

Exclusive Interview

Venezuelan ambassador to Iran stated in an interview with Tehran Times:

8 Million Venezuelans Enrolled to Defend Homeland

If 87 percent of drug trafficking occurs via the Pacific, why did the U.S. deploy forces in the Caribbean?

Scan this QR code to watch the video.

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Venezuela's ambassador to Iran, José Rafael Silva Aponte, is holding a map showing the deployment of U.S. warships in the Caribbean.

Sudani scores "major victory" in Iraq elections

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – A coalition led by Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed al-Sudani reportedly comes first in Iraq's parliamentary election.

Officials close to al-Sudani said his coalition achieved a "significant victory" in Tuesday's parliamentary vote. One government source described the result as a "very large win," while two others confirmed that the coalition likely secured the largest number of seats.

Sudani has emerged as a dominant political figure since taking office three years ago with the backing of the Coordination Framework, a bloc that includes parties and factions linked to the Popular Mobilization Forces.

The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) said voter turnout surpassed 56%, marking a notable increase from 41% in the 2021 elections.

Based on projections by local media after counting votes in the capital Baghdad, Sudan's Reconstruction and Development Coalition was followed by former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law Coalition and the Taqaddum Front, led by former Parliament Speaker, Mohammed al-Halbousi.

Imperial ambitions at sea: U.S. military escalation against Venezuela

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The deployment of the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group to the Caribbean has marked a dangerous escalation in U.S. military activity and sharply heightened tensions with Venezuela.

Ordered by President Donald Trump, the arrival of the world's largest aircraft carrier, accompanied by guided missile destroyers, submarines, and thousands of troops already stationed in Puerto Rico, represents the most significant U.S. military buildup in the region in decades.

Washington has presented the deployment as part of "counter narcotics operations." Since early September, U.S. forces have carried out at least nineteen strikes against boats in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, resulting in nearly eighty deaths. Trump has accused Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and other senior officials of the country of leading a narcotics organization.

Israel escalating assault on Lebanon's environmental security

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Lebanon's forests, farmland, and green expanses are once again under siege. The recent wave of wildfires sweeping across the country recalls the devastation of 2010, when hundreds of hectares of pine and oak vanished in smoke and ash.

Nearly 30 simultaneous fires have erupted, and over 7,700 incidents have been recorded this season alone, raising urgent questions about accountability. Beyond local negligence, all signs point to the deliberate hand of the Israeli enemy in igniting fires across southern regions — Al-Aishiya, Jarmaq, Reyhan, and Aramta — turning the natural landscape into a battlefield.

This is no ordinary aggression. The targeting of forests and fertile land represents a calculated assault on Lebanon's environmental, food, and water security. The aim is not merely to scorch trees but to undermine resilience, weaken communities, and sow long-term vulnerability.

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Infant mortality rate in Iran drops over 4 decades

TEHRAN – Thanks to developing neonatal intensive care units (NICU) and training more than 400 experts in the field in the country, the country has managed to lower the infant mortality rate from 30 deaths to 7 deaths per 1,000 live births over the past forty years, an expert at the Iranian Neonatal Health Congress has said.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, Iran had the lowest infant mortality rate in the region. Following the pandemic, some Persian Gulf states have managed to drop the infant mortality rate to 5 deaths per 1,000 live births, IRNA quoted Hadi Samaei as saying.

Upgrading vital equipment such as ventilators, advanced monitoring systems, and smart temperature monitoring systems, as well as improving access to newborn health products, are on the agenda of the health ministry, the official added. ► Page 7

Iran's futsal take gold at 2025 Riyadh

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IRGC tests latest version of Shahed drones

TEHRAN – Experts at the Aerospace Division of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have tested the engine of domestically developed drone Shahed 161.

The unmanned aerial vehicle has an operational range of 150 kilometers, a flight endurance of 2 hours and a maximum flight altitude of 26 thousand feet. It is designed for reconnaissance, monitoring and combat missions. The Shahed 161 was first introduced years ago, but Iranians scientist and engineers have continued to tweak the weapon and incorporate new innovations.

The test was conducted during an exhibition showcasing the achievements of the IRGC's Aerospace Division at the National Aerospace Park.

At the exhibition, the IRGC also displayed advanced versions of other drones from the Shahed family, including the Shahed 131, Shahed 171, Shahed 191 and Shahed 238. ► Page 2

Iran busts 'anti-security ring' linked to Israel, US

TEHRAN – The Intelligence Division of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says it has identified and dismantled an anti-security ring led by Israeli and American spying agencies.

It said in an announcement that the network was dismantled after "several periods of monitoring" and other intelligence operations.

"After being defeated in the 12-day war, the Israeli regime, as a proxy of the United States in the region, has pushed its policy and machinations toward disrupting public security, with the pious of hope of being able to make up for its ignominious defeat on the military front," read the statement. ► Page 3

Iran-Uzbekistan comprehensive co-op document prepared to be signed

TEHRAN – A comprehensive document on Iran-Uzbekistan cooperation has been prepared for the signing by the two countries' officials.

The three-day visit of Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Seyed Mohammad Atabak to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, was a significant step towards achieving the goals of the outlook for trade and commercial relations with this country.

It paved the way for important agreements that are soon to be formalized in a comprehensive document to be signed by officials of the two nations.

As stated by Atabak, Iran and Uzbekistan have reached new agreements to strengthen trade and investment cooperation, particularly in mining and mineral industries. ► Page 4

Iran seeks UNESCO recognition for 17 historic mosques showcasing 'Persian Mosque' legacy

TEHRAN – Iran has placed 17 of its most iconic mosques on UNESCO's Tentative List under the collective title "Persian Mosque," paving the way for a possible future inscription on the World Heritage List.

The serial nomination, encompassing mosques from various historical periods and across different provinces, highlights the evolution of Iranian Islamic architecture from its early beginnings after the advent of Islam to the late Qajar era. The initiative aims to demonstrate how Persian architecture not only absorbed Islamic spiritual and structural concepts but also influenced the development of mosque architecture across the Islamic world. ► Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Netanyahu seeks to draw Western countries into another war with Iran

From page 1 ► In an interview with Sobh-e-No, Middle East expert Mosaddegh Mosadeghpour says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking support from Trump and some other Western countries to initiate another war with Iran. The analyst argues that Trump and his team have provided maximum cooperation with the Zionist regime, and without this assistance, Israel would have faced major challenges. Netanyahu is making significant efforts to get a green light from the Americans again, to provoke conflict with Iran, and to draw Western powers into a potential war with Iran. It seems he cannot proceed without war; he is constantly seeking to establish or maintain a wartime state. If the war stops, the situation will become very difficult for him, and he may emerge defeated and without a favorable outcome. A few days ago, it was announced that all Israeli actions against Iran were under Trump's supervision. Trump intended to signal that Israel is his tool, and he can attack again whenever he wishes. Such statements are both a threat and an invitation to negotiate. In any case, there is now a relationship among the players that may be quite complex.

Sazandegi: New actors in Syria

Sazandegi examined the visit of Ahmad Al-Sharaa, the new Syrian ruler, to the United States. This trip should be considered a turning point in the history of Damascus's relations with the Western world. It could signal an acceptance of new realities and the beginning of a fresh round of Syrian-Western engagement. Syria has been a close ally of Iran for decades, but now there are clear signs that Damascus is distancing itself from Tehran. Observers believe that hidden tensions between Damascus and Tehran have gradually pushed Syria away from the "Axis of Resistance" and toward normalizing relations with the West. Iran may be the biggest loser in this geopolitical shift. During Syria's civil war, Tehran spent over \$50 billion supporting Damascus—from military and arms aid to infrastructure reconstruction and funding Assad's government. But now, with Syria's foreign policy pivot, the return on that investment seems unlikely. Countries like Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia are gradually replacing Iran; actors with influence in the Arab world and close ties to the West. As a result, Syria is once again returning to the Arab world and reestablishing relations with Western countries, a process that continues with the

Iranian, Russian FM's hold phone talks on regional, international issues

TEHRAN – Iranian and Russian foreign ministers held a phone conversation to discuss a range of bilateral, regional, and international matters, highlighting the continued close strategic ties between the two countries.

The Russian Foreign Ministry reported that Sergey Lavrov and Abbas Araghchi spoke by phone, reviewing bilateral relations as well as pressing regional developments.

During the call, both ministers welcomed recent agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan aimed at establishing a ceasefire and halting cross-border hostilities. They described the developments as a positive step toward regional stability.

The discussion also covered broader developments in West Asia, with a focus on the situation in Gaza and related deliberations at the United Nations Security Council. The ministers additionally addressed the current status of Iran's nuclear program and its review by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors.

The talks underscored the strategic partnership between Tehran and Moscow, which includes cooperation in countering shared security threats and intelligence sharing. The two countries have also agreed that, in the event one faces external aggression, the other will refrain from supporting the aggressor.

The pact, signed by Presidents Masoud Pezeshkian and Vladimir Putin in Moscow on

visit to Washington.

Arman-e-Melli: A good mediator!

Arman-e-Melli analyzed Iran-U.S. negotiations and wrote: Iran has a particular view of negotiation and refuses to negotiate under the shadow of war, as some analysts believe a new conflict between Iran and Israel could erupt at any moment. The reality is that despite reduced tensions between Iran and the U.S. in recent weeks, neither side has backed down from its positions. According to recent remarks by Ali Larijani (secretary of the Supreme National Security Council), Iran has not responded to the U.S., but a solution must be found for this "neither war nor peace" atmosphere. This is where mediation becomes meaningful. To move beyond the current situation, both sides must enter a new phase and choose a trustworthy and reliable mediator to initiate talks. This mediator, who can shuttle quietly between the parties away from media attention, could create conditions under which Trump might soften his stance on zero-percent enrichment. Which country—or even which individual—could influence Trump is a matter that diplomacy must determine.

Iran: Strategic preemption by Iran

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper addressed the Islamic Republic's deterrent power following the 12-day war initiated by Israel and later joined by the United States. It wrote: Washington is seeking to impose a framework for potential negotiations by presenting a set of unbalanced and unattainable demands, from curbing Iran's missile program to limiting its regional role. In the shadow of the 12-day war and the developments that occurred in its final days, a noticeable shift in battlefield dynamics emerged in Tehran's favor. Therefore, any military action against Iran would now incur significantly heavier and more unpredictable costs than before. The high level of readiness and reconstruction of Iran's military infrastructure after the war reflects a profound transformation in the logic of deterrence, which has now evolved into a phase of strategic initiative and preemption. Tehran has turned deterrence into an active concept within its national security doctrine. This shift is evident in the restructuring of its military planning model and the expansion of its offensive capabilities. The display of power is now designed to shape the enemy's perception of the costs of any military adventurism.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov shake hands during a press conference following their talks in Moscow, Russia, on April 18, 2025.

January 17, 2025, officially entered into force on October 2 after ratification by both countries' parliaments. Under the treaty, the two sides pledged to exchange intelligence, strengthen defense coordination, and assist each other in countering shared security threats.

