation, inviting Chinese investment in Iran’s solar projects and drug manufacturing.

Yang welcomed the proposal, saying Chinese firms have strong experience in green energy, pharmaceuticals, and digital manufacturing, and are ready to pursue joint projects in Iran, including the potential development of solar farms.

He added that a Chinese business delegation will visit Tehran early next year to explore opportunities and hold B2B meetings with Iranian companies.

Meanwhile, Iran inaugurated its Trade Development Center in Shanghai in a ceremony attended by Tehran Chamber of Commerce Chairman Mahmood Najafi Arab and Secretary General Fereydoun Vardinejad, honoring Vardinejad for his role in strengthening Iran-China ties.

The event also brought together former Iranian ambassador to China Alaeddin Boroujerdi,



Iran’s Consul General in Shanghai Ali Mohammadi, and a group of Iranian and Chinese business leaders.

Vardinejad, who previously served as ambassador to Beijing, called for deeper private-sector cooperation between the two countries amid “intense global competition and Western efforts, particularly by the United States, to marginalize Asia’s role in global value chains.”

He proposed the creation of a digital barter platform enabling trade in yuan and rial with the support of both central banks, and urged Iran and China to expand collaboration in regional and global coalitions to counter unilateral sanctions and promote multilateral trade based on law and mutual agreement.

In a related meeting, the Tehran Chamber of Commerce delegation, led by Najafi Arab, met with the Deputy Director of the Hangzhou Council for the Promotion of International Trade and signed a memorandum of understanding to boost trade and technology exchanges, particularly in advanced and digital industries.

Najafi Arab expressed hope that the talks would “open new economic gateways” between the two countries, citing Hangzhou’s strength in electronics, innovation, and technology infrastructure.

He said the agreement could lead to cooperation on smart industrial parks, digital economy initiatives, and educational partnerships between Tehran’s Innovation and Digital Transformation Center and its counterparts in Hangzhou.

The Tehran Chamber delegation, which includes two lawmakers, is in Shanghai to attend the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and promote private-sector collaboration in trade and technology.

In Early October, Majid-Reza Hariri, the chairman of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, commented on the extent to which the UN Security Council sanctions would affect Iran-China relations, and stated: “Given that none of the UN sanctions are trade-related and instead pertain to the nuclear industry and some sectors of the country’s missile industries, consequently, they should not impact our normal trade with China.”

He added: “Although the U.S. sanctions have completely prohibited oil sales, we see that the Chinese are currently buying nearly over 90 percent of the country’s oil. Therefore, UN sanctions are not related to the commercial sphere and logically should not affect these types of relations either.”

Hariri further added: “The UN sanctions will have psychological and secondary effects which must be examined.”

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) for planning and international affairs, the value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$34.1 billion in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

He said that importing non-oil goods worth \$14.8 billion from Iran, China was the first destination of Iranian products in the past year.

He also announced that by exporting non-oil products valued at \$19.3 billion to Iran, China was the second source of import for Iran in that year.

On May 4, Iran-China Business Development Forum convened at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), with the participation of China’s ambassador to Iran, the head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, and senior officials from the Tehran Chamber.

A large number of business leaders from both countries attended the event, where state, legislative, and private-sector strategies for deepening bilateral trade ties were outlined, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Iran, Uzbekistan trade up 58% as minister calls Tashkent key link to Central Asia

From Page 1 ► Speaking at a meeting with Iranian businesspeople in Tashkent on Sunday evening, Atabak said efforts by Iran’s embassy, the ministry, and related trade bodies have contributed to the sharp growth in bilateral trade.

He underlined Uzbekistan’s position as the main gateway to Central Asia, noting that while recent efforts have boosted economic ties, more needs to be done to accelerate cooperation through resolving issues in rail and road transport, improving customs procedures, and signing a preferential trade agreement.

The minister is accompanied by senior Iranian officials, including members of parliament, the heads of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), as well as representatives of major industrial companies.

Discussions during the visit focus on expanding trade and customs cooperation and exploring opportunities in the mining and mineral industries, leveraging the capacities of both nations.

On late October, Uzbekistan’s Ambassador to Iran Fariddin Nasriev met with Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and deputy minister of industry, mining and trade, to discuss ways to expand bilateral economic relations and develop trade cooperation between the two countries.

According to the TPO, both sides reviewed existing trade capacities and explored mechanisms to facilitate commercial exchanges.

Dehghan Dehnavi stressed the importance of expanding the list of goods under the preferential trade agreement between Iran and Uzbekistan, noting that the two sides have so far agreed on 20 items and are working to include more to boost mutual trade.

He also highlighted the use of barter arrangements as a practical tool to increase trade volume and overcome financial and banking limitations.

Dehghan Dehnavi pointed to the operation of Uzbekistan’s Trade House in Iran and suggested establishing an Iranian Trade House in Tashkent to help connect private sector players and identify reliable business partners.

The TPO head underlined that expanding tourism cooperation would further deepen economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

Both officials also discussed



the importance of fostering provincial-level cooperation, improving logistics and cargo transport, and simplifying visa procedures for businesspeople to facilitate trade exchanges.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to address logistical bottlenecks, enhance direct private-sector engagement, and lay the groundwork for stronger economic integration between Tehran and Tashkent.

The Uzbek ambassador had stated, on October 22, that trade relations between the two countries reached about \$500 million last year, and added: “Considering the agreements between the presidents of the two countries, the goal of increasing this figure to up to \$2 billion is being pursued.”

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

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

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

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

Iran’s Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad Atabak

opened the meeting by acknowledging that the current trade volume between the two countries falls short of their true potential.

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

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

He also stressed the importance of improving banking ties, establishing direct flights, reducing customs tariffs, and developing tools to support economic relations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On April 23, Iranian industry,

mining and trade minister said that the cooperation between the private sectors of Iran and Uzbekistan will continue at an accelerated pace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran’s oil exports hit highest level since 2018

TEHRAN – Iran’s crude oil exports climbed to around 2.0 million barrels per day in September 2025, marking the highest level since mid-2018, according to international tanker-tracking firm TankerTrackers.

The company wrote on X that Iran’s exports had reached a seven-year high despite the reimposition of United Nations sanctions against Tehran in late September.

8 new CNG stations launched nationwide to boost clean fuel use

TEHRAN – Eight new compressed natural gas (CNG) stations were inaugurated simultaneously across Iran on Sunday, November 9, aiming to expand the share of CNG in the country’s fuel mix and promote clean energy use.

According to Shana, the stations have a combined capacity of 11,280 cubic meters per hour and were established with an investment of 6.100 trillion rials (about \$122 million) by the government

in partnership with the private sector.

The new facilities, serving both single- and dual-fuel vehicles, are located in Varamin, Talesh, Ziveh, Zahedan, Isfahan, Zabol, and Tabriz. Some of these cities are hosting CNG stations for the first time.

In Sistan-Baluchestan province, the number of CNG stations has risen from three to nine under the current administration, with

the surge in shipments comes as U.S. and European governments had expected renewed UN sanctions to disrupt Iran’s oil flows to buyers such as China. However, the latest data supports Iranian officials’ earlier assessments that the measures would have little impact.

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said last week that the UN’s reinstated sanctions would not

add pressure on the country’s oil exports, noting that Iran had already endured some of Washington’s toughest restrictions in past years.

The UN reimposed six sanctions resolutions linked to Iran’s nuclear program that had been lifted under the 2015 deal, targeting individuals, nuclear-related equipment, and arms trade.

Efforts such as expanding distribution capacity, optimizing CNG

four additional stations expected to be operational by the end of the year.

Due to the importance of compressed natural gas (CNG) in reducing dependence on gasoline and improving air quality, multiple plans have been put in place to develop the infrastructure of this industry and increase its consumption in the country.

