

'Pressure Won't Work'

Tehran says Western attempts to force 'expired resolutions' on Iran undermine diplomacy, not compliance



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

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Foreign investment in Tehran stock market more than doubles in a year

TEHRAN – The total value of foreign investors' portfolios in Iran's stock market more than doubled over the past year, reaching over 210 trillion rials (\$210 million) by the late October 2025, up from about 90 trillion rials (\$90 million) a year earlier, official data show.

According to the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the combined value of holdings by foreign individuals and entities rose from 89.6 trillion rials in October 2024 to 211.1 trillion rials this year.

At the end of the seventh Iranian Month of Mehr (October 22), individual foreign investors held portfolios worth 195.3 trillion rials (\$195.3 million), while institutional foreign investors' holdings totaled 15.8 trillion rials (\$15.8 million). ► Page 4

IRGC navy seizes oil tanker off southern Makran coast

TEHRAN – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy has seized the oil tanker Talara off the southern coast of Makran following a judicial order.

The IRGC Navy said its rapid reaction units began tracking the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker at 7:30 a.m. on Friday after a court mandated the seizure of its cargo. The vessel, carrying 30,000 tons of petrochemical materials and bound for Singapore, was directed to anchor for inspection over violations.

In a statement, the IRGC Navy emphasized that the operation "was carried out in accordance with legal duties to protect the national interests and resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran." Officials added that the tanker, its cargo, and documentation were thoroughly examined, concluding that the vessel was transporting unauthorized goods.

U.S. officials confirmed that the Talara had departed Ajman, United Arab Emirates, en route to Singapore when IRGC forces intercepted it.

Connolly's victory redefines Ireland's voice

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Ireland's new president, Catherine Connolly, represents more than just a change of face in a ceremonial office. Her election, with a record-breaking majority, reflects a deeper shift in Irish society — one that is increasingly skeptical of the West, critical of Israel, and determined to assert its own independent path.

Connolly has made clear that she intends to use the presidency to speak out on issues that matter to her voters. Chief among them is Palestine. ► Page 5

BBC at a crossroads: From Trump dispute to Gaza bias allegations

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The recent dispute between US President Donald Trump and the BBC has drawn renewed attention to the broadcaster's editorial practices, highlighting questions of accountability and internal oversight.

While the clash itself unfolded in the arena of US politics, its real significance lies in the questions it raises about impartiality and governance — issues that have long shadowed the BBC's coverage of international conflicts, particularly the Israel-Gaza war.

Trump's standing in the UK

Trump's state visit to Britain in September provided a striking backdrop. His arrival was met with widespread protests in London and other cities, underscoring his entrenched unpopularity among the public in Britain.

U.S. blueprint envisions divided Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The future of Gaza is being shaped by external powers rather than the people who live there.

A new report by The Guardian reveals a stark reality behind Washington's post-genocide planning: the U.S. is preparing for a long-term fragmentation and occupation of Gaza rather than its reunification or liberation.

Far from offering a pathway toward Palestinian self-determination, the emerging plan cements the authority of the Zionist regime and leaves displaced Palestinians confined to zones where neither justice nor reconstruction is envisioned.

According to The Guardian, U.S. planners have outlined a division of the territory into a "green zone", to be secured by international troops integrated with the Zionist occupation forces, and a "red zone,"

Japan-China spat over Taiwan is a source of concern

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN – It is highly worrisome that China and Japan, two highly important countries in East Asia, are engaged in a verbal clash over Taiwan. China and Japan, respectively the second- and third-largest economies in the world, are great honors of the Asian continent, and it is extremely essential that officials from the two countries avoid inflammatory remarks against each other.

The two countries are major trading partners. Bilateral trade reached \$292.6 billion in 2024, and China has been Japan's largest trading partner since 2005. It is greatly hoped that China and Japan will end their spat over Taiwan, especially as Japan has announced that Tokyo will respect its one-China policy based on the 1972 Japan-China Joint Statement.

Lebanon's central bank bows to Washington

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — When Banque du Liban (BDL) unveiled Circular No. 3, it dressed it up in the usual technocratic jargon—"compliance," "monitoring," and "risk mitigation."

Yet strip away the polished wording, and a far less flattering reality emerges: Lebanon's central bank has effectively surrendered its authority, handing Washington the master key while volunteering to police its own citizens on behalf of U.S. Treasury envoys who spent only a few hours in Beirut before issuing their latest set of financial commandments.