Despite heavy Western sanctions and geopolitical pressures, Iran and Russia have steadily deepened their cooperation across multiple sectors, reinforcing their position as close strategic allies in both regional and global affairs.

IRGC tests latest version of Shahed drones

From page 1 ► Iran deployed its domestically built drones alongside its missiles against Israel during the regime's 12-day military aggression against the Islamic Republic back in June.

Iran's advances in the domain of drone technology comes against the backdrop of illegal Western sanctions against the country.

How drones that top headlines came to be

Deprived of access to global defense markets, the Islamic Republic's security establishment was forced to look inward over four decades ago after the Western-backed Shah was toppled. More than a political choice, it became a matter of strategic survival. National plans such as the Comprehensive Aerospace Development Program and the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan formalized that orientation, turning technological self-sufficiency into a guiding principle. From that pressure emerged a domestic drone industry adaptable, efficient, and capable of producing functional, affordable systems that combine simplicity, low cost, and operational effectiveness.

The drone thus became an answer to Iran's structural defense dilemmas. It allows for



Shahed 161 on display at a Tehran exhibition showcasing the IRGC Aerospace Force's achievements.

intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance at low cost; the projection of force without human casualties; and domestic production shielded from external constraints.

The Shahed family embodies this philosophy: sufficient technology, mass production, and industrial resilience. In a world of global asymmetries, Iran has managed to turn scarcity into strategy and sanctions into in-

centives for innovation.

The role of Iranian drones cannot be understood without looking at the geopolitical chessboard on which Tehran's strategy unfolds. Surrounded by U.S. military bases and facing regional rivals with privileged access to Western technology such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, Iran has articulated a doctrine of deterrence by denial, rooted in asymmetric warfare. Within this

framework, UAVs have become the most versatile and effective instrument of its defensive posture.

Reports suggest Iranian drones have been sold to countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Countries that cannot purchase the weapons from Tehran, like the U.S., have attempted to replicate the design, according to claims by American media.

'Shameless arrogance', Iranian media slams E3 for hypocrisy on nuclear deal



The foreign ministers of Germany, UK, and France spoke about Iran on the sidelines of a G7 summit on Wednesday

TEHRAN – Iranian media have strongly criticized the "shameless arrogance" of the European Troika—comprising the United Kingdom, Germany, and France—after the three countries once again called on Iran to provide greater "transparency" in its nuclear program, while continuing to neglect their own commitments under the now defunct 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA).

The German Foreign Ministry said in a post on X that Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl met with his British counterpart Yvette Cooper and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot on the sidelines of the G7 summit.

The German Foreign Ministry claimed that during the meeting, "the three ministers stressed that following the reactivation of the snapback mechanism, Iran must continue to ensure genuine transparency in its nuclear program." The discussion, it added, also cov-

ered the situation in West Asia and ways to step up military and financial support for Ukraine.

Iranian media have criticized the latest remarks as yet another display of European duplicity. While the Troika demands "transparency" from Tehran, they themselves have never abided by the commitments they made under the JCPOA. Since Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the deal in 2018, the European parties have failed to take a single practical step to neutralize or lift the illegal and unilateral sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic, Tasnism wrote.

Instead, London, Berlin, and Paris have gradually aligned themselves with U.S. policies—undermining the spirit and letter of the agreement they once claimed to defend. Their calls for "accountability" and "restraint" have become empty slogans that mask their own political submission to

Washington, Fars News Agency argued.

The so-called snapback mechanism—a provision within the JCPOA that allows any party to unilaterally restore UN sanctions if it claims Iran is in non-compliance—was formally activated by the European Troika in late August. This marked a dramatic escalation in Western pressure against Iran.

On September 19, the UN Security Council voted against permanently lifting pre-JCPOA sanctions on Iran. Just eight days later, the Council also rejected a resolution submitted by Russia and China—both signatories to the JCPOA alongside Iran—seeking to delay the measure. The following day, the E3 announced that all UN sanctions against Iran had officially been reimposed.

This decision effectively dismantled one of the last remaining pillars of the 2015 accord. It also exposed, once again, Europe's lack of strategic autonomy and its willingness to follow U.S. dictates even at the expense of international law and diplomatic credibility.

Over the past fifteen years, Iran has endured successive waves of coercive measures—financial restrictions, oil embargoes, and technology bans—designed to cripple its economy and isolate its people. Yet these pressures have produced the opposite result.

Rather than weakening the nation, sanctions have accelerated Iran's drive toward self-reliance and innovation. The country has made remarkable progress in aerospace engineering, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and nuclear science—advancements that

were achieved precisely because foreign pressure left no alternative but domestic development.

The JCPOA has been largely defunct since 2018. Following the United States' illegal withdrawal and the reimposition of sweeping sanctions, Europe failed to provide the promised economic relief that was central to the agreement. After nearly 18 months of waiting in vain, Iran began gradually reducing its nuclear commitments in response to the West's inaction—a move fully consistent with Articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA.

Russia and China, the two remaining signatories committed to the deal, have repeatedly stated that the paralysis of the JCPOA is the result of Western non-compliance. Both have called on Europe and the United States to return to genuine diplomacy rather than coercion.

Adding to the tension, U.S. and Israeli airstrikes in June targeted Iranian nuclear facilities—the very sites safeguarded under the JCPOA framework. The attacks were condemned worldwide as a blatant act of aggression. The U.S. President Donald Trump later boasted that the strikes had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear infrastructure—remarks Tehran said amounted to an open admission of war crimes.

Analysts in Tehran argue that Europe's latest statements are a continuation of this broader Western strategy—using diplomatic pressure and selective narratives to justify economic warfare and military threats.

Tehran condoles with victims' families following deadly blasts in Pakistan, India

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson has expressed condolences over deadly explosions in Pakistan and India.

In a statement, Esmail Baqaei categorically condemned a terrorist blast outside a courthouse in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, condoling with the people and government of Pakistan over the tragedy.

A powerful suicide blast struck outside a courthouse in Islamabad on Tuesday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 36 others, officials said. According to police, the attacker detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near a police car outside the city's district and sessions court building.

The attacker attempted to "enter the court premises but, failing to do so, targeted a police

vehicle," Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told reporters. Naqvi refrained from naming any militant organization and said authorities were "looking into all aspects" of the incident.

In a separate statement, Baqaei also condoled with the Indian government and people, especially the families of victims of car explosion in the Indian capital, New Delhi.

At least ten people were killed and dozens more injured after a car exploded near a metro station at Delhi's landmark Red Fort, officials said.

A slow-moving vehicle came to a stop near a red light around 6:42 p.m. local time, Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha told reporters on Monday.

Police spokesperson Sanjay Tyagi said law en-

forcement agencies had launched an investigation into the cause of the blast, which was not yet known. Videos circulating online showed flames engulfing multiple vehicles in the aftermath of the blast.

More than 30 people were "badly injured," said Dr. Manish Kumar Jha, a physician at Lok Nayak Hospital. "Many are not in a position of recovering," he told reporters in Delhi.

"Six cars, two e-rickshaws, and one auto rickshaw were gutted in the fire," a fire department official told the Press Trust of India (PTI).

Footage from the scene showed streams of motorcyclists and passersby rushing toward the site as huge orange flames shot into the night sky.

Venezuelan Ambassador to Iran stated in an interview with Tehran Times: 8 million Venezuelans enrolled to defend homeland

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – The Tehran Times exclusive interview with Venezuela's ambassador to Iran, José Rafael Silva Aponte, comes at a fraught moment for Caracas and the wider region.

Tehran and Caracas have steadily deepened a strategic partnership since Hugo Chávez's presidency, most visibly in the 20-year cooperation roadmap signed during President Nicolás Maduro's 2022 visit to Tehran — a pact that framed cooperation across energy, health, science and technology, transport and education.

Over the past three years, the two countries have exchanged delegations, held successive sessions of the Iran-Venezuela Joint Commission, and concluded dozens of sectoral agreements that, according to the interview, now number 299, underscoring an unusually dense bilateral agenda.

At the same time, the security environment has sharply deteriorated. Washington's expanded military presence in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific — including a recent carrier strike group deployment and other high-end assets — has heightened regional tensions and prompted Caracas to mobilize large-scale defensive measures. Caracas also points to United Nations drug-trafficking data showing that the bulk of narcotics originating in Colombia transit via Pacific routes, a statistic the Venezuelan government cites to dispute U.S. claims that Venezuela is a major transit hub.

This interview therefore explores three intertwined themes — the institutional consolidation of Iran-Venezuela ties, Caracas's account of external coercion and maritime incidents, and the domestic mobilization measures undertaken in response. The ambassador's perspectives illuminate how bilateral diplomacy and



Venezuela's ambassador to Iran, José Rafael Silva Aponte, posed for a photo during his visit to the Tehran Times

regional geopolitics are shaping a high-stakes contest over sovereignty, security and economic resilience.

Below is the full text of the interview:

How would you describe the current state of political, economic, and diplomatic cooperation between Iran and Venezuela, and what milestones have defined this partnership over the years?

The ties between Iran and Venezuela began strengthening when President Hugo Chávez took office in 1999, and they have continued to grow ever since. After his passing, President Nicolás Maduro further consolidated these relations. In June 2022, during his visit to the region, President Maduro traveled to Iran and met with President Ebrahim Raisi. They signed a 20-year strategic cooperation agreement covering energy, healthcare, science and technology, transportation, education, and other sectors, further solidifying the partnership between our two nations. Politically and

diplomatically, our relations remain strong and ongoing.

Since Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian became President of Iran, there have been two high-level meetings between the presidents. Additionally, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yván Gil have met more than five times at international forums and diplomatic gatherings.

Since 2022, numerous delegations have traveled between our countries. A Venezuelan delegation attended the 9th session of the Iran-Venezuela Joint Commission in Iran, signing memoranda of understanding. In 2024, the 10th session was held in Venezuela, with the Iranian side chaired by then-Defense Minister General Aziz Nasirzadeh, during which additional agreements were signed.

To date, 299 agreements have been concluded, and these relations continue to deepen. While imperialist forces have attempted to undermine the unity between our governments and peoples, the friendship and sol-

idarity between our nations remain resilient.

How does Venezuela assess the current level of U.S. military threats and covert operations, and what measures has your government taken to address and counter these challenges?

As is widely recognized at the international level, The United States of America initiated threats against Venezuela, beginning with a false narrative. They fabricated a scenario linking President Maduro to a so-called terrorist group called Tren de Aragua. I should clarify that this group was dismantled years ago by our armed forces and was a criminal organization. Additionally, they falsely accused Venezuelan officials at the highest levels of government of connections to drug cartels. These allegations are entirely untrue. Based on these fabrications, they attempted to justify a military deployment. However, according to maps and data published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Venezuela is neither a producer, processor, nor transit country for illicit drugs.

I want to reiterate that these maps and statistics were published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. They show that 87 percent of the narcotics produced in Colombia are trafficked to the United States via the Pacific Ocean. Only 8 percent pass through northern Colombia, and a mere 5 percent is linked to attempts by criminal groups to route drugs through Venezuela to Europe. The Venezuelan government has taken decisive measures to dismantle many of these criminal groups, often without violence.