Efforts such as expanding distribution capacity, optimizing CNG stations, and implementing supportive measures are among the steps that can increase the share of this fuel in the basket of transportation energy.

One of the most significant initiatives in this area is the implementation of a program for free conversion of vehicles to dual-fuel ones. This program, supported by the government and carried out in collaboration with the private sector, plays an effective role in promoting CNG use.

‘UAE conceals intelligence network linking Tel Aviv and Washington behind Darfur conflict’

Saad Kamil says Abu Dhabi’s covert operations from Bab al-Mandab to the Suez Canal aim to reshape regional power maps

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- Mohamed Saad Kamil, Editor-in-Chief of the Brown Land newspaper, focuses on issues of peace, justice, and human rights in Sudan. He is known for his steadfast stance in defending the truth and exposing the violations committed against civilians, especially in conflict areas such as Darfur, including El Fasher.

Under his leadership, Brown Land has become a free platform that carries the voices of the Sudanese people to the world, emphasizing professional and humanitarian documentation of events away from political propaganda.

In this exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, the prominent Sudanese journalist offers a harrowing account of the ongoing atrocities in Darfur, a region once again plunged into violence.

He explains how external actors, regional ambitions, and the legacy of ethnic manipulation have reignited the flames of genocide, while shedding light on the silence of the international community and the immense risks faced by Sudanese journalists reporting the truth.

The following is the text of the interview:

As a Sudanese journalist who has closely followed developments in Darfur, how would you describe what is happening there right now? Is this a continuation of the 2003 tragedy, or has the conflict taken a new form?

What is happening in Darfur is a genocide targeting the African ethnic groups, and this genocide represents the first stage of the Arab Janjaweed militia's plan. The Janjaweed are Arab tribes originating from Central and West Africa, who have united with the aim of establishing a state in the Darfur region through the extermination of the Black population. Unfortunately, these tribes have received support from neighboring countries such as Chad, which is implementing the policies of the United Arab Emirates.

The objectives of the conflict in western Sudan have changed. Previously, under Omar al-Bashir's government, the goal was to eliminate the rebellion in Darfur through the creation of the Janjaweed militia. At that time, the government maintained some level of control over the Janjaweed, and although serious violations occurred, the situation was somewhat contained.

Today, however, the context is different — there is now foreign support for the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), just as there was foreign



Sudanese refugees from Zamzam camp outside of El Fasher, in Darfur, receive food.

support for the rebels in the past against al-Bashir's government. It is now clear that this external interference targets the unity and stability of Sudan.

What, in your view, are the root causes behind the renewed violence in Darfur? Are these purely ethnic and tribal tensions, or are there deeper political and economic triggers?

The reasons behind the renewed conflict and violence in Darfur change according to the interests of the countries that sponsor instability in Sudan, such as the United States, which previously supported the rebellion under the guise of humanitarian intervention. Back then, the U.S. and the West supplied weapons to the rebels, claiming it was to stop human rights violations.

Now, however, the same weapons are being sent to their former enemies — the Janjaweed — but this time through the United Arab Emirates, their regional proxy, and with the blessing of Israel.

Ethnic tensions have been exploited to implement this plan. Previously, the marginalization of African ethnic groups was used to fuel the conflict, but it has now become clear that these justifications are merely excuses to execute a larger, premeditated scheme.

How much responsibility do the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) bear for the atrocities taking place? Is either side showing willingness for accountability?

The whole world knows that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) are the ones who rebelled against the Sudanese government and committed atrocities and violations across the entire country. Women were raped, and children and the elderly were killed, while the Janjaweed proudly documented these crimes with their cameras, boasting about their actions.

The Sudanese army has always — and continues to — defend Sudan against invasion and rebellion by gangs and mercenaries. Everyone can testify that the areas under the control of the Sudanese Armed Forces enjoy security and stability, whereas civilians flee from areas controlled by the RSF to seek safety in army-held regions.

Therefore, the full responsibility lies with the Rapid Support Forces militia.

The Janjaweed militants rape women, kill children and the elderly, and proudly document these crimes with their cameras.

Many analysts say Darfur has become a proxy battlefield for regional and global powers. To what extent do you believe foreign interests — from the UAE, Egypt, or even Russia and the U.S. — are influencing the violence?

Indeed, Darfur has become an arena for political showdowns between regional and international powers. It is clear that the conflict between Russia and the United States has extended into Sudan, with the U.S. employing proxies such as the United Arab Emirates and Chad to support the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). On the other hand, Russia stands with the Sudanese government, while the competition over control of ports has further intensified tensions in the region.

Behind the slogans of “maritime security” and “regional stability”, Abu Dhabi conceals an intelligence network linking it to Tel Aviv and Washington, a network that is redrawing maps of control over sea

routes and ports from the Bab al-Mandab Strait to the Suez Canal. Thus, the conflict in Darfur is expanding toward the Red Sea, transforming into a colonial-style struggle driven by power, influence, and bloodshed.

How do you assess the reaction of the international community and the United Nations to the killings in Darfur? Why does the global response appear muted compared to 2003?

The reaction of the international community has always been tied to its hostility toward Sudanese governments. In 2003, the international community strongly supported the rebels against the government at that time. Today, that same community supports the new rebellion and the Janjaweed militia through its silence regarding the horrific violations taking place in Sudan.

It is therefore clear that the international community—under the influence of the West, the United States, and Israel—supports any activity that contributes to destabilizing Sudan.

As a media professional, how do you view the silence of major Western outlets on the Darfur crisis today? Has the world grown indifferent to African suffering?

Africa has always faced a deadly silence... and Darfur is part of Africa's tragic story.

The world's silence toward what is happening in Darfur and across Africa is a strategic silence, driven by a desire for natural resources. The world views Africa as a storehouse of natural wealth to be exploited later. Therefore, the West fuels and sustains conflict in Africa to ensure that Africans remain unable to extract and benefit from these resources buried beneath their own soil.

What risks do Sudanese journalists face when covering crimes by powerful armed factions? Have you or your colleagues experienced intimidation or censorship?

Journalists are facing threats and harassment from the militia. During the war, more than 40 journalists were killed, and many others were kidnapped by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) — the most recent being Al Jazeera's correspondent in the city of El Fasher.

In addition, journalists have lost all sources of income after the suspension of all Sudanese newspapers, with some outlets shifting to online platforms that cannot accommodate the large number of journalists in Sudan.

method of warfare and deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure. These legal actions mark a turning point in global accountability for atrocities.

The GHF and the politics of humanitarianism

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), backed by the United States and Israel, was created to provide aid during the conflict. Yet testimonies in Breaking Ranks describe GHF distribution sites as militarized zones where civilians were shot while seeking food. This undermines the foundation's humanitarian mission and raises questions about U.S. complicity. By sponsoring GHF, the U.S. appears to be deflecting attention from its role in enabling Israel's military campaign.

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

ed. The U.S. B-2 bombers attacked Iran's nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

Trump's Malaysian trip must therefore be read as part of an attempt to recalibrate: shifting attention from a theater of attrition to one that promises leverage through diplomacy and economic alignment rather than endless wars.

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

Promising high turnout in Iraqi election

From page 1 ► In turn, the commission's legal advisor, Hassan Salman, stated that the special voting process concluded with precision and without any violations or disruptions. He described the turnout as large and unprecedented. Salman added that the electronic systems functioned efficiently throughout the voting period, with no technical issues reported. He emphasized that the commission continues to take measures to ensure transparency and integrity in the elections.

Observers note that the success of the special voting process could have a significant impact on the general election.

The high turnout among military and security personnel is seen as a sign of voter confidence in the electoral system and the procedures set by the Independent High Electoral Commission.

This may encourage broader public participation on Tuesday, especially if the same level of organization and transparency is maintained.

Analysts also suggest that the smooth performance of the electronic systems and the absence of technical or security issues during special voting will enhance public trust in the commission's management. This trust is crucial to ensuring a credible and peaceful general vote.