Circular No. 3, addressed to every money exchanger, electronic-wallet provider, transfer operator, lending counter, and financial institution, demands that clients declare any cash transaction of \$1,000 or more.

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Exclusive Interview
Mexican Embassy in Tehran celebrates Day of the Dead with visual arts exhibition by Iranian artists ► Page 8



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National Youth Population Award held

TEHRAN – The third National Youth Population Award was held on Saturday with the presence of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The event underscored the crucial role of neighborhoods and mosques in removing childbearing barriers and addressing family problems in cities.

The performance of the related organizations was assessed based on two main criteria, including their legal and internal duties, and the best ideas, photos, and movies that focused on families and childbearing were chosen.

Youth population law

Enacting the youth population law has stabilized the total fertility rate, slightly increasing the general fertility index over the past two years. After experiencing seven years of decline by about 20 percent, the fertility rate is now stabilized at around 1.6. ► Page 7

Exclusive Interview
UN failure has enabled a second genocide in Darfur, ex-UN Sudan chief says ► Page 5



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

New signs of continued nuclear negotiations

Arman-e-Emrooz, in a commentary, dealt with the recent phone call between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Abbas Araghchi of Iran. It wrote: In the complex international diplomacy, where every phone call or meeting can serve as a piece of a larger puzzle, fresh indications of the continuation of Iran's nuclear negotiations have emerged. In this conversation, the two sides shared views on ties and regional issues and discussed the "snapback" sanctions pursued by France, Britain, and Germany at the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Russia, as one of the key partners in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has consistently played the role of mediator, and this call sends a clear message to the West: Tehran is ready to negotiate, but not under unilateral pressure. The dialogue demonstrates that communication channels with Moscow remain open and active, even as the shadow of military threats looms over the Middle East. Reports of a confidential meeting of European foreign ministers on Iran's nuclear file have sparked a wave of speculation. Europe, despite verbal threats, still believes diplomacy is the primary option.

Javan: Israel's nature without America

Javan wrote about America's true stance toward Iran: Regional events and the attacks of the Zionist-American front against Iran clearly prove that the most dangerous enemy for the region is not the Zionist regime, but the United States. From this perspective, the Zionist regime lacks an independent identity to confront the resistance front; its destructive military raids across regional countries are the product of America's will, intentions, and support. In reality, the Zionist regime has become merely a regional arm for implementing U.S. foreign policy. America's record of occupation, crimes, and colonialism in the region spans more than 100 years, and its actions are part of the natural course of its foreign policy. Regarding Iran, Trump's admission of leading aggressive attacks against our country (a reference to remarks by Trump he was "very much in charge" of Israel's attack on Iran) confirms that all actions of the Zionist regime stem from the White House's think tanks and cannot be decided independently. Trump's slogans and claims of peacemaking in the region are examples of America's attempts to rebuild its image and regain influence over regional public opinion. Therefore, responsible institutions must align themselves against America's updated strategies and block its political schemes.

Arman-e-Melli: IAEA's efforts to restart negotiations

Arman-e-Melli analyzed the recent developments surrounding the Iran nuclear issue. The paper argued that negotiations between Iran and the West over the nuclear file have reached a deadlock. Recently, France expressed willingness to play a role in this matter, but Tehran remains distrustful of the Europeans, since they yielded to U.S. pressure and activated the "snapback" mechanism despite American and Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities in June. Iran is trying to create a process in which opponents of the three European countries' actions at the UN Security Council coordinate their language on the nuclear issue. Considerable efforts have therefore been made for representatives of Iran, China, and Russia to adopt a unified stance. In the days following the 12-day war, both Russia and China took positions aligned with Iran, showing that although Tehran has scaled back talks with Europe and suspended negotiations with the U.S., it is striving to build a united front against the West so that the nuclear file can reach a diplomatic balance. Tehran intends this time to negotiate with the West from the standpoint of China and Russia, since its previous dealings with Europe collapsed after Trump abandoned the JCPOA, which ultimately led to European non-compliance and the near collapse of the agreement.