This record of dismantling drug-related groups paints a very different picture from the military deployment initiated by the United States in September.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's futsal take gold at 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iran's men's futsal team defeated Morocco 5-0 Tuesday night in the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) final match.

Amirhossein Gholami and Hossein Tayebi scored two goals each and Mahdi Karimi also scored a goal.

Iran and Morocco had shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw in Group B.

Uzbekistan won the bronze medal after beating Saudi Arabia 6-5 in penalty shootout.

The futsal tournament of the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games runs from Nov. 4 to 10 at the Green Halls at the Prince Faisal bin Fahad Olympic Complex in Riyadh.

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.

Iranian women karate athletes win golds

TEHRAN – Sara Bahmanyar and Fatemeh Sadeghi of Iran won two gold medals at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) Tuesday night.

Bahmanyar defeated Uzbekistan's Gulshan Alimardanova 6-4 in the final match of the women's -50kg.

Sadeghi also earned a total of 42.4 points to win a gold, defeating her Turkish karate athlete Dilara Bozan, who scored 40.3 points.

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Women's volleyball defeat Tajikistan

TEHRAN – Iran's women's volleyball team swept past Tajikistan 3-0 (25-11, 25-8, 25-14) in the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games on Wednesday.

Team Melli had previously lost to Azerbaijan and Turkey and defeated Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

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Russia defeat Iran at 2025 MANAS Cup

TEHRAN – Russia U23 defeated Iran U23 football team 2-0 at the 2025 MANAS Cup on Wednesday.

In the match held at the Kurmanbek city Stadium in Manas city, Daniil Motorin in the 36th minute and Daniil Shantaly in 76th minutes scored for the Russian team.

Omid Ravankhah's team will play Kyrgyzstan and Bahrain on Nov. 15 and 18, respectively.

Iran have participated in the event as part of preparation for the 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup final tournament, which will be held in Saudi Arabia in January.

Woman weightlifter Beheshti snatches bronze

TEHRAN – Mahsa Beheshti of Iran won a bronze medal in weightlifting of the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) Tuesday night.

In the women's 86kg, Beheshti lifted 104kg in the snatch and 134kg in clean and jerk and won a bronze medal for a total of 238kg.

Egyptian Rahma Ahmed Abdelrazek Hassan Elsayed claimed the gold (116-127-243) and Rigina Adashbaeva of Uzbekistan won the silver with (105-133-238).

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Men's, women's teams victorious at 2025 IWBf Asia Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's men's and women's wheelchair basketball teams defeated their opponents at the 2025 IWBf Asia Oceania Championships on Wednesday.

The men's team defeated Thailand 73-56 Wednesday morning and the women eased past India 70-13 later in the day.

The men's team will meet China on Thursday, while the women's team meet Thailand later in the day.

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.

2025 ISG: Swimmer Ghasemi collects bronze

TEHRAN – Iranian swimmer Mohammad Ghasemi won a bronze medal at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) Tuesday night.

Ghasemi crossed the line in the men's 200m freestyle with 1:50.63 and came third.

Ahmet Mete Boylu of Turkey won the gold medal with a time of 1:48.65 and the silver medal went to Uzbekistan's Ilya Sibirtsev with 1:50.04.

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Iran's first Hebrew documentary highlights reality of Israel war hidden from public

TEHRAN – Tasnim News Agency has released Iran's first-ever Hebrew-language documentary, "Missiles over Bazan," marking a groundbreaking step in Tehran's media outreach to Hebrew-speaking audiences and offering a narrative rarely seen in Western or Israeli outlets.

According to Tasnim, the documentary provides a fresh and detailed account of the recent 12-day conflict between Iran and the Israeli regime, focusing on a previously undisclosed aspect of the confrontation—the covert battle over oil and gas infrastructure. The film depicts how targeted operations and strategic decisions reshaped the course of the war and shifted the balance of power in the region.

This is the first time an Iranian media organization has produced a documentary entirely in Hebrew, tailored specifically for Israeli viewers. The production seeks to engage the Israeli public "from a position of strength and

truth," offering an alternative to the narratives promoted by Western and Israeli media.

"Missiles over Bazan" combines expert interviews, intelligence analysis, and cinematic reconstructions to highlight Iran's strategic decision-making, intelligence capabilities, and battlefield control during the war.

Other Iranian bodies are looking to produce Hebrew content too. Following a recent cabinet meeting, Peyman Jebelli, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), emphasized that producing Hebrew-language content for audiences in the occupied Palestinian territories and for Hebrew speakers worldwide is one of the organization's core responsibilities.

He said IRIB intends to expand such efforts across social media, broadcast, and satellite platforms despite anticipated restrictions by the Israeli regime.



The documentary comes in the wake of a major escalation in June, when Israel launched an unprovoked attack on Iran on June 13, triggering a 12-day war that claimed the lives of at least 1,064 Iranians, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States also joined the hostilities by bombing three Iranian nuclear facilities—a move Tehran con-

demned as a flagrant violation of international law.

In retaliation, the Iranian Armed Forces struck multiple strategic targets across the occupied territories and the al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American military installation in West Asia, demonstrating Iran's expanding deterrence capability and regional reach.

Iran busts 'anti-security ring' linked to Israel, US

From Page 1 ► The Israeli regime launched a flagrant and unprovoked act of military aggression on Iran on June 13, 2025, triggering a 12-day war that killed well over 1,000 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians. The United States also got involved in the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in gross violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces struck strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

The statement further said that several espionage cells linked to the Israeli regime seeking

to conduct anti-security acts were busted in the operation.

Iran has been seriously dealing with espionage activities and spies as part of measures to safeguard national security.

In mid-June, 2025, Iran executed a man convicted of collaborating with the Israeli Mossad spy agency and attempting to share classified and sensitive information with the occupying Tel Aviv regime in exchange for money. The execution took place after the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence.

The individual, identified as Esmail Fekri, was in close contact with Mossad operatives,

and was captured in December 2023 during a complex intelligence operation carried out by Iranian security agencies.

Iranian officials have also arrested a number of people on suspicion of spying for Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, following the latest Israeli military aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Iran pays due regard to its national security and adopts the necessary measures to protect it, including any necessary operations to identify and apprehend spies and bring them to justice, an official with knowledge of the matter told the Tehran Times.

Iran-Uzbekistan comprehensive co-op document prepared to be signed



From Page 1 ► During a meeting in Tashkent, the minister held talks with Uzbekistan's Minister of Mining and Geology and the Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade. Both sides underlined the importance of expanding industrial collaboration and mutual investment.

He said the new agreements "pave the way for a major leap in the level of trade and business relations between the two countries," adding that despite the upward trend in cooperation, both nations must achieve the ambitious targets set by their presidents.

The Iranian delegation, including senior officials from the trade and mining sectors, traveled to Uzbekistan on November 9 to pursue new tariff arrangements, ease customs procedures, and promote industrial partnerships.

Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Head Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, who accompanied Atabak, said Iran and Uzbekistan must overcome existing obstacles to realize the true potential of their bilateral trade.

Iran's renewable power capacity to reach 4,000 MW in 40 days

TEHRAN – Iran's renewable energy capacity is hoped to reach 4,000 megawatts (MW) by the end of the next Iranian calendar month (December 21), according to Mohsen Tarztabalab, deputy energy minister and head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

In his recent press conference, Tarztabalab said that the capacity of the country's renewable power plants has reached 2,720 megawatts by October 27, whereas at the beginning of the administration, the figure was approximately 1,300 megawatts.

He added that by the end of the current Iranian month, an additional 420 megawatts will be added to this capacity, and if financial resources are provided on time, it is hoped that we will reach 4,000 megawatts by the end of the next month.

Tarztabalab emphasized that if this goal is realized, the path to achieving 7,000 megawatts by the end of the year (March 20, 2026) will be feasible; however, if there are delays in financial measures, the final figure will be a maximum of 5,200 megawatts.

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

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

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

"Expanding commercial relations requires addressing transportation and customs barriers," he said, urging both sides to finalize a preferential trade agreement as soon as possible to stimulate growth.

Dehnavi noted that one of the primary goals of the delegation's visit was to facilitate rail and road freight connections and remove logistical bottlenecks that hinder trade.

The discussions also focused on opportunities for cooperation in mining and mineral industries, given the complementary strengths of both nations.

Atabak highlighted Iran's experience in exploration, steel production, and mining technology, proposing joint ventures to boost investment and technology exchange in these fields.

Accompanying the minister were senior figures such as the head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the TPO head, and several members of parliament and major industrial companies.



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

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

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

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

Self-sufficiency in home appliance industry increases 10% in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by the deputy of public industries at the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the self-sufficiency of the home appliance industry has increased from 50 percent to 60 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Ebrahim Sheikh, pointing out that the home appliance industry has made good progress in the past year, said: "Currency restrictions have caused industries to use maximum domestic capacity and achieve self-sufficiency."

The deputy of public industries at the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade added: "Production prices in the domestic market are lower than global prices due to the low cost of energy, human labor wages, and other factors."

He noted that some home appliance components are import-



ed, stating: "It is natural that for certain components like circuit boards and parts that require high complexity or factories with production scales of tens of millions, importing is more cost-effective than domestic production."

Sheikh stated: "The home ap-

pliance industry in the country is moving towards self-sufficiency and deepening domestic manufacturing, and it is expected that this trend will accelerate with the use of new technologies."

The official stated: "Currently, the fields of steel, plastic, and

rubber components, as well as coils for home appliances, have all been localized. Only display panels and certain strategic components require imports, which other home appliance manufacturing countries also import these strategic items."

The deputy of public industries at the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade, stating that the home appliance industry must focus on quality, said: "This industry needs to enhance quality by using new technologies, artificial intelligence, and energy consumption management to move beyond mere assembly and compete with foreign products."

Sheikh emphasized: "The home appliance industry needs to move towards exports and must be able to compete internationally through branding."

'Iran-Oman trade outlook assessed positive for next 5 months'

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce pointed out specific obstacles and challenges in trade with Oman and emphasized that apart from the problems caused by sanctions and banking restrictions, one of the most significant difficulties for Iranian merchants working with Oman has been intense competition with rival exporters (especially the UAE, Turkey, and India) in the Omani market.

Jamal Razaqi Jahromi added that there are also issues with standards and quality certification, meaning that some Iranian goods require upgrades in packaging standards and compliance with Omani health/quality regulations, which creates difficulties for Iranian merchants.

He added: "Alongside these issues, we must also add transportation and logistics costs. Although infrastructure has improved, there is still insufficient capacity for regular maritime and container shipping. Furthermore, some Iranian exporters have failed to establish a stable foothold due to unfamiliarity with investment regulations and business residency rules in Oman."