However, political experts warn that while the special voting process demonstrated strong logistical capabilities, the general election will pose greater challenges due to the much larger number of voters and more complex political competition. The commission will need to maintain strict coordination with security forces and continue monitoring to prevent any violations or disruptions.

The successful completion of the special voting phase offers a positive preview of what may come on Tuesday. If the same level of organization, transparency, and voter enthusiasm continues, Iraq could witness one of its most orderly and credible parliamentary elections since 2003.

US putting pressure on Lebanon’s politics and economy

From page 1 ► Senior U.S. envoys frequently meet with the president, prime minister, and financial regulators, pressing for strict compliance with international sanctions.

While presented as administrative reforms, these interventions carry far-reaching political consequences, reshaping the distribution of power and the control of financial resources within the Lebanese state.

Beyond formal diplomacy, the embassy actively shapes public perception by portraying Hezbollah as a persistent threat.

By framing sanctions and interventions as protective for Lebanese citizens, the U.S. normalizes its interference, delegitimizes domestic actors, and reinforces the image of being both protector and regulator.

Economic and financial leverage

Economic coercion remains central to Washington's strategy. Sanctions target Hezbollah's networks and increasingly extend to politicians, businessmen, and institutions perceived to support the resistance. This expansive sanctions regime has strained Lebanon's fragile banking sector and isolated it from international financial systems.

American directives demanding “maximum financial vigilance” have led Lebanese banks to overcomply, often restricting or freezing accounts even without formal sanctions.

For example, Blom Bank and Credit Libanais limited withdrawals from government compensation funds for families displaced by Israeli airstrikes.

Treating humanitarian aid as subject to financial restrictions delays reconstruction, erodes public trust, and blurs the line between counterterrorism and collective punishment.

Financial coercion links Lebanon's economic

survival to political compliance with U.S. priorities. Access to international funding and IMF support is conditioned on concessions such as curbing Hezbollah's influence or participating in border negotiations with Israel.

This dynamic entrenches structural dependency, concentrates leverage in Washington's hands, and undermines domestic autonomy.

Strategic messaging and repetition

The embassy's messaging is consistent and deliberate. Statements over the past five years repeatedly portray Hezbollah as a destabilizing force, justifying sanctions as protective for Lebanon.

In January 2022, the U.S. framed sanctions as being “in solidarity with the Lebanese people, whose security and sovereignty remain threatened due to Hezbollah's corrupt and destabilizing activities.” Similar statements appeared in March 2022, May 2021, and February 2020, reflecting a sustained effort to maintain a narrative of continuous threat.

The goal is to shape public perception. By consistently presenting Hezbollah as a danger, the embassy legitimizes sanctions and foreign intervention. Its language (phrases like “ensuring Lebanon's security” or “protecting regional stability”) masks a coordinated effort to influence internal politics while appearing benevolent.

The implications are profound: repeated framing of Hezbollah as a threat constrains domestic political space, fosters dependency on external guidance, and reinforces structural imbalances in Lebanon's political and economic systems.

The embassy's communications operate not merely as diplomatic statements but as tools of psychological and political influence, shaping both domestic and regional discourse.

Netherlands presses on with plan to ban imports from illegal Israeli settlements

The Netherlands is still working on legislation to bar imports from illegal settlements in occupied Palestine, even though it has paused a push for broader sanctions on Israel after last month's ceasefire deal in Gaza, the foreign minister has said during a visit to the region, The Guardian reported.

The partial ban was a response to settlement expansion and spiraling Israeli violence against Palestinians that threatened the viability of the two-state solution, David van Weel said after visiting an area in the West Bank that had been targeted by settlers.

“Now we deem it is not a time to increase sanctions on Israel because we want to see the peace plan implemented and we want to also encourage Israel to play a positive part in this,” he told the British daily newspaper.

“At the same time, we're not blind to any movements on the West Bank that might move the two-state solution further (away).”

Five EU countries have announced plans to impose sanctions on trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, where soldiers and settlers have killed more than 200

Palestinians this year, including 40 children.

Spain and Slovenia have banned exports from settlements; Ireland and Belgium are working on legislation and implementation. Belgium and Spain have cut consular services to settlement residents.

Van Weel said drawing up the legislation had been slow and difficult since trade policy was mostly controlled by the EU.

“It's not easy to make a carve-out,” he said. “We cannot just stop [all imports from illegal settlements] immediately because there is currently no legal basis for that. We are trying to make new policy now, then it has to go through parliament.”

Attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank and political demands inside Israel for annexation have risen sharply over the past two years.

An average of eight daily Israeli attacks on people, property and agriculture in occupied Palestine took place in October – the highest number since the UN began keeping records nearly two decades ago. Many more attacks go unreported.

Confessions of carnage: Israeli soldiers admit to war crimes in Gaza

From page 1 ► Soldiers interviewed in Breaking Ranks describe Gaza as a free-for-all, where the rules of engagement were replaced by suspicion and personal discretion. Civilians were shot for walking too fast or too slow. Aid seekers were gunned down at food distribution sites. One soldier recounts how a man hanging laundry was mistaken for a spotter and killed by a tank shell. Another describes the widespread use of Palestinian civilians as human shields.

These actions violate the Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law, which prohibit targeting civilians, using human shields, and destroying civilian infrastructure without military necessity. The consistency of these violations suggests not isolated misconduct but a systemic breakdown of legal and ethical norms.

down of legal and ethical norms.

Genocide allegations and legal action

In September, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry concluded that Israel had committed genocide in Gaza. The commission cited incitement from Israeli leaders, including President Isaac Herzog, who declared that the entire Palestinian population bore responsibility for the October 7 attack. Such rhetoric, the UN argued, helped establish the intent required under the Genocide Convention.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has since issued arrest warrants for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. The charges include war crimes and crimes against humanity, such as starvation as a

where the U.S. can reassert visibility while avoiding the immense political and military costs that have accompanied its interventions in the Middle East.

Since 2001, U.S. policy toward West Asia has consumed trillions of dollars and eroded its moral and political capital. The invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the long shadow wars in Syria and Yemen, and the failed attempts to isolate

Iran have left Washington overstretched.

While the U.S. claims it avoids direct confrontation, it was directly involved in the 12-day war against Iran in partnership with Israel and this shows that the U.S. remains a stakeholder in instability it can no longer control. Talking to reporters on November 6, Trump acknowledged that “I was very much in charge” the war that Israel start-

Trump’s ASEAN outreach and Washington’s strategic drift from West Asia

By Mohammad Javad Habibi

TEHRAN - Donald Trump's attendance at the 47th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur marks a symbolic yet telling redirection of American foreign policy. After two decades of overreach and strategic exhaustion in West Asia, Washington appears to be searching for a new stage on which to project power. South-east Asia dynamic, contested, and economically vital offers a setting

Beijing's ambassador: Gilan offers strong potential for investment in tourism, economy

TEHRAN — Beijing's ambassador to Tehran has said that Gilan province, in northern Iran, possesses rich natural resources and significant economic and tourism attractions, making it an appealing destination for Chinese investors.

Ambassador Cong Peiwu on Sunday noted that the province's favorable capacities for economic growth and tourism development could open new opportunities for strengthening cooperation between Iran and China in related sectors.

Speaking on the sidelines of a visit to various economic and tourist areas in the border city of Astara, he said: "We support Iran as a friendly country and will not let sanctions affect our business affairs," ISNA reported.

"We do not accept the unreasonable pressures of the United States and will not pay attention to them, and we will show our opposition to them in practice, and we will not allow any disruption to our interactions," Cong was quoted as saying by ISNA.

The Chinese ambassador to Iran continued: "I

would like to thank the officials of the friendly country of the Islamic Republic of Iran, both in the capital city of Tehran and in Gilan province, as well as the governor of Astara city, head of Customs Administration and all relevant officials for their support and assistance during the 12-day war (the Israeli aggression to Iran which began on June 13 and ended with a ceasefire on June 24) for the smooth departure of Chinese nationals."

He added that given the war situation in Iran, Iranian officials allowed Chinese nationals to leave the Astara land border in Gilan province with full cooperation and assistance. "For this reason, there was no interference in our work, and I am grateful to Iran for this."

The ambassador said that the border city of Astara, due to its strategic location, has land, rail and sea borders and is considered a suitable location for trade and commerce. This city is one of the beautiful manifestations of nature in Iran and Gilan province, and with its beautiful mountains, sea and forests, can be a suitable area to attract Chinese tourists, he added.

Iran, Oman discuss sea-based tourism cooperation

TEHRAN — Iran and Oman have discussed ways to expand cooperation in several areas of tourism, particularly in sea-based and health tourism, during a meeting between Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri and Oman's Minister of Heritage and Tourism Salem bin Mohammed Al Mahrouqi.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 26th UN Tourism General Assembly in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which opened on Sunday, Mehr News Agency reported.

Proposing three main areas of cooperation, Salehi-Amiri called for increasing the number of direct flights between Iran and Oman from 12 to 60 per week, organizing tourist car rallies and joint cultural events, and holding mutual tourism exhibitions in Tehran and Muscat to introduce the capacities of both nations.

Highlighting Iran's extensive potential in medical tourism, Salehi-Amiri said: "With more than 1,000 hospitals and hundreds of thousands of doctors and specialists, Iran can provide high-quality and affordable medical services to Omani tourists. This sector can become one of the main pillars of cooperation between the two countries."

He also invited the Omani minister to attend the Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition in February to gain first-hand insight into Iran's latest tourism projects and capacities.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Fasil Ghebbi

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the fortress city of Fasil Ghebbi was the residence of the Ethiopian emperor Fasilides and his successors.

Surrounded by a 900-m-long wall, the city contains palaces, churches, monasteries and unique public and private buildings marked by Hindu and Arab influences, subsequently transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries.

Fasil Ghebbi is located in the Amhara National Regional State, in the North Gondar Administrative Zone of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

According to UNESCO, the serial property consists of eight components. Within the Fasil Ghebbi palace compound are: the Castle of Emperor Fasilidas, the Castle of Emperor Iyasu, the Library of Tzadich Yohannes; the Chancellery of Tzadich Yohannes; the Castle of Emperor David, the Palace of Mentuab and Banqueting Hall of the Emperor Bekaffa. The remaining seven components are located in and around the city of Gondar: the Debre Berhan Selassie (Monastery and church); the Bath of Fasilidas; Kiddush Yohannes; Qusquam (Monastery and Church); Thermal Area; the Sosinios (also known as Maryam Ghemb); the Gorgora (Monastery and Church) and the Palace of Guzara.

Between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries, Ethiopian rulers moved their royal camps frequently. King Fasil (Fasilidas) settled in Gondar and established it as a permanent capital in 1636. Before its decline in the late eighteenth century, the royal court had developed from a camp into a fortified compound called Fasil

Ghebbi, consisting of six major building complexes and other ancillary buildings, surrounded by a wall 900 metres long, with twelve entrances and three bridges.

The fortress city functioned as the centre of the Ethiopian government until 1864. It has some twenty palaces, royal buildings, highly decorated churches, monasteries and unique public and private buildings, transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries. The main castle has huge towers and looming battlemented walls, resembling a piece of medieval Europe transported to Ethiopia. Beyond the confines of the city to the northwest by the Qaha River, there is a two-storey pavilion of a bathing palace associated with Emperor Fasilidas. The building is a two-storey battlemented structure situated within and on one side of a rectangular pool of water which was supplied by a canal from the nearby river. The bathing pavilion itself stands on pier arches and contains several rooms reached by a stone bridge, part of which could be raised for defence. Subsequent rulers, such as Iyasu the Great, continued building, improving the techniques and architectural style and expanded to the hills northwest of the city centre, in the area known as Qusquam.

Fasil Ghebbi and the other remains in Gondar city demonstrate a remarkable interface between internal and external cultures, with cultural elements related to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Ethiopian Jews and Muslims. This relationship is expressed not only through the architecture of the sites but also through the handicrafts, painting, literature and music that flourished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Iran proposes AI-based global tourism innovation network at UN Tourism assembly

TEHRAN — Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri on Sunday proposed the establishment of a global tourism innovation network based on artificial intelligence during the 26th General Assembly of the UN Tourism in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Salehi-Amiri said the proposed network would serve as a platform for member states to exchange data, experience, and knowledge in pursuit of sustainable tourism development.

In his address, the Iranian minister expressed appreciation to the Saudi government for hosting the event and praised the constructive role of regional countries in strengthening tourism cooperation.

He also thanked outgoing UN Tourism Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili for his eight years of service and congratulated Shaikha Nasser Al Nowais on her election as the organization's new head, describing the election as a significant development for the region. He added that Iran supports her leadership and stands ready for constructive collaboration toward global tourism advancement.

Highlighting Iran's historical and cultural role in promoting human values, Salehi-Amiri referred to the Cyrus Cylinder, which was introduced at the Samarkand summit as an enduring symbol of humanity and mutual



respect, as a guiding principle for drafting a global code of ethics for tourism.

The minister emphasized the human-centered role of technology in tourism and said Iran has made notable progress in adopting artificial intelligence for the [tourism] sector. "We regard AI as a partner of human wisdom and creativity, not a replacement," he said, citing the presence of dozens of knowledge-based firms and hundreds of startups active in smart reservations, travel design, tourist behavior analysis, and content creation.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran's pro-

posal aims to ensure that artificial intelligence serves humanity rather than governs it.

"We believe the spirit of tourism is human," the minister added.

Based on data released by Iran's tourism ministry, the Islamic Republic generated about \$7.4 billion from foreign tourism in the past Persian calendar year (ended in March 2025), with more than 7 million international visitors arriving in the country. Based on figures provided by Iran's Law Enforcement Command (FARAJA), 7.399 million foreign visitors entered the

country last year. According to Salehi-Amiri, tourists' spending during the period brought in \$7.4 billion in revenue.

The majority of foreign tourists visiting Iran come from neighboring countries with Iraq being its biggest source for tourism.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 29 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Iran tourism minister meets Chinese, Iraqi counterparts at UN Tourism General Assembly



TEHRAN — Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri met with China's Minister of Culture and Tourism, Sun Yeli, and Iraq's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Ahmed Fakak Al-Badrani, during the 26th UN Tourism General Assembly, which officially opened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday.

Salehi-Amiri underlined the beginning of a new phase of tourism cooperation between Iran and China, emphasizing that developing cultural exchanges and attracting a share of China's vast tourism market are among the main priorities of Iran's tourism policy, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, both sides stressed the promotion of tourism and cultural ties, as well as the strengthening of economic relations between Tehran and Beijing. They agreed on a joint plan to increase the volume of reciprocal tourists and to utilize the immense potential of China's tourism market.

Referring to China's privileged position in the global tourism arena, Salehi-Amiri noted that China sends more than 160 million tourists abroad annually and plans to increase this figure to 200 million. "If Iran can attract even one percent of this capacity, more than two million Chinese tourists could travel to Iran annually — a strategic number that could bring about a major transformation in the country's tourism industry," he said.

Salehi-Amiri emphasized the need for tourist exchanges, coop-

eration in organizing cultural and exhibition events, and expanding communication between tourism professionals in the two countries.

Referring to China's positive approach toward Iran, he stated that there are no challenges between the two nations. "The peoples of Iran and China have a constructive view of each other, and this foundation of mutual trust will pave the way for sustainable cultural and tourism cooperation," he added.