Despite these obstacles, Razaqi Jahromi subsequently assessed the outlook for the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 23, 2025-March 20, 2026) positively, stating: "Given the upward trend in exports and the increase in the trade surplus, it is expected that this trend will continue in the second half of the year. This, of course, is contingent on the global price of oil and petrochemical products not experiencing a serious decline; our competitors (Turkey, the UAE, India) not entering the Omani market with more attractive conditions; or no new logistical restrictions or import regulations being imposed by Oman."

The head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce has also explained the obstacles and positive factors affecting trade with Oman in recent years, as well as the events and factors that will influence future exchanges with this country.

Razaqi Jahromi, pointed to the reasons for the increase in trade exchanges with Oman, focusing on exports, and said: "Strengthening logistics infrastructure such as the development of Chabahar, Sohar, and Duqm ports and the increase in joint shipping routes have reduced transportation costs and facilitated Iran's exports. Additionally, the diversification of Iran's exports to Oman and the increase in exports of petrochemical products, steel, cement, food products, and fruits and vegetables have been effective in this increase in exchanges."

He added: "On the other hand, the increasing role of Oman as a re-export hub – meaning that Oman re-exports a portion of the goods imported from Iran to Africa, India, and even the Persian Gulf – has itself been an effective action in developing the trade relations between the two countries. Furthermore, Oman's tendency to diversify its trade partners within the framework of its "Vision 2040" policies has created a suitable opportunity for Iran."

Razaqi Jahromi emphasized that despite some structural obstacles, the positive trend in trade between the two countries is expected to continue in the second half of the year, setting a new record for bilateral trade.

He stated: "In the first five months of this year, Iran-Oman trade saw an 11-percent growth compared to the same period last year,

with Iran's exports to Oman, which increased by 16 percent playing the main role in this growth."

Iran and Oman have agreed to accelerate the implementation of their preferential trade agreement and expand industrial cooperation through a newly formed bilateral industrial committee, according to Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported on November 4.

During a recent visit to Muscat, Mohammad-Ali Dehqan Dehnavi, head of the TPO and deputy minister of industry, mining and trade, met with Qais bin Mohammed al-Yousef, Oman's minister of commerce, industry and investment promotion, the report said.

The two sides underlined the need to speed up the trade pact's execution, organize a joint economic commission, and hold a business forum in Tehran to introduce investment opportunities in Oman.

According to Abdolamir Rabiavi, TPO's director-general for West Asia, both countries also discussed drafting and finalizing the industrial committee memorandum of understanding (MOU), which was signed by deputy ministers from Iran and Oman.

Dehnavi also held talks with Saleh bin Saeed Masan, Oman's deputy minister of commerce and co-chair of the Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee, as well as with the chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The meetings focused on boosting bilateral trade, facilitating the upcoming joint committee meeting in Tehran later this year, and strengthening private-sector cooperation.

The visit also included tours of Oman's Sohar Free Zone, Khazaen Industrial City, Madayn industrial estates, and the Oman Investment Authority, aimed at exploring new areas of collaboration in industry, customs, and free trade zones.

The National Center for Statistics and Information of Oman has announced that the value of the country's trade with Iran in the first seven months of the current year was \$865 million dollars, of which over \$390 million consisted of Iranian exports to Oman.

Statistics from this center indicate that Iran holds a significant share of Oman's foreign trade and, by leveraging the advantages of its neighborly relations with this country, has managed to secure a good position among its foreign partners.

According to this report, Iran was recognized as the second destination for re-exports from Oman in the first seven months of 2025. The value of Oman's re-exports to Iran during this period reached \$465 million. Oman's re-exports to Iran from January to July of this year accounted for 18 percent of the country's total re-exports.

Iran also ranked 11th among the countries supplying goods needed by Oman, exporting \$394 million worth of goods to this country in the first seven months of 2025. 45 percent of the total trade between the two countries was related to Iran's exports to this southern coast Persian Gulf country.

Iran's exports to Oman were greater than those from countries like Turkey, Egypt, and the United States. The United States exported \$218 million worth of goods to Oman during this period. Apart from re-exports, the figure for Oman's direct exports to Iran in the first seven months of 2025 was reported to be negligible, at around \$6 million.

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries,

Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has proposed the creation of a joint investment fund between Iran and Oman to support industrial projects, as part of broader efforts to deepen bilateral trade and private-sector collaboration.

During a meeting in Muscat, in late May, with Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh welcomed the growth in bilateral trade, which has surpassed \$2.0 billion. He emphasized that the trade volume could potentially reach between \$20 billion and \$30 billion, given the countries' untapped economic potential.

Hassanzadeh stressed the need for a clear financial framework to facilitate transactions between private enterprises in both countries. He proposed the establishment of licensed exchange houses under central bank supervision and the implementation of a barter mechanism to ease payment challenges.

The Iran Chamber head also advocated for re-exporting Iranian goods to African and East Asian markets through Oman; cooperation in supplying key industrial inputs to Iran; joint ventures in petrochemicals, hospitality, power generation, fisheries, and agriculture.

He further called for the formation of an industrial and investment committee involving the industry ministries and chambers of commerce from both countries. The aim would be to evaluate and coordinate development projects, particularly those utilizing Iran's tech-savvy startups and industrial base.

Hassanzadeh also proposed joint investment in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) to enhance rail and road connectivity with Central Asia and Europe, as well as the Makran coast, specifically Jask and Chabahar ports, as strategic logistics hubs providing access to the Caucasus and Eurasian markets.

The visit was part of an Iranian business delegation mission to Oman, seeking to capitalize on growing economic ties and the imminent activation of the first interbank transfer mechanism between the two countries.

Also, during an Iran-Oman Business Forum in Muscat on Wednesday (May 28), Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that the value of trade between Iran and Oman can reach \$20 billion-\$30 billion.

Emphasizing the position of Iran and Oman in connecting regional markets, the president said: "We can jointly establish strategic ties with important markets in the region and the world by using our geopolitical capacity."

Referring to his talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq the previous day and the agreements reached in these talks, the president stated: "What is most important today is to create infrastructure to strengthen the connection of land, sea and air routes between the two countries, because only in such a context can commercial, scientific, industrial and economic cooperation be deepened."

Iran and Oman discussed ways to boost banking ties during a meeting between the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion.

According to Oman's state news agency, Qais bin Mohammed al-Yousef held talks on May 27 with Mohammadreza Farzin in Muscat. The meeting took place as part of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's official visit to Oman aimed at strengthening bilateral economic and financial relations.

Imperial ambitions at sea: U.S. military escalation against Venezuela

From page 1 ▶ These allegations, however, have been challenged by international organizations and UN officials, who stress that such claims lack credible evidence and warn that unilateral military actions risk destabilizing the hemisphere and violate international law.

At the CELAC summit in Colombia, fiftyeight out of sixty nations signed a declaration rejecting “the use or threat of force and any action not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.” While the statement did not name the United States directly, it underscored the principle that sovereignty must be respected and military escalation avoided.

President Maduro has denounced the deployment as an “imperialist provocation” and announced a massive mobilization of Venezuela’s armed forces. Land, sea, air, river, and missile units, along with civilian militias, were placed on alert to defend the nation’s sovereignty.

US regime-change policy

The deployment of the Gerald R. Ford strike group is widely seen as part of Washington’s broader strategy to oust President Maduro. For years, U.S. administrations have sought to weaken Venezuela’s socialist government through sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and support for opposition figures. The current military buildup fits



squarely within this regimechange agenda, raising fears that Venezuela’s sovereignty is under direct threat.

The awarding of the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to opposition figure Maria Corina Machado has added another layer of tension. While celebrated internationally, many Venezuelans view the prize as politicized, serving to delegitimize the elected government and justify foreign intervention. Machado has openly supported Trump’s aggressive stance, describing Maduro’s government as a “criminal narco terrorist structure.” For critics, her recognition is less about peace and more about reinforcing Washington’s regimechange narrative.

Behind the rhetoric of fighting drugs lies a deeper motive: Venezuela’s vast oil wealth. With huge proven reserves, Venezuela possesses the largest oil stockpiles in the world, surpassing Saudi Arabia.

Analysts argue that Washington’s pressure on Caracas is tied to securing control over these resources and weakening Venezuela’s socialist government.

Historical parallels

The current escalation fits into a broader pattern of U.S. interventions. In Grenada (1983), the US justified its invasion under the pretext of protecting American citizens, but the deeper motive was to dismantle a leftist government aligned with Cuba. In Panama (1989), the U.S. launched “Operation Just Cause” to remove Manuel Noriega, citing drug trafficking, yet the operation also secured control over the Panama Canal. In Afghanistan (2001–2021), the U.S. claimed to be fighting terrorism and dismantling alQaeda, but the war evolved into a twodecade occupation that sought to reshape the region geopolitically and ended in failure. In Iraq (2003), the U.S. claimed to be eliminating

weapons of mass destruction, but the invasion ultimately centered on reshaping the Middle East and securing oil interests. And in Vietnam (1955–1975), the U.S. justified its intervention as part of the Cold War struggle against communism, but the war became a catastrophic occupation that cost millions of lives and exposed the limits of military power.

These precedents reveal a consistent pattern: humanitarian or security justifications serve as a cover for geopolitical and economic objectives. Venezuela, with its socialist government and immense oil reserves, now finds itself in the crosshairs of this recurring imperial strategy.

The deployment of the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group is not about combating narcotics—it is about imperial ambition, resource control, and regime change. Venezuela’s resistance is rooted in defending its sovereignty, a principle enshrined in the UN Charter and reaffirmed by regional declarations. By mobilizing its military and rallying international support, Venezuela is asserting the right of nations to chart their own course free from external coercion, echoing the struggles of Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, and other nations that have faced similar campaigns of intervention.

Sudani scores “major victory” in Iraq elections



From page 1 ▶ The National State Forces Alliance, which brings together senior politician Ammar al-Hakeem and former Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, as well as the Sadiqoon and Badr parties, are also believed to have performed well.

Baghdad is the largest constituency, holding 71 out of 329 seats in the Iraqi legislature.

According to Iraq’s constitution, once parliament is elected, it chooses a president, who then appoints a prime minister nominated by the “largest parliamentary bloc.” This nominee becomes the head of the executive branch.

In the absence of an absolute majority in the 329-seat parliament, which has been the case since 2003, coalitions must negotiate to form the largest bloc capable of naming the next prime minister and forming a government, a complex process, as seen in previous elections.

Iraqis went to the polls in large numbers for the sixth parliamentary elections, with turnout surpassing 56 percent, a sharp rise from the re-

cord low of 41 percent registered in 2021.

The strong participation is seen as a positive step for Iraq’s political landscape, considering calls by cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to boycott the ballot boxes. His movement, which won the most seats (73) in 2021, did not take part this time.

IHEC reported that the election was conducted electronically, under extensive international monitoring from various organizations. Observers noted that the process ran smoothly overall, with fewer logistical issues than in past years.

Despite political rivalries, all parties have pledged to respect the results and move quickly to form a government.

Political analysts noted that all sides appear eager to avoid the prolonged deadlock that followed the 2021 election.

The unexpectedly high voter participation has given Iraq’s political system a boost of legitimacy. It signals the public’s desire for stability and reform.