"We consider China a strategic partner in the global tourism industry and believe that cooperation between the two countries can serve as a successful model for Asian collaboration in the field of tourism," he said.

During the meeting, China's Minister of Culture and Tourism expressed appreciation for Iran's support in Saturday's vote at the World Tourism Forum, which helped China secure a seat. He emphasized the importance of maintaining friendly and strategic relations between Tehran and Beijing.

"We believe that expanding cultural and tourism cooperation can strengthen relations between the two nations and enhance economic interactions," Sun Yeli said.

At the end of their discussion, the two ministers agreed on a series of joint measures, including the design of tourist exchange programs between Iran and China, participation in each other's cultural and exhibition events, leveraging China's tourism market to promote Iranian attractions, and expanding technical and economic cooperation in the tourism sector.

Continuing efforts to strength-

en cultural diplomacy between Iran and Iraq, the tourism ministers of the two countries also met to discuss expanding tourism cooperation and enhancing pilgrimage infrastructure. They agreed on joint planning to increase people-to-people interactions, facilitate mutual travel, and establish a specialized committee to develop pilgrimage and sightseeing tourism.

In his meeting with Iraq's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Salehi-Amiri referred to the unique significance of the Arbäeen ritual, which marks the end of a 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

He said the Arbäeen ritual is the largest religious and spiritual gathering in the world and deserves to be registered as an element of intangible cultural heritage of humanity on the UNESCO list. "This ritual is a symbol of love, faith, and unity among Muslim nations, especially the peoples of Iran and Iraq," he added.

While appreciating the hospitality of the Iraqi people during Arbäeen, Salehi-Amiri said their generous treatment of Iranian pilgrims is a manifestation of the heartfelt bond between the two nations and should be institutionalized through sustainable cultural and tourism cooperation.

Salehi-Amiri stated that Iraq is one of Iran's most important tourism partners. "Last year, more than 3.5 million Iranian pilgrims traveled to Iraq (not including those participating in Arbäeen), and roughly the same number of Iraqi pilgrims visited Iran. Our goal is to increase this number to five million reciprocal tourists next year," he said.

He emphasized that achieving this goal requires creating incentives and improving transportation and accommodation facilities. "The governments of Iran and Iraq, along with trade associations and tourism activists, can reduce travel costs and expand people-to-people exchanges by designing support packages," he added.

He also referred to the need for developing mixed tourism be-

tween the two countries. "Iraqi pilgrims visit Iran's natural and cultural attractions in addition to its holy sites. We also want Iranian pilgrims to benefit from Iraq's historical, cultural, and natural landmarks so that the concepts of pilgrimage, tourism, and health tourism are institutionalized in both countries," he said.

Salehi-Amiri welcomed the formation of a joint technical committee on tourism between Iran and Iraq to address obstacles, noting that such a committee could help remove travel barriers, develop infrastructure, and enhance cooperation in managing pilgrim trips.

Iraq's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Cultural Heritage welcomed Salehi-Amiri's proposals, saying, "The Iraqi nation welcomes the expansion of cultural and tourism cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Arbäeen is a shared heritage and a source of pride for both nations, and we are ready to work with Iran toward its global registration."

Emphasizing the importance of increasing people-to-people exchanges, he added, "Creating mutual facilities for pilgrims, accelerating transportation services, and improving accommodation infrastructure are among our priorities. The two nations of Iran and Iraq share a historical bond that must be strengthened through sustainable cultural cooperation."

At the end of the meeting, the two ministers underscored a set of joint actions, including pursuing the global registration of the Arbäeen Hussaini ritual on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, increasing mutual tourism between Iran and Iraq to five million visitors annually, forming a joint technical tourism committee to remove obstacles, and developing the "pilgrimage and sightseeing tourism" model between the two countries.

Salehi-Amiri described these agreements as an important step toward enhancing cultural and people-to-people diplomacy between Iran and Iraq, noting that "Iran and Iraq are partners and companions in culture, faith, and spiritual heritage."

Iranian, Uzbek universities aim to expand health co-op

TEHRAN – Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and Tashkent State Medical University have explored ways to enhance scientific, research, and educational cooperation, as well as health tourism between the two universities.

An Iranian delegation led by Hossein-Ali Amiri, the governor general of Fars province, paid a visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The delegation visited Tashkent State Medical University, hospitals, and universities in Termez and Surkhandarya, as well as pharmaceutical and food industry companies, and clinics, the health ministry's website reported on Monday.

During a meeting with the chancellors of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Seyyed Basir Hashemi, and Tashkent State Medical University, Shukhrat Boymurodov, the two sides agreed on fostering collaborative efforts through conducting specialized courses for faculty members and medical staff, organizing short-term and long-term internships, as well as summer and winter training courses for students.

Moreover, Amiri and Ulugbek Kasimov, the governor of Surkhandarya Province, signed a memorandum of understanding for the expansion of collaborations in various fields, particularly the health sector.



larly the health sector.

Iran, Uzbekistan boosting health ties

On the sidelines of the eighth meeting of health ministries of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in April in Xi'an, China, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi and his Uzbek counterpart, Asilbek Khudayarov, explored the potential for expanding health cooperation.

Khudayarov emphasized the friendly relations between the two countries, voicing Uzbekistan's readiness to further collaboration with Iran in the health sector, specifically health tourism and cancer treatment.

The official also called for strengthening ties through the exchange of professors and postgraduate students.

Referring to the registration of Iranian medicines transported to Uzbekistan, Khudayarov proposed that Iranian companies manufacture medicines in Uzbekistan to facilitate the registration process of drugs and access the West Asia market.

For his turn, Zafarqandi said Iran is ready to develop ties with Uzbekistan in all fields, including liver transplantation, cancer treatment, cell and gene therapy, cardiovascular surgery, and health tourism, which paves the

way for the expansion of health diplomacy as well.

In November 2024, Uzbekistan expressed interest in enhancing cooperation with Iran in different fields, including health, education, and technology.

The country requested that Iran's health sector provide on-line consultation to Uzbek professionals and establish a direct link between medical specialists of the two countries.

"The Iranian health ministry welcomes expanding collaborations, aimed at mutual progress and development, with neighboring and friendly countries," Mohammad-Hossein Niknam, the Iranian deputy health minister, said.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan is primarily focused on treating cardiovascular diseases and cancers among women and children, as well as orthopedic disorders and traumatology, he added.

Expanding cooperation in the field of science, exchanging students and professors, promoting knowledge-based collaboration among companies, participating in scientific and technological events, including technology exhibitions, and holding joint seminars, meetings, and symposia were among the most important focuses of the meeting.

Iran-China workshop on decarbonization, sustainable environment underway

TEHRAN – Supported by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), an Iranian-Chinese workshop is being held from Monday to Wednesday, focusing on new technologies for decarbonization and the sustainable built environment.

Organized by Sharif Energy, Water, and Environmental Research Institute and Chongqing University, China, the three-day event is being conducted in English, with participants attending the workshop in person and online, IRNA reported.

It is centered around pathways toward a net-zero and decarbonized energy future, sustainable sectors, and carbon efficiency, as well as innovation and digitalization for the energy transition, and the development of climate-resilient and resource-efficient cities.

The workshop serves as a valuable step towards expanding scientific ties between the two countries to lower carbon dioxide emissions and develop a sustainable environment.

In May, Iran and China conducted a workshop on emerging ways to boost climate change resilience.

The workshop titled 'Emerging Technologies and Methods for Climate Resilience' was also organized by Sharif University of Technology and Chongqing University, both

in person and online, in the English language. The primary objective of the workshop was to identify the most innovative ways to strengthen urban climate change resilience.

The workshop centered on climate-responsive urban design and technologies, climate risk management and new technologies for risk mitigation, urban energy transition, climate resilience, water resilience, as well as integrated system planning, smart governance and social adaptation to climate change, and climate system modeling to assess and predict climate change.