Defense minister warns Pakistan will ‘pay back in the same coins’ after Islamabad suicide blast

Pakistan’s Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said Pakistan was not interested in fighting with India or Afghanistan, though he said his country would “pay back in the same coins” if it was targeted by its enemies after a suicide attack in Islamabad killed at least 12 people and injured more than 30, Arab News reported.

The attack took place at the entrance of a court complex in the capital city’s G-11 sector, crowded at the time with litigants and lawyers. Federal Information Minister Ataullah Tarar said all those who orchestrated the suicide bombing would be identified and brought to justice while also referring to another militant assault targeting a cadet college in the northwestern Wana district where security sources said all assailants had been killed.

Authorities in Islamabad blamed the Teh-

reek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella organization of militants, for carrying out both attacks. Pakistan blames Afghanistan for sheltering TTP militants and facilitating cross-border attacks with support from India, though Kabul and New Delhi deny the accusations.

The militant assaults have strained ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan leading to border clashes last month and failed talks mediated by Qatar and Turkey. The Afghan foreign ministry issued a statement condemning the attacks in Wana and Islamabad on Tuesday.

“Condemning [an attack] or expressing regret cannot be taken as a proof of truth,” the defense minister said in an interview with Geo TV. “Security is telling us that the terrorist [in Wana] ... were in contact with Afghans. We have the capacity. We can take care of them.”

The resistance that blocks Western military and political victory

Batool Subeiti

LONDON — What unfolded over the past two years was a large-scale military operation across seven fronts the Israeli occupation regime boasted about, but it did not achieve victory on a single front. The ceasefire has reinforced and consolidated the path of resistance.

When a ceasefire persists for some time, restoring the momentum that existed during the war grows harder. Limited operations in Gaza targeting resistance forces, like operations in Lebanon, function as ongoing responses to the prior explosive battlefield dynamics. With the global acknowledgement of the end of this war, it becomes much harder to return to full-scale war again.

These operations are matters of continuity, not of fresh aggression. This is the end of the project and the campaign in failure, not the beginning of a new project. The New Middle East is over, not beginning now.

These operations will end and gradually subside, and they are unlikely to ignite again under a global climate that rejects this genocidal war. So, this phase is finished. The second phase, even if it is being handled as an attempt to convert the effects of the massive destructive military operation into political outcomes, does not match the reality on the ground, given the

existence of the resistance movements.

The resistance has proven its resilience that it cannot be removed from the scene; it cannot be excluded from the decisive movements affecting the destiny and future of the region. Thus, the matter becomes a political struggle. The very actors who prevented a decisive military victory on the ground will also prevent those military outcomes from being translated into political results in favor of the Western project led by Trump. They constitute an obstacle and a knot in achieving the political results the West sought, results that do not align with the stubborn reality rooted in their inability to exclude the resistance from the political, military, and security scenes.

Matters will shift to a political phase in which the Axis of Resistance will help rebuild and broaden the resistance, consolidate accumulated gains against the genocidal war, and mobilize political action worldwide. This will bring pressure from administrations that see the Israeli entity’s expansionist project as out of step with global sentiment rejecting such governments, as they spare nothing, including genocide, to secure Western interests drenched in the blood of peoples, in a cruelty unknown in human history.

This state of affairs has become globally unacceptable and the Axis of Resistance will accumulate this.

Israel escalating assault on Lebanon’s environmental security

From page 1 ▶ These fires are not accidents. They are the continuation of a policy repeated over years, a methodical campaign that has already destroyed thousands of hectares of productive land, forest, and grasslands in recent years. The scars on Lebanon’s ecosystem are enduring, leaving communities exposed to the next natural or human-made catastrophe.

While human negligence accounts for many fires, the Israeli enemy’s intervention amplifies the crisis, especially amid extended droughts and delayed rainfall. Regions such as Akkar, Mount Lebanon, and Nabatieh are particularly exposed, teetering on the edge of ecological collapse.

Notably, the fires erupted merely a day after Lebanese Forces MP Ghada Ayoub publicly alleged that Hezbollah was storing weapons within those forests, a claim that coincided suspiciously with the sudden outbreak of blazes.

Environmental experts warn that deliberate fires diminish vegetation cover, reduce biodiversity, and erode forests’ capacity to absorb carbon — further deepening the climate crisis that threatens Lebanon and the region alike.

Lebanon’s response must be comprehensive. Civil defense requires strengthening, public awareness must expand, and monitoring systems must be modernized. Yet the ultimate responsibility rests with the state and munici-

palities: to safeguard lands, enforce preventive measures, and prepare emergency plans capable of withstanding external aggression.

The fires set by the Israeli enemy are a dual threat — military and environmental. They do not merely burn land; they attack livelihoods, food security, economic stability, and the very backbone of the nation’s resilience.

Lebanon faces an urgent imperative: to protect its land, its communities, and its future. A national strategy must combine vigilance, forest conservation, and coordinated civil and governmental action. In defending the green heart of Lebanon, the country defends its sovereignty, its people, and the fragile life of its homeland.

Ron Dermer’s resignation underscores Israel’s deep failures

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Ron Dermer, Israel’s Strategic Affairs Minister and one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s closest advisers, has resigned. In his letter, he made a rare admission: the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack was “the darkest day the Jewish people have known since Israel was established.” His words matter because they concede that Israel failed in its most basic duty — protecting the regime. Yet even while acknowledging this failure, Dermer praised Netanyahu’s leadership and tried to frame the government’s response as a success. This is less about accountability and more about shaping a legacy

that hides Israel’s deeper failures, especially its ongoing oppression of Palestinians.

Foundational shock

The October 7 Hamas operation, known as Al Aqsa Storm, was a rupture not only for Israel but for the entire region. For Palestinians, it exposed the fragility of a system built on occupation and inequality. Israel’s foundation, long justified as a guarantee of Jewish safety, has always come at the expense of the Palestinians’ rights. The attack showed that security cannot be sustained through domination. The shock reverberates through Israel’s identity, while Palestinians continue to live under siege, disposses-

sion, and military assault.

Continuing failures

Israel’s failures did not end on October 7. Relentless attacks in Gaza have killed tens of thousands of civilians and created a humanitarian disaster in the Palestinian territory. Instead of facing its own responsibility, Israel turned to collective punishment, eroding its moral standing and isolating itself globally. The International Criminal Court’s arrest warrant against Netanyahu over committing war crimes highlights the seriousness of these actions.

Legacy framing

Dermer claims history will judge the government kindly, that future

generations will see leaders who acted wisely under pressure. But this is an attempt to rewrite reality. October 7 will not be remembered as resilience, but as the day Israel’s covenant of security collapsed and its response exposed the bankruptcy of its policies. No amount of diplomacy or appeals to perseverance can erase the fact that Israel’s strategy rests on violence and denial of the rights of the Palestinian. The legacy is not strength but moral failure.

October 7 will remain not just a scar on Israel’s identity, but a reminder of the unsustainable nature of a regime built on occupation and apartheid.

Qassem on Martyrs’ Day: Resistance’s strength lies in “faith and will”

By Layla Saad

TEHRAN — Martyrs’ Day within the Resistance community has grown into more than an occasion of remembrance; it stands as a reaffirmation of faith and defiance — a living testament that martyrdom extends life and that sacrifice remains the foundation of dignity and national defense.

Since the 1982 invasion, when the Israeli enemy entered Lebanon under the pretext of “security north of occupied Palestine,” the culture of martyrdom has evolved into a collective weapon of honor, born amid aggression, abandonment, and international complicity.

Marking the occasion, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem delivered a major address tracing the arc of four decades of confrontation. He revisited the

historical struggle, assessed the latest agreement with the Israeli enemy, and outlined the Resistance’s enduring role in defending Lebanon’s sovereignty. Qassem warned that the United States and its Israeli ally are pursuing a project to reshape Lebanon to serve their strategic interests.

Four decades of defiance

The Resistance leader recalled that what began in 1982 as a so-called “security operation” was, in fact, an occupation plan aimed at permanent settlement in southern Lebanon. “Their goal was never to stop rockets but to occupy, expand, and entrench,” he asserted.

He recounted that from that realization, the Resistance emerged as both a national and spiritual response to occupation — a movement that endured until the Israeli

enemy’s humiliating withdrawal in 2000 “under the weight of the Resistance’s blows, without conditions.”

Qassem emphasized that liberation did not mark an end but a transition: deterrence became the central pillar of protection. He maintained that the “army, people, and Resistance” formula remains Lebanon’s true defense structure, asserting that “since 2000, deterrence has been preserved through faith, will, and national unity.”

The Hezbollah chief highlighted that the Resistance’s power lies not in arms alone but in consciousness — a will to resist domination regardless of external pressure. “They failed to tame Lebanon because our people refuse subjugation,” he remarked.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Deputy Minister highlights key role of nomadic women in sustainable development



TEHRAN - Nomadic women play a crucial role in sustaining Iran's tribal communities and are a determining factor in achieving social and economic sustainability, Deputy Cultural Heritage Minister Ali Darabi said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a national gathering titled “Developing Entrepreneurial Skills of Nomadic Women Who Carry Intangible Cultural Heritage to Achieve Sustainable Livelihoods,” held at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Darabi said nomadic women are not only guardians of language, art, and ritual, but also the invisible pillars supporting the vitality of nomadic societies, Mehr news agency reported.

Darabi referred to a 2024 decision by the ministry's council approving a project to empower nomadic women in West and Central Asia as part of broader efforts to enhance cultural development. He said the project launched a series of meetings focused on strengthening the role of local communities, documenting and transmitting traditional knowledge, and reconnecting policymaking with culture.

“We believe that sustainable development emerges from within culture and from the heart of living communities,” Darabi said. “It is time for indigenous knowledge and climate wisdom, alongside modern science, to be placed at the center of the country's development and cultural policymaking.”

He added that the living heritage of nomads should be viewed not only as a legacy of the past but also as a guide to the future—one that promotes harmony with nature while supporting progress.

Darabi expressed hope that the outcomes of the gathering would contribute to sharing successful local experiences with other member countries.

He also underscored the need to recognize and support the stability and growth of nomadic communities through the empowerment of women. “By emphasizing nomadic women's skills, professions, and employment, we can better understand their role in sustaining both production systems and family life,” he said.

Kish Island, Armenia discuss tourism cooperation

TEHRAN—Managing Director of Kish Free Zone Organization Mohammad Kabiri and Armenian ambassador to Iran Grigor Hakobyan have emphasized promotion of tourism and economic cooperation in a joint gathering which was held on the sidelines of Kish Invex 2025 in the southern Iranian island on Wednesday.

They also exchanged views on launching direct flights between Yerevan and Kish, IRNA reported.

They also discussed ways to expand interactions in the fields of tourism, economy and culture.

Kabiri stated that the main goal of inviting ambassadors from different countries to Kish was to introduce the unique capacities of the historical island and said that constructive discussions were held in this meeting.

He added: “The first focus of our discussions was the development of tourism between Yere-

van and Kish and the possibility of establishing direct flights, but this issue required a formal process, and the initial negotiations in this regard were conducted well, and both sides expressed a serious desire to advance it.”

“We are currently examining the routes for transporting goods from Yerevan to the Persian Gulf region via Kish, and we hope that this cooperation will lead to practical results in the near future.”

Also, the Armenian envoy expressed satisfaction at being in Kish Island and said: “Kish boasts numerous capacities and facilities. I think that we can start new cooperation between Armenia and Kish particularly in tourism field.”

Hakobyan added that it was proposed that, as a first step, a group of tourism activists, bloggers, and prominent and influential figures from Armenia travel to Kish Island and experience firsthand the island's potential.

Needle-carved image linked to Sasanian king found in Southern Iran

TEHRAN — A needle-carved rock image believed to depict a Sasanian king has been discovered in the cliffs of the ancient city of Istakhr, located in Marvdasht Plain, an archaeologist said.

Abolhassan Atabaki, an archaeologist and historian, on Wednesday said the carving shows a royal figure wearing a crown, accompanied by symbols of the moon, a star, and a crenellated diadem.

According to Atabaki, similarities between these features and the crowns of late Sasanian rulers seen on rock reliefs, metalwork, and coins indicate a close link between the newly found image and established Sasanian artistic traditions.

In that regard, historian Najmeh Ebrahimi said the discovery evokes the ancient practice of royal portraiture in Sasanian art. Citing a 10th-century account by historian Al-Masudi, she noted Al-Masudi's account of an illuminated manuscript found in Istakhr that depicted Sasanian kings.

Ebrahimi said the newly identified carving reflects that same artistic tradition, with stylistic elements similar to early Sasanian needle engravings in the Persepolis region.

She added that about 90 percent of Sasanian

royal-shaped rock reliefs have been discovered in the Marvdasht Plain, the dynasty's birthplace, and that many valuable artifacts from the period remain unexplored or scientifically unexamined.

The ancient city of Istakhr, which embraces many magnificent palaces, fortifications, and temples, was once a royal residence of the Sassanid kings of Persia and is located near Persepolis, southern Iran.

The political history of Istakhr stretches back to 224 CE when a Persian nobleman Ardashir de-throned Artabanus IV, king of the Parthian Empire, who was recognized as a lawful ruler in Persia.

The new ruler finally chose Istakhr as one of his residences. It allowed the new Sasanian dynasty to identify itself with a glorious past.

The builders of Istakhr often reused architectural elements from the monuments of Persepolis. The Achaemenid royal tombs of Naqsh-e Rostam are not far from Istakhr too.

According to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, geographer Istakhri wrote that in the 10th century, houses were built of clay, stone, or plaster depending on the wealth of their owners.

Iran seeks UNESCO recognition for 17 historic mosques showcasing ‘Persian Mosque’ legacy

TEHRAN – Iran has placed 17 of its most iconic mosques on UNESCO's Tentative List under the collective title “Persian Mosque,” paving the way for a possible future inscription on the World Heritage List.

The serial nomination, encompassing mosques from various historical periods and across different provinces, highlights the evolution of Iranian Islamic architecture from its early beginnings after the advent of Islam to the late Qajar era. The initiative aims to demonstrate how Persian architecture not only absorbed Islamic spiritual and structural concepts but also influenced the development of mosque architecture across the Islamic world.

According to Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ministry, the proposed “Persian Mosque” series includes some of the most representative, influential, and distinctive mosques in the country. Together, they display the full trajectory of Persian mosque architecture -- from early columned halls to monumental four-ivan courtyards adorned with intricate tilework and soaring domes.

The nomination emphasizes the continuity of ancient Persian design elements such as iwans (porches), domes, and courtyards and their integration with Islamic architectural functions. Many of these features trace their roots to pre-Islamic Iranian structures, such as fire temples and palatial halls of the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

The earliest examples in the nomination, including the Masjid-e (or Masjed-e) Jameh of Fahraj in Yazd province and the Tarikhaneh Mosque of Damghan in Semnan province, date to the first centuries of Islam. The Fahraj mosque, believed to be among the oldest in Iran, still preserves its original mudbrick structure and simple arcades, reflecting the earliest phase of Iranian mosque construction.

Nearby, the Tarikhaneh Mosque at Damghan illustrates the transition from column-based to pier-based architecture. Its round brick piers and heavy arches recall Sassanid construction methods, indicating a continuity of pre-Islamic building techniques adapted for Islamic worship.

Another early example, the Masjid-e Jameh of Saveh, orig-



An aerial view of the Jameh mosque of Ardestan located in the north of Isfahan province, central Iran.

inally built in the first Islamic century and expanded over time, reflects the gradual transformation of early prayer halls into more complex congregational spaces.

The Friday Mosque of Neyriz in Fars province represents one of the earliest uses of the ivan -- a vaulted open hall -- in Persian mosque architecture. Built in phases from the Buyid to the Ilkhanid periods, its structure illustrates the early blending of Iranian spatial concepts with Islamic religious needs. Similarly, the Masjid-e Jameh of Natanz embodies the mature domed and ivan style of the Seljuk and Ilkhanid eras, marked by refined stucco work and balanced proportions.

The Masjid-e Jameh of Nain, Ardestan, and Zavareh, all in central Iran, trace the architectural evolution from columned halls to fully developed four-ivan layouts. The mosque at Zavareh, dated 1135 CE (530 AH), is the earliest known example of a complete four-ivan plan -- a design that later became a hallmark of Persian mosques.

Perhaps the most significant example of Persian mosque architecture is the Masjid-e Jameh of Isfahan, a World Heritage site since 2012 and included again in the serial nomination as a reference point. Constructed over twelve centuries, it stands as a living record of continuous architectural adaptation and innovation. The mosque's transformation from a hypostyle plan to

a four-ivan configuration during the Seljuk era became the prototype for mosque design across Iran and Central Asia.

The Masjid-e Jameh of Yazd, with its twin minarets and lofty portal, exemplifies the later development of this style. Its tall ivan and exquisite tile decorations showcase the Timurid and Muzaffarid craftsmanship that elevated Persian mosque architecture to new artistic heights.

Other regional representatives, such as the Masjid-e Jameh of Gonabad and the Masjid-e Malek-e Zozan in Khorasan province, demonstrate local adaptations of the four-ivan form and the resilience of Persian architectural traditions through successive dynasties.

The Safavid dynasty (1501–1722) marked the golden age of Persian mosque design. In Isfahan's UNESCO-listed Naqsh-e Jahan Square, two nominated mosques -- the Masjid-e Imam (also known as the Shah Mosque) and the Masjid-e Sheikh Lotfollah -- stand as masterpieces of tilework, geometry, and spiritual harmony.

The Masjid-e Shah, built under Shah Abbas I, is renowned for its monumental blue dome and complex alignment that perfectly orients the mosque toward Mecca while fitting within the square's urban geometry. The nearby Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, designed as a private sanctuary for the royal family, is celebrated for its subtle proportions and the

luminous quality of its interior dome.

The Aqa Bozorg Mosque in Kashan and the Sepahsalar Mosque in Tehran represent the continuity of Persian architectural principles into the late Islamic period. The Aqa Bozorg complex, combining a mosque and madrasa around a sunken courtyard, was built in the 19th century and is noted for its spatial harmony and balance.

The Sepahsalar Mosque (later renamed Shahid Motahhari Mosque), constructed in the late 19th century under the Qajar dynasty, exemplifies the enduring influence of traditional Persian design -- including iwans, domes, and tile decoration -- integrated with emerging urban forms in the capital.

The Masjid-e Jameh of Semnan, a late addition to the serial group, continues this long architectural lineage, combining early mosque structures with Qajar-era embellishments.

Experts say Iran's nomination dossier highlights how Persian mosques are not only religious structures but also urban and artistic compositions that embody centuries of cultural exchange, technological innovation, and spiritual symbolism. Moreover, the selected series is aimed to help underscore the central role of Iranian architects and craftsmen in shaping the broader architectural identity of the Islamic world.

Yazd hosting conference on Iran's historical cities



TEHRAN - The second conference of Iran's historical cities opened in Yazd on Wednesday, bringing together representatives from 43 cities across the country to discuss ways to preserve and promote urban heritage.

According to IRNA, Mehdi Talei-Moqaddam, deputy governor-general of Yazd province,

said cultural heritage holds significant potential for job creation and economic growth, benefiting all sectors of society.

He emphasized that Yazd needs special attention in the fields of cultural heritage, natural and ecological resources, and tourism. The conference, he said, provides a platform for exchanging experiences among Iran's

historical cities, and its active secretariat can help facilitate cooperation and dialogue.

Talei-Moqaddam added that Iran's cultural heritage must be viewed as an interconnected whole, noting that support for heritage and tourism in one region benefits the entire country.

Yazd Mayor Abolghasem Mohyaddini said Yazd was the first Iranian city whose historic fabric was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage in 2017. “We are proud to host the mayors of Iran's historical cities in Yazd,” he said.

He noted that the slogan of this year's conference focuses on investment and public participation in the preservation of historic urban areas. Workshops, he added, are centered on this theme to help transfer successful experiences and create a sustainable framework for conservation.

Vice-President of the Yazd Islamic City Council Moham-

mad-Naser Heydari stressed that local culture and customs should be preserved and passed on to younger generations rather than confined to museums. “Alongside personal identity, human and faith identity must also be preserved,” he said, urging municipal action to sustain life within historic neighborhoods.

Deputy Governor-General of Yazd Esmaeil Dehestani said Yazd takes pride in maintaining its authentic historical fabric and rich cultural traditions. “Attention to our traditions and history sustains tourism appeal,” he said, adding that such conferences play a key role in sharing expertise.

Dehestani noted that Yazd lies within Iran's “Golden Triangle” of tourism, along with Isfahan and Shiraz, and said the “Sustainable Yazd” document aims to boost tourism and cultural heritage while ensuring long-term development.

Tajik envoy calls for establishing joint scientific committee with Iran

TEHRAN – Tajikistan’s ambassador to Iran, Nizamuddin Zahedi, has underlined the need for the establishment of a joint scientific committee between the two countries.

Referring to the expansion of relations between Iran and Tajikistan within recent years, Zahedi said collaborative efforts in educational fields can be further expanded through resuming scholarships to attract more Tajik students and developing a joint scientific committee to hold regular meetings and come up with solutions to benefit from the optimal capacities of the two countries, IRNA reported.

The Tajik official made the remarks in a meeting on Tuesday with Saeed Habiba, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs.

He also proposed exchanging students to improve the quality of education and facilitate learning the Persian language for Tajiks.

Underscoring Iran’s high educational capacity, Zahedi voiced Tajikistan’s interest in promoting scientific ties with Iran and attracting Iranian students in different fields.

For his part, Habiba highlighted cultural, linguistic, and historical commonalities between Iran and Tajikistan, saying that science diplomacy is the most effective means to promote scientific cooperation with Tajikistan.