It also highlighted the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data in analyzing and adapting to climate change, as well as sustainable infrastructure, resource management for climate-resilient cities, international cooperation, and the development of joint solutions to enhance urban resilience.

Measures taken to curb carbon emissions

According to the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), despite facing unilateral coercive measures, as well as imposed restrictions on access to modern technologies, knowledge, financial support, and foreign investment, the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved remarkable progress to protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, and

moving toward the use of renewable energy sources, while considering further steps to take in the coming years.

She made the remarks while addressing the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30), which is scheduled to be held in Belém, Brazil, from November 6 to 21.

Over the past year alone, Iran has increased its solar energy capacity by 75 percent, expanded wind power generation, being added to a previous target to increase nuclear power capacity, joined the BRICS carbon market, and reduced carbon emissions through efficient flare management in its oil and gas fields, such as a 10 billion cubic meters reduction and a further 12 billion cubic meter reduction plan for the next 4 years, she added.

Accordingly, transitional fuels and enhanced energy efficiency management projects are underway to improve the country's resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

These measures demonstrate Iran's firm commitment to environmental protection. It also emphasizes that despite the mentioned challenges, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to strive to uphold the right of its people and others to a clean and healthy environment, Ansari further noted.

ENGLISH IN USE

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‘Further measures required to preserve forests’

Iran's forest area is approximately 12 million hectares with 0.2 hectares per capita, which is one quarter of the world average, so attention to preserve the forest areas must be four times the global attention.

Forests have been taken for granted in the country, as 2 million hectares of the northern forests has been depleted since 1330s (1950s), thus no serious protection measures have been taken.

Currently, 1.6 million hectares of the northern forests remain in the country, which was 3.5 million hectares in 1330s, so 2 million hectares of forest areas have undergone deforestation.

حفظ جنگل ها نیازمند اقدامات بیشتر است

بر اساس آخرین آمار موسسه تحقیقات جنگل ها و مراتع، وسعت رویشگاه های جنگلی ایران حدود ۱۲ میلیون هکتار و سرانه هر ایرانی از جنگل، کمتر از دو دهم هکتار است که یک چهارم سرانه جهانی می شود بنابراین باید توجه ما به حفظ رویشگاه های جنگلی، ۴ برابر توجه جهانی باشد.

به نظر می رسد در کشور آن طور که باید به درختان و حفاظت از آنها توجه نمی شود؛ نابودی دو میلیون هکتار از جنگل های شمال از دهه ۳۰ تاکنون گواه این ادعاست.

حدود ۱.۶ میلیون هکتار از جنگل های شمال کشور باقی مانده است که این رقم در دهه ۳۰ حدود ۳.۵ میلیون هکتار بود یعنی در این مدت حدود دو میلیون هکتار عرصه جنگلی را از دست داده ایم، البته نیمی از ۱.۶ میلیون هکتار موجود نیز تا حدود زیادی تخریب شده است.

IRCS head, Saudi envoy discuss ways to boost services during Hajj

TEHRAN – Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in a meeting with Abdullah bin Saudi Al-Enzi, the Saudi ambassador to Tehran, explored ways to enhance cooperation in health and relief fields throughout the Hajj pilgrimage.

During the meeting which was held on Saturday in embassy of Saudi Arabia, Al-Enzi lauded the IRCS efforts and services, saying Saudi Arabia is well aware of the valuable activities of the IRCS, and that the IRCS continuous presence in Hajj pilgrimage has resulted in providing distinctive services and developing effective coordination with the Saudi Red Crescent Authority, as well as the Saudi Arabia ministry of health.

"Hajj is a symbol of friendship and brotherhood among Islamic countries. We stand together in unity with Iranian pilgrims and welcome constructive cooperation between both sides," the Saudi official added.

So far, over 64,000 Iranians have registered for Hajj 2026, IRIB reported.

IRCS services during Arbaeen pilgrimage

A total of 8,200 IRCS rescue workers, including relief workers, physicians, and nurses, offered services to people in Iraq during the Arbaeen pilgrimage in 2025, according to the head of the IRCS.

"Moreover, some 7,000 IRCS forces are working in the country on the routes and borders," IRIB quoted Kolivand as saying.

Arbaeen, commemorating Imam Hussein's martyrdom on the 40th day after Ashura, is



the world's largest annual pilgrimage. This year it fell on August 14.

Each year, millions of Shia believers trek the 80-kilometre Najaf-Karbala route in a faith-driven, transnational movement that embodies Islamic unity, solidarity, and the enduring call for justice.

"Four hospitals will provide services on the Najaf – Karbala highway. Also, the number of medical mawkibs (voluntary stations) has increased in Kabala, Najaf, and Samarra," he added.

"Pilgrims will be able to benefit from medical, health, and nutritional consultations through mobile applications free of charge," Kolivand noted.

The official went on to say that the IRCS would use more than 200 special vehicles and ambulances to perform their tasks during the Arbaeen pilgrimage.

WFP releases October report on Iran

TEHRAN – The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of October.

In October, WFP food assistance reached 32,941 beneficiaries, including Afghan and Iraqi refugees as well as Iranian teachers. Refugees are assisted with a staple food basket, which includes fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person per month).

Under cash-based transfers, following the revision of WFP's Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) conducted in November 2024, the Centre for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA) confirmed adjustments to cash transfer values starting in January.

In October, WFP continued to provide the increased cash transfers to better support essential living costs. The transfer is IRR 5 million (USD 7.1) for households headed by men and IRR 6 million (USD 8.6) for households headed by women.

In October, insufficient funding delayed the start of the WFP's school feeding program at the beginning of the academic year. Procurement of activities for the program will begin once necessary contributions have been secured.

By October, WFP Iran helped ease the financial burden associated with the gluten-free dietary needs of 53 refugee celiac patients from WFP's beneficiaries by providing them with an extra cash amount of IRR 9.7 million (US\$ 13.9) per person as a replacement for their usual food entitlement.

In October, WFP Iran launched 'Tastes of Iran', a nationwide campaign celebrating the country's rich culinary heritage and cultural diversity. 'Tastes of Iran' is a journey from desert to forest, from plains to sea, a search for flavors that are not just tastes of food but tastes of life itself. The campaign invites people to share traditional family or local recipes along with photos or AI-generated artwork.

The initiative aims to preserve food traditions, spark creativity, and connect communities through shared flavors and memories. Top entries will be featured in a digital book and showcased online.

WFP supported 402 refugees with disabilities in October across eleven settlements, each receiving an additional monthly cash support of IRR 3 million (US\$4.3), on top of their regular aid. Initially launched in two provinces, the initiative was gradually expanded to cover settlements in Saveh, Semnan, Bani Najar, Sarvestan, Bezileh, Abazar, Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Jahrom, Meybod, and Torbat-e-jam.

To enhance the economic resilience and self-sufficiency of 364 refugees (50 percent women) in October, WFP continued its support for 26 income-generating initiatives across 18 settlements. Activities included welding, tailoring, baking, and farming, among others.

In 2024, WFP provided a combination of in-kind and cash assistance to address the food needs of over 33,000 vulnerable refugees in Iran. As a result, 70 percent of them were able to consume food at an acceptable level, a figure that remains nearly stable compared to the previous year.

Since August, WFP has successfully increased the value of the cash transfer entitlement by 25 percent, actively helping to mitigate the immediate economic challenges reported by refugees.

WFP has maintained a presence in Iran since 1987, primarily focused on addressing the food security needs of refugees, mainly from Afghanistan. Iran has hosted refugees for over four decades. Most refugees, along with those in refugee-like conditions, reside in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, often integrated with host communities. However, the most vulnerable refugees living in 20 settlements across 13 provinces face a precarious food security situation that necessitates continued humanitarian assistance by the WFP.