The official underlined the country’s achievements in science and technology, particularly nanotechnology and biotechnology, noting that Tajikistan’s universities can collaborate directly with Iran’s top universities in various fields.

Habiba went on to say that Iran plans to attract 320,000 foreign students and grant scholarships to Tajik students.

Strategic priority

In June, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi highlighted Tehran’s commitment to expanding relations with Dushanbe, emphasizing that Iran views cooperation with Tajikistan as a strategic priority.

Araghchi made the remarks in a

meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon at the Palace of Nations in Dushanbe on July 30.

He pointed to the shared linguistic, cultural, and historical ties between the two nations as a solid foundation for deepening cooperation in key areas, including trade, diplomacy, education, and cultural exchange.

During the meeting, the Iranian diplomat conveyed the official greetings of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian to the Tajik president and people.

President Rahmon welcomed the visit and echoed the sentiment, describing Iran-Tajikistan ties as rooted in centuries-old friendship and

mutual respect. He called for further efforts to boost cooperation in light of current regional challenges.

The two sides discussed the current state of bilateral relations and exchanged views on expanding collaboration. They also reviewed regional developments, including the evolving situations in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and West Asia, and shared their perspectives on mutual security concerns.

Moreover, Araghchi held talks with his Tajik counterpart, Sirojiddin Muhriddin, focusing on a comprehensive agenda aimed at boosting cooperation in political, economic, commercial, academic, tourism, and consular affairs.

Minister Muhriddin reaffirmed Tajikistan’s willingness to strengthen ties with Iran, emphasizing the importance of economic and trade cooperation. He welcomed the shared political will between the two nations’ leadership to deepen engagement across all sectors.

Iran and Tajikistan share deep-rooted cultural, linguistic, and historical ties. In recent years, both nations have significantly revitalized their bilateral cooperation across various sectors. For example, on June 13, 2022, officials from Tajikistan and Iran convened a Tourism Forum to enhance tourism collaboration between the two countries.

Iran attends 26th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council

TEHRAN – The vice president of Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has represented Iran at the 26th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators’ Council (SATRC-26).

The meeting was organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) from November 5 to 7 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The event brought together policy experts and representatives from member states, including Iran, Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan, to discuss ways for developing regional digital cooperation.

SATRC-26 focused on reviewing key policies and regulations in the Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) sector, spectrum management, expansion of digital access, and the promotion of regional cooperation, IRIB quoted Seyyed Mohammad-Hasan Javanzadeh as saying.

Referring to the approval of the outcomes of the SATRC Action Plan phase IX and adaptation of SATRC Action Plan phase X, the official said the meeting included special sessions such as the chief regulators’ roundtable, industry-regulator dialogue, and sharing regulatory experiences to expedite the development of the telecommunications and ICT sector in the South Asian region.

During the three-day event, the Iranian official held meetings with other South Asian heads

of regulators, focusing on enhancing technical collaborations, sharing expertise in global access to digital services, ensuring the quality of services, and promoting healthy competition in the telecommunications market.

SATRC-26 served as a premier regional platform for dialogue and collaboration on key regulatory issues, focusing on the adoption of the Tokyo Statement 2025 and its implications for sustainable, inclusive, and equitable digital transformation in South Asia. The Tokyo Statement identifies six strategic priorities, including Digital Connectivity, Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Trust and Safety, Digital Inclusion and Capacity Building, Sustainability, and Partnership and Collaboration. Discussions covered critical themes including emerging technologies, universal connectivity, spectrum harmonization, and regulatory innovation.

Status of ICT in Iran

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT in the country. All activities related to the information and communication technology industry are directly related to the ministry.

The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people’s lives.

The successful design, construction, and launch of a satellite demonstrates the country’s growth in technology and science.

Space technology has been regarded as a tool to expand prosperity, peace, foster scientific

and cultural development, and economic progress in human societies.

Different nations around the world utilize this technology in some way based on their capacity, capabilities, and efforts.

Currently, 13 universities and a research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology offer aerospace majors, thus Iran has a high capability in training specialists and experts in the aerospace sector and is a leading country in the region.

Access to telecommunication services in rural areas of the country had improved over the period as the overall number of villages with access to communication services rose to 52,182, around 93 percent of all villages. Meanwhile, 47,837 villages had access to home landline services.

Moreover, the number of Iranian mobile users reached nearly 135.890 million, according to the CRA, which put the mobile phone penetration rate in the country at 161.67 percent.

The figures showed, however, that fixed broadband adoption in Iran had stalled at 14 percent, with nearly 11.921 million customers having access to the Internet via those services.

This statistic shows that fixed broadband internet has grown by less than 2 percent compared to last year, while mobile internet has experienced a growth of 10 percent. However, it can be said that the speed of mobile internet expansion is five times that of fixed internet.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Only 15% of Tehran’s construction waste recycled’

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran’s department of environment (DOE) has said.

“A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face,” Bazgir said.

To eradicate the issue, construction waste trucks must be equipped with GPS to determine their route and not allow them to dispose the waste at any areas, he concluded.

تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت می شود

رئیس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید می شود، گفت: متأسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زباله ها بازیافت می شود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دیو می شود. محمد حسین بازگیر در گفت و گو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: بازیافت پسماندهای ساختمانی بخشی از فرایند مدیریت پسماند است که سبب می شود این نوع زباله دوباره به چرخه مصرف بازگردانده و بسیاری از مشکلاتی که مردم و صنعت ساخت و ساز با آن روبرو هستند، برطرف شود. وی در پایان با تأکید بر اینکه کامیون های مخصوص حمل نخاله های ساختمانی باید ساماندهی شوند و پیمانکاران حمل نخاله ها تحت مدیریت مناسب و هوشمند قرار بگیرند، گفت: کامیون های حمل نخاله باید مجهز به GPS شوند تا مسیر تردد آن ها مشخص شود و امکان تخلیه زباله را در هر نقطه ای نداشته باشند.

Over 83% of Iranians tend to use traditional medicine

TEHRAN – According to a recent survey, 83.8 percent of people in the country tend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine, the director of the health ministry’s Persian medicine office has said.

The survey’s findings have confirmed people’s positive attitude towards Persian traditional medicine. However, only 10 out of 83.8 percent use traditional medicine and supplements for the treatment of their illnesses, IRNA quoted Nafiseh Hosseini-Yekta as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the second national congress on Persian medicine, being held from November 12 to 14 in Tehran.

If experts from both conventional and traditional medicine enhance cooperation based on international approaches, people will be able to make the best use of traditional medicine. Otherwise, there will be more cases of drug-disease interactions, Hosseini-Yekta noted.

The second national congress on Persian medicine has brought together experts in Persian medicine, traditional pharmacy, and the history of Iranian traditional medicine.

It is centered around Preventive medicine and lifestyle medicine; Personalized medicine, precision medicine, reticulotype and Persian medicine; Food, nutrition, medicinal cuisine; Traditional, herbal, natural medicines, and pharmaceutical formulations; Rational prescription of drugs in Persian medicine; Technology, diagnostic and therapeutic tools; manual therapy techniques; Persian medicine tourism; History of Persian medicine and medical sciences; Persian medicine and the art of living; as well as Integrative and complementary medicine.

The first national congress was held in May 2024. The main goal of the congress is to foster a deeper understanding of traditional medicine to promote collaboration among specialists in different fields of medicine. It also aims to globalize Iranian medicine by showcasing the latest achievements and findings to scientific communities worldwide

Persian traditional medicine

Like many ancient medical systems, Persian medicine takes a holistic approach to health, emphasising lifestyle factors such as



adhering to a proper diet, moderate exercise, sufficient sleep, and mental/emotional balance.

According to Roshanak Ghods, an associate professor of Persian medicine at Iran University of Medical Sciences, many treatments in Persian medicine focus on restoring balance and boosting the body’s natural healing capacities.

“The knowledge accumulated over centuries of practice and research provides clinical insights and therapeutic approaches complementary to modern medicine”, she said. “Preserving this medical tradition and making it accessible ensures that people today can benefit from this time-tested system of natural healing and its unique principles, but of course, we also need the evidence on the effectiveness and safety of traditional and complementary medicine, based on suitable research methods for personalised medicine.”

Ghods’ vision is for a health-care system that combines traditional and conventional medicine, without prejudice. “Our goal for the future should be to provide personalised, patient-centred care that addresses the person’s mind, body, and spirit”, she said.

Ghods encourages policymakers to work out the most responsible way to integrate traditional and conventional medicine and to ensure providers are knowledgeable about different treatment options and how they might interact with or complement each other. “Our ultimate aim should be to have a comprehensive health-care system focused on the patient’s needs and preferences, not proving the superiority of one medical discipline over the other”, she concluded.

Infant mortality rate in Iran drops over 4 decades



From page 1 ► The country has also been successful in preventing infectious diseases that are prevalent among infants and children in the past few decades. Recently, the health ministry has launched vaccination programs, including those for rotavirus, pneumococcal, rabies, and pentavalent vaccines to immunize children against life-threatening diseases.

In October 2023, a hospital for children, the most advanced one of its kind in the country, was officially inaugurated by the late President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran.

The hospital, named Hakim, comprises 19 specialized clinics, emergency medical ser-

vices, surgery rooms, medical imaging, cardiology, a behavioral intensive care unit (BICU), and a neonatal intensive care unit, totally equipped with 266 beds.

The building has been designed according to the physical and mental needs of children. Green space and natural light, easy access, and welfare services for children and their companions are among the most important design features of the hospital.

It is also equipped with a biological water treatment plant, making it the first green hospital in the country.



NOVEMBER 13, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you are greeted then return the greetings more warmly. If you are favored, then repay the obligation manifold; but he who takes the initiative will always excel in merit.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:18 Dawn: 5:13 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:39 (tomorrow)

Maine musicians contribute to Palestinian relief album

Portland-based singer-songwriter Liza Victoria, who records under the name Lisa/Liza, decided to lend her voice, along with the voices of more than 30 other musicians, to raise funds for the nonprofit humanitarian aid organization Anera and its efforts to provide aid for refugees in Gaza.

The result is “Songs of Hope for Gaza.” The album is a co-release from Portland-based label Pretty Purgatory Records and Philadelphia-based Dear Life Records, Portland Press Herald reported.

The album has 32 tracks, 15 of them by Maine artists, including Krysta, Jacob Augustine, Tremolo Fields, and Florida Ghost.

“This was an effort made out of feeling a need to do something, anything, that I can to speak out against this genocide. I wanted to combat the feeling of helplessness by exercising the resources most available to me to speak out,” said Victoria.

For Victoria, that meant casting a net within her music community. Once Victoria put the word out, interest grew quickly. “I was flooded with support to make it happen. Each artist put in so much effort and care into my prompt, which was to create a protest song of their own interpretation.”

Victoria’s hope for the project was to offer encouragement to anyone in the music community to speak in song and utilize a collective power. “I believe it is vital to our own hearts, and our lives as artists, to empathize and show empathy to this cause,” she said.

The end result is a moving collection of mostly acoustic songs. Her own Lisa/Liza song is called “Sand Castles.”