WFP provided food assistance, educational support, and livelihood opportunities through in-kind food distributions, unconditional cash transfers, and capacity-strengthening initiatives to eligible refugees who live in settlements.

Given the economic situation in Iran in recent years, Afghan refugees have also faced many challenges, including reduced income opportunities and diminished purchasing power, which have impacted their food security and well-being, particularly among those in settlements. In response, WFP adjusted its Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2023-2027) to align with the need by modifying cash entitlements and food rations, adjusting the number of beneficiaries, and extending the duration of the ICSP by two years to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF 2023-2027), ensuring uninterrupted assistance.

WFP implemented activities under the ICSP to sustain its support to these refugees and address their increasing humanitarian needs. There are around 35,000 most vulnerable documented refugees who live in 20 settlements across 13 provinces in Iran and are benefiting from WFP-provided food assistance.



NOVEMBER 11, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One can purchase the world with contentment, and live in happiness with benevolence.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:19 Dawn: 5:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:37 (tomorrow)

Iranian documentary “Two Sisters” honored at Tokyo Docs 2025

TEHRAN – The Iranian documentary “Two Sisters” directed by Farahbakhsh Farhidnia and produced by Yaser Talebi and Setareh Zare won an award at the Tokyo Docs 2025 in Japan.

The film was honored with the Al Jazeera Documentary Channel Co-Production Award at this year’s edition of the festival, which was held from November 4 to 7, Mehr reported.

The award — the highest honor of this year’s festival — was presented to “Two Sisters” among 20 selected documentary projects from around the world.

The film is a family environmental drama, taking viewers deep into the mountainous regions of northern Iran, where two elderly sisters stand firm against the destruction of their ancestral home and land.

The film combines environmental concerns with personal drama, creating a compelling narrative for audiences worldwide.

“Among so many incredible films and teams, this acknowledgement means a great deal. It’s a

strong encouragement to keep moving forward toward full financing and completion,” co-producer Zare said.

“My heartfelt congratulations to our creative team – director Farahbakhsh Farhidnia and cinematographer and co-producer Yaser Talebi – whose vision and artistry bring this story to life. It’s a privilege to produce this film and to walk this journey together,” she added.

Tokyo Docs is an international event designed to support the overseas expansion of documentaries, including international co-productions. It allows Japanese and Asian documentary filmmakers to network with decision makers from Japan and abroad to help secure funding for Japanese and Asian documentaries’ production and support their broadcast, distribution, screening, and sales overseas.

This year’s edition of the festival took place in Ikebukuro, Tokyo. During the festival, producers, broadcasters, and distributors from Japan and abroad gathered to explore new collaborations.

Iranian short film wins at Hollywhut Horror Film Festival

TEHRAN – The second Hollywhut Horror Film Festival, held in Hollywood, California, has announced its winners and the Iranian short film “Corpusruptus” directed by Saeed Amirifard is among them.

A production of the Kermanshah Office of the Iranian Youth Cinema Association, the movie won the Best Cinematography award for Soheil Paryani, IRNA reported.

Previously screened at the 42nd Tehran Short Film Festival, “Corpusruptus” is about a patient with schizophrenia whose mental personality

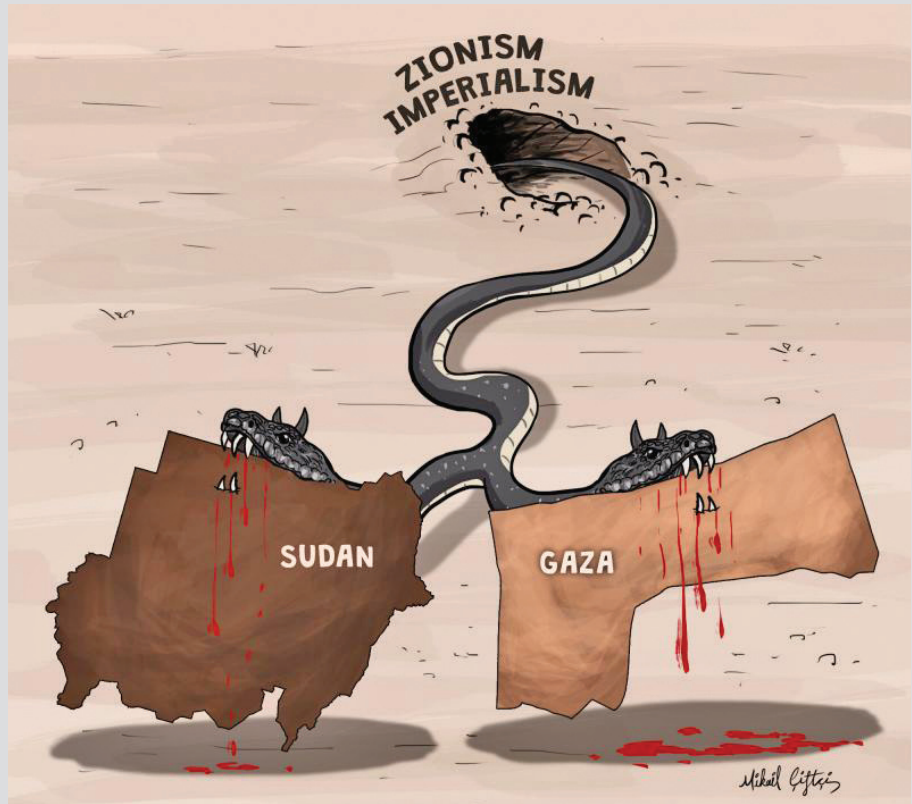
forms a family.

Mansur Daeichi, Sina Azizi, Delnia Amiran, Ghazal Shahabadi, Bitā Jamali, Amirmohsen Rezaei, Hanieh Hemati, and Amiralī Fouladi are in the cast.

Established in 2017 The Hollywhut Horror Film Festival began with a focus on networking and collaboration and allowing filmmakers the opportunity to exhibit their films to a live audience.

The Hollywhut Horror Film Festival is a feature presentation of PlastiCon Expo Presents the Hollywood Horror Show.

Cartoon of Day



Sudan & Gaza

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Ammar Popular Film Festival unveils official poster

From Page 1 ► “Today, artists from around the world—particularly from Lebanon, Gaza, Yemen, Africa, and South America—stand alongside oppressed peoples,” she said.

“We invite all of them to participate in this visual and meaningful battle, representing the voice of justice-seeking nations,” she added.

This year, the Ammar Festival will encompass categories including short, semi-feature, and feature fiction films, documentaries, animation, music videos, television productions, news, blogs, and even works related to artificial intelligence.

“We call on resistance artists worldwide to submit their works in these fields, aiming to host a novel and impactful festival,” she explained.

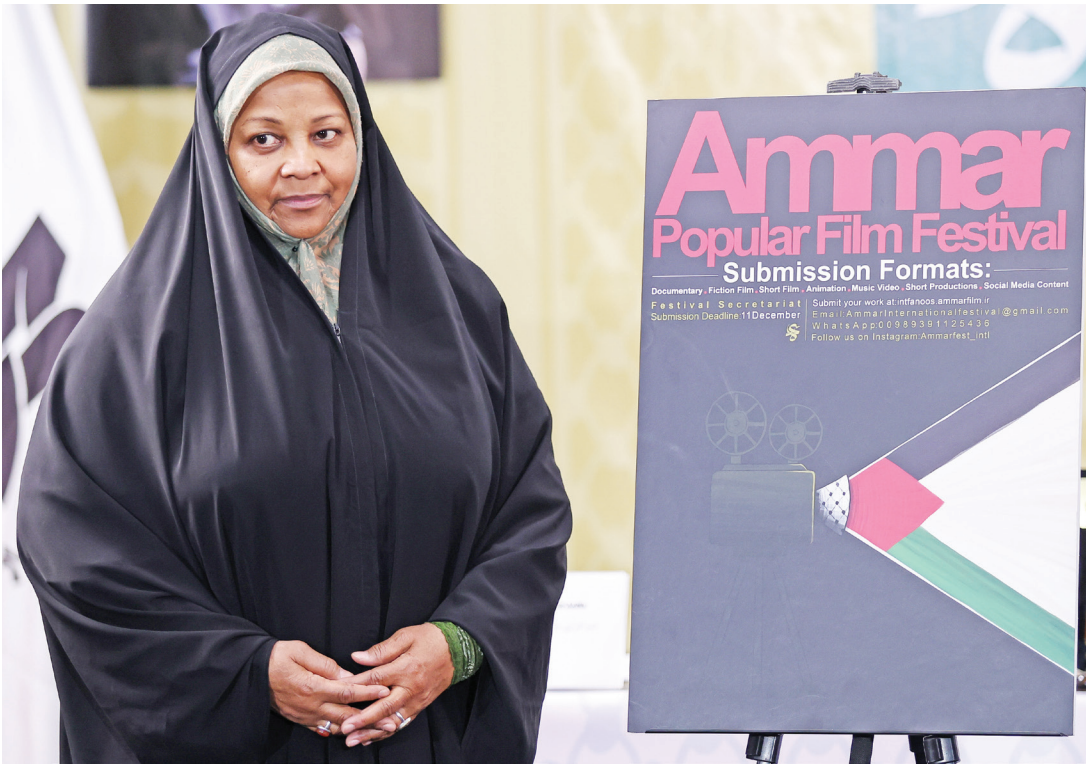
“We invite artists globally to speak out through art about resistance, anti-imperialism, and anti-Zionism. Now is the best time to voice this message,” Hashemi noted and added: “It is a battle of words and media, and over these past two years, nations have awakened. We call on artists worldwide to participate.”

“The international environment has become extremely dangerous for resistance artists, as they face security accusations in the United States, Europe, and Canada,” she stated.

“Particularly in America, the hegemonic powers fear that, since 1947, nations have never been this awakened—especially among the youth,” she said.

Moreover, the organizers of the 16th Ammar Popular Film Festival have officially issued its call for participation in the international section, under the compelling theme “America, the Vanguard of Crime.”

The festival extends an open



Marzieh Hashemi, secretary of the 16th Ammar Popular Film Festival, stands beside the official poster for the event’s international section during a press conference in Tehran on November 10, 2025.

invitation to artists, filmmakers, poets, writers, and media and cultural activists from across the globe to stand firm in the trenches of truth, wielding art as a weapon against occupation and injustice.

This year’s edition seeks works that embody the universal spirit of resistance—those that uncover truth amidst the rubble of distortion, proclaim justice against oppressors, and amplify the voices of the oppressed. The festival emphasizes that these themes are not merely narratives but shared wounds of humanity, serving as platforms to awaken global conscience, transcend borders, and uphold steadfastness through art.

Key topics for submission include the heroic narrative of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Gaza under siege, and the Zi-

onist regime’s crimes from the perspective of truth and conscience. The festival also calls for works depicting the evolution of Palestinian resistance—from stones to rockets, poetry to martyrdom—and the history of occupation, from deceptive promises to disgraceful walls.

Stories of borderless heroes, martyrs, resistance fighters, women on the front lines, and families of martyrs are also highly encouraged.

Beyond Palestine, the festival invites submissions that explore the broader resistance movement across Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Africa. Works that showcase protests, campaigns against normalization, and testimonies of exile and imprisonment are encouraged. Narratives about the U.S. military interventions,

failures in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the collapse of regional projects are also relevant.

The festival also promotes “Our Film,” a content creation campaign inviting the public, especially youth, to produce short films using any camera or mobile device. Participants can capture scenes from daily life, resistance celebrations, protests, or missile launches. Submissions are open until December 11, providing grassroots voices an opportunity to contribute to this global resistance movement through art.

Ammar Popular Film Festival was established in 2010 by a number of Iranian revolutionary figures to honor film and art products promoting topics such as resistance and revolution. It was named after Ammar Yasir, a close companion of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Arasbaran Cultural Center reviews Robert Zemeckis’ “The Walk”

TEHRAN- “The Walk”, a 2015 biographical drama film by American filmmaker Robert Zemeckis, went on screen at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Sunday.

The film screening was followed by a review session attended by Iranian critic Kourosh Jahed.

“The Walk” recounts the extraordinary true story of French high-wire artist Philippe Petit, who in 1974 orchestrated an audacious walk between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center.

The narrative begins in 1973 in Paris, where young Philippe Petit is a street performer with a dream that borders on obsession. During a visit to a dentist’s office, he notices a magazine photo of the Twin Towers and is struck by their towering grandeur. Inspired, he begins to conceive a plan to walk a tightrope between these iconic skyscrapers, an idea that will consume him for the next year. Meanwhile, Philippe faces familial disapproval, notably from his father, who disapproves of his unconventional career choice as a street performer. Despite this, Philippe’s passion remains unshaken.

He returns to the circus—the environment that initially inspired his love for wire walking—and practices tirelessly in the big top after hours. His skills impress Papa Rudy, a seasoned circus performer, to whom Philippe respectfully turns for advice on knot tying and rigging techniques essential for his ambitious project. Rudy, recognizing Philippe’s determination, agrees

to help him, and they develop a plan to rig the cables across the Twin Towers.

During this period, Philippe meets Annie, a fellow street performer, who becomes his romantic partner and staunch supporter of his dream. She helps him practice and provides encouragement, understanding the importance of his quest. The duo also befriends Jean-Louis, a photographer who is captivated by Philippe’s daring ambition. Jean-Louis becomes an integral part of the team, capturing moments of their planning and eventual execution. He introduces Philippe to Jeff, another accomplice who harbors a fear of heights but is vital for their operation.

The plan takes shape as Philippe and his team devise an ingenious method to get the cable across the towers. They decide to use a bow and arrow tied to a fishing line to shoot the cable from one tower to the other. After initial failures—marked by anxiety-induced falls into lakes and failed attempts—Philippe successfully walks between the Notre Dame Cathedral towers in Paris to gain confidence and experience. His perseverance pays off when he completes the feat, earning admiration and attracting international attention, though he is arrested in the process.

With the Paris success behind him, Philippe and his team travel to New York City to execute the main event. They meticulously scout the site, disguise themselves, and plan their timing,



The night before the walk, they face numerous setbacks: delays, security guards, and the risk of dropping the heavy cable from the top of the towers. Nonetheless, they succeed in stringing the cable and setting up the wire. On August 6, 1974, Philippe begins his walk, stepping onto the wire with a mixture of nervousness and unwavering resolve.

Once on the wire, Philippe describes a transcendental experience: everything around him fades, leaving only the wire and himself. He walks confidently, crossing from one tower to the other amid cheers from the crowds below. At times, overcome with emotion, he kneels, lies down, and even dances on the wire. The police arrive, threatening to use a helicopter to remove him, but Philippe persists, walking back and forth multiple times over his 45-minute performance. His daring culminates in six crossings, each more daring than the last, culminating in an extraordinary act of human

courage and artistry. When he finally descends, he is arrested but receives commendations from police and construction workers alike, recognizing his bravery.

The film closes with Philippe choosing to stay in New York, where he is given a special pass to the observation decks of the Twin Towers, symbolizing the lasting impact of his feat. Meanwhile, Annie decides to return to Paris to pursue her musical aspirations. The story underscores themes of perseverance, daring, and the pursuit of dreams against all odds. The film is dedicated to the victims of the September 11 attacks, acknowledging the tragic loss of the iconic towers that Philippe once walked between.

“The Walk” was critically acclaimed for its stunning visual effects, which vividly recreated the 1974 skyline and Philippe’s daring walk. It was nominated for several awards, particularly in categories recognizing its exceptional visual effects.