“Sand Castles” clocks in at six minutes, and Victoria’s ethereal vocals float along in a sorrowful yet peaceful acoustic song.

Cape Elizabeth musician David Rogers records under the name Tremolo Fields. His contribution to the album is called “Two Parts.”

Jacob Augustine’s contribution is called “Arena.” He sings of people who are tired, sick, helpless or wounded, in a song that’s chilling and effective.

The album’s cover art was painted by a Portland artist named Chel. Victoria said it was inspired by the grassroots Bottles of Hope for Gaza movement. In Egypt, bottles containing rice, flour and beans were thrown into the sea in hopes they would reach the shores of Gaza.

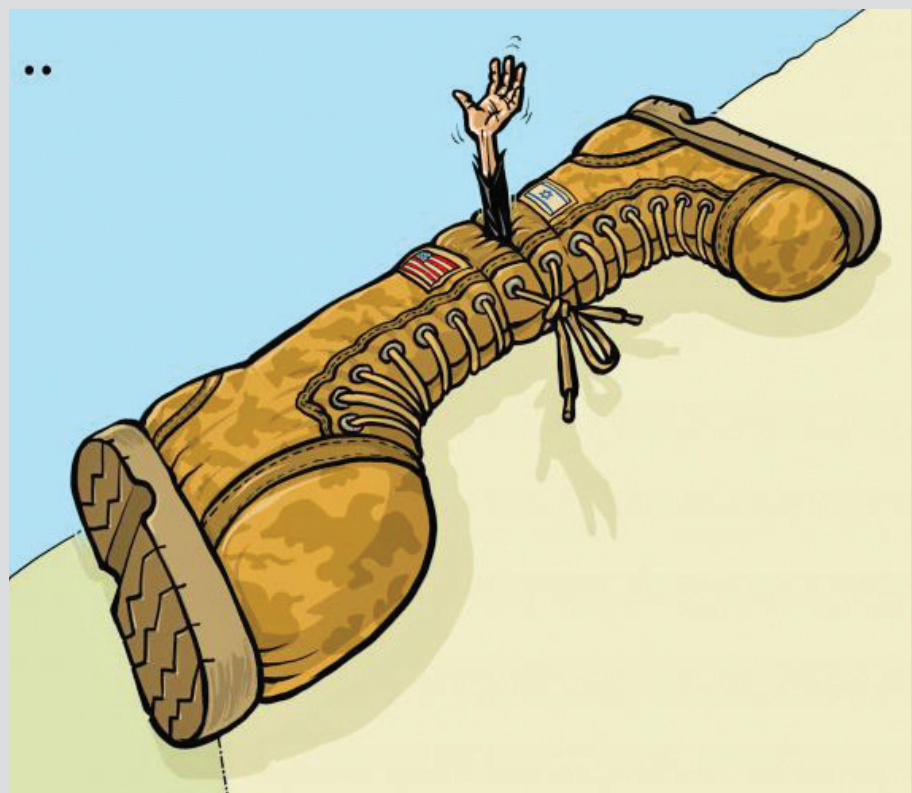
The collection of songs is a compelling, important example of how music has its place in the fight for basic goodness and humanity.

The Gaza death toll has surpassed 69,000 and the number of the injured reached 170,000 during the ongoing Israeli genocidal war on the Strip that started on October 7, 2023.

The Government Media Office in Gaza has released a detailed account of 282 Israeli violations committed during the first month of the ceasefire that began on October 10, documenting an uninterrupted pattern of attacks despite the declared halt in hostilities.

Hundreds of victims are still trapped under the rubble and along roadways, as ambulance and civil defense teams continue to face difficulties reaching them.

Cartoon of Day



Two-States-Occupation in Gaza
Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

Fajr Intl. Film Festival Market scheduled for late November in Shiraz

TEHRAN- The 26th edition of the Fajr International Film Festival Market is set to be held in Shiraz, Fars province from November 28 to December 2 on the sidelines of the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival.

“The Film Market takes place alongside the festival and the screening of works, attracting buyers and exhibitors from various countries,” Fatemeh Javahersaz the Director of the Film Market announced on Wednesday.

Regarding this year’s Film Market, she explained: “In this edition, buyers and exhibitors from regional countries, African nations, the Caucasus region, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia will participate.”

On the participation of Iranian companies, Javahersaz noted: “Iranian distributors and cinematic institutions have been invited, and we will host them to the fullest extent possible.”

Describing the format of the Market, she stated: “Following the international standards of film markets worldwide, we have



designated booths for both foreign and domestic participants to facilitate negotiations and interactions in a designed environment.”

Addressing how the change in timing compared to previous years has impacted the Film Market, she said: “Any date can

be close to or coincide with other markets; our festival is no exception. The shift in timing and venue has brought freshness to this event for both regular and new market participants.”

“As mentioned, the timing may overlap or be close to other markets, such as the Asia TV Forum

& Market in Singapore, which occurs two days after our festival market, or the American Film Market held in November. This is common practice in international festivals” she explained.

The 43rd Fajr International Film Festival will take place in Shiraz from November 26 to December 3.

Iranian short film “Grape Season” wins at TRT International Documentary Awards



TEHRAN – The Iranian short documentary “Grape Season,” directed and produced by Ebrahim Hesari, won an award at the 16th TRT International Documentary Awards in Türkiye.

Competing in the international section of the event, which was held from November 6 to 9, the film received a trophy and a €4,000 prize as the third best film, ILNA reported.

This year’s edition, more than 1,200 films from 86 countries were submitted to the festival secretariat, and after the jury’s evaluation, 10 films were selected as finalists in the international section.

A production of 2025, “Grape Season” uses the example of ripened grapes that bring joy and set hearts on fire to explore the feelings of lovers who have lived a long life together.

The 26-minute film tells the story of an old man whose wife is struggling with a serious illness and his loving efforts to help her recover.

Ebrahim Hesari has served as the secretary of the Kish Mowj International Short Film Festival five times.

He has made eight short films and documentaries and has been the cinematographer of more than 10 short films and documentaries.

His artistic career includes participation in more than 30 domestic and international festivals and winning 20 awards in the fields of

photography, cinematography, and directing.

The TRT International Documentary Awards have been organized since 2009, aligned with TRT’s global broadcasting mission, Türkiye’s public broadcaster. These awards aim to support international amateur and professional documentary filmmakers, ensure that documentaries from different countries reach audiences, and create a platform where documentary filmmakers, and industry members can come together and exchange ideas.

With the vision of TRT, a strong and international broadcasting brand, the festival’s influence expands each year. Prestigious productions, esteemed directors, producers, famous documentary presenters, and expert academics participated in the 16th edition of the TRT International Documentary Awards.

Over the course of the 4-day event, the TRT International Documentary Awards, which enrich the documentary landscape in Türkiye and around the world, presented documentaries competing in various award categories from different countries. Masterclass events with directors were held, and discussions, panels, and workshops on the present and future of documentary filmmaking were also organized.

Tehran to host “Hafez” puppet opera

TEHRAN- Iranian director Behruz Gharibpour plans to restage the “Hafez” puppet opera with his Aran Theater Troupe at Tehran’s Ferdowsi Hall on Sunday.

The performance is a continuation of the group’s provincial tour, which has previously included Shiraz and Sari, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Amir Pourkhalaji has composed the music for this opera, with soloists including Alireza Ghorbani, Ali Zand Vakili, Vahid Taj, and Haleh Seifzadeh accompanied by a choir.

The opera will provide a captivating portrayal of the life and personality of the renowned Persian poet, Hafez. The performances are based on the vocal radifs of

Iranian classical music.

The symphonic sections, conducted by Amir Pourkhalaji, were performed by an orchestra in Bulgaria.

More than 22 performers participate in the puppet opera “Hafez,” with Qasem Rahmati and Ghoncheh Nadgaran serving as assistant directors.

The Aran Puppet Theater Group has previously staged various operas, including “Rumi,” “Ashura,” “Rostam and Sohrab,” and “Hafez,” in cities such as Gorgan, Mashhad, Shiraz, Babol, Sari, Rome, Dubai, Tbilisi, Prague, Kyiv, Turin, Kraków, and others.

Hafez, also known as Hafiz, was a re-

nowned Persian poet born in Shiraz in the 14th century. He is celebrated for his lyrical poetry, which beautifully combines themes of love, spirituality, and mysticism.

Hafez’s works are written in the form of ghazals, a poetic style that emphasizes emotion and lyrical beauty.

His poetry often explores the divine and the human soul, reflecting Sufi beliefs and a deep appreciation for life’s pleasures. Hafez’s verses have had a profound influence on Persian literature and culture, inspiring countless poets, writers, and artists over centuries.

His work is revered not only for its artistic excellence but also for its philosophical depth and spiritual insight.

“Robin Hood” musical play premieres at Vahdat Hall

TEHRAN – The musical play “Robin Hood,” directed by Mahan Heydari, premiered on November 10 at Vahdat Hall in Tehran.

Following his two previous highly attended productions, “Beauty and the Beast” and “The Little Prince,” Mahan Heydari completes his fantasy trilogy with “Robin Hood,” staged in a fantasy-realistic setting, Honaronline reported.

In this stage adaptation, while remaining faithful to the original “Robin Hood” story, the production seeks to present the tale in a contemporary direction, blending modern music, text, and themes while maintaining the essence of the classic legend.

The cast includes Nazanin Keyvani, Amir-Reza Tavanai, Setayesh Gharibi, Sina Rasouli, Mahshid Keshavarz Babajnejad, Ali Ranjbar, Arshia Sheikh-Maleki, Mohammad Mehdi Hasannejad, Sadaf Sobhi, Parsa Haji Ramezani, Mobina Rashidi, Kiana Irani, Ase-

man Kasirian, and Hilda Kordbacheh, among others.

Robin Hood is a legendary heroic outlaw originally depicted in English folklore and subsequently featured in literature, theater, and cinema.

The origins of the legend as well as the historical context have been debated for centuries. There are numerous references to historical figures with similar names that have been proposed as possible evidence of his existence, some dating back to the late 13th century. At least eight plausible origins to the story have been mooted by historians and folklorists, including suggestions that Robin Hood was a stock alias used by or in reference to bandits.

According to legend, he was a highly skilled archer and swordsman. In some versions of the legend, he is depicted as being of noble birth, and in modern retellings he is some-

times depicted as having fought in the Crusades before returning to England to find his lands taken by the Sheriff of Nottingham.

In the oldest known versions, he is instead a member of the yeoman class. He is traditionally depicted dressed in Lincoln green. Today, he is most closely associated with his stance of “robbing the rich to give to the poor”. In popular culture, the term “Robin Hood” is often used to describe a heroic outlaw or rebel against tyranny.

Through retellings, additions, and variations, a body of familiar characters associated with Robin Hood has been created. These include his lover, Maid Marian; his band of outlaws, the Merry Men; and his chief opponent, the Sheriff of Nottingham. The Sheriff is often depicted as assisting Prince John in usurping the rightful but absent King Richard, to whom Robin Hood remains loyal.