Resalat: The great stone

In an article, Resalat discussed Iran's strength against superpowers, especially the United States. The paper said: For 22 years, the U.S. has held military drills rehearsing plans to attack Iran, but each time the Pentagon opposed attack, and no American president dared to order one. Trump, however, recklessly tested America's chances of a military strike against Iran during the 12-day war. American warmongers realized that Iran cannot be attacked militarily or politically—let alone culturally—since in the recent conflict, Iran demonstrated its power both domestically and across its cultural geography worldwide. The key point in the 12-day war was that no military power, nuclear or non-nuclear, in the world dares to fire at the U.S. and Israel, but Iran has that resolve. This determination places Iran at the summit of a global power pole, from which no force can bring it down. Today, "cultural Iran" is the great millstone of global power, representing the banner of justice and freedom among the nations of the world.

Tehran conference to address legal fallout of Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iran

TEHRAN – A high-level conference titled "International Law Under Assault, Aggression, and Defense" is set to convene on Sunday, November 16, at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), the research arm of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will address the gathering, which will also be attended by senior political officials, scholars, policy experts, and representatives from leading international think tanks.

According to organizers, the event will host around 350 Iranian and foreign participants, including diplomatic delegations, academics, and analysts from France, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Iraq, Ireland, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Finland, Russia, and several countries from the region.

The one-day conference will feature four expert panels examining a range of issues: the Israeli and U.S. attacks against Iran in June, emerging threats to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and evolving regional security frameworks.

The discussions will take place against the



backdrop of the June escalation, which began on June 13 when the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked offensive on Iranian territory, striking military, nuclear, and residential sites for nearly two weeks. The United States entered the conflict on June 22, carrying out airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities in Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan.

In retaliation, Iranian forces launched a missile barrage at al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American military installation in West Asia.

Hostilities ceased on June 24, following the enforcement of a ceasefire.

No threat or coercion will force us to surrender our rights: Iran envoy at UN

TEHRAN – Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations says the country will never capitulate to threats or coercion, and that military aggression and economic terrorism can never force Iran into renouncing its legitimate rights.

Speaking on Friday before the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly—convened to discuss the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) latest report on Iran—Amir Saeid Iravani sharply criticized the politicization of international nuclear oversight and the global community's failure to respond to the unprecedented June attacks on Iran's safeguarded nuclear facilities.

He began by stressing that the IAEA must remain "professional, factual, and free of political influence," arguing that the agency's legitimacy depends entirely on its unwavering impartiality.

Iravani emphasized that nuclear energy is vital to a nation's development, and that Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) grants countries an "inalienable right" to peaceful nuclear technology—one that cannot be restricted under political pretexts.

He reiterated that safeguards are intended to facilitate legitimate nuclear activities rather than hinder them, and criticized entrenched double standards that constrain developing states while providing political, military, and nuclear protection to Israel—an entity outside the NPT that maintains an undeclared nuclear arsenal.

"These practices do not strengthen non-proliferation," he said. "They weaken it and



An Iranian flag flies at the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran.

fundamentally compromise the agency's mission of technical co-operation."

Iravani then addressed the "unprovoked and unlawful" Israeli and American attacks on Iran's fully monitored nuclear sites between June 13 and 25, describing them as an unprecedented act of aggression.

He said that "just hours after a politically driven resolution was passed by the IAEA Board of Governors," Israel launched extensive strikes on safeguarded Iranian facilities, resulting in thousands of deaths and injuries. On June 22, he continued, the United States also carried out direct attacks on IAEA-supervised locations—violating the UN Charter, international law, the IAEA Statute, and Security Council Resolution 487.

"This was not solely an attack on Iran," he said. "It was an attack on the authority of the United Nations and the integrity of the

global safeguards system."

He faulted both the IAEA and the UN Security Council for refusing to condemn the assaults, despite decades of General Conference resolutions asserting that nuclear sites must never be targeted.

Reaffirming Iran's longstanding commitment to the NPT, Iravani dismissed Western claims about Iran's compliance. He said the United States and the European trio—Britain, France, and Germany—had consistently repeated "fabrications" originating from Israel about Iran's peaceful nuclear program, while ignoring Israel's undeclared nuclear capabilities and refusal to accept international monitoring.

He stressed that Iran remains fully compliant with the NPT and its safeguards obligations and has never violated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 nuclear accord involving Iran, the US, and the E3.

'Unfounded, fabricated', Iran denounces Canada's claims of targeted threats

TEHRAN – Iran has rejected recent accusations from the head of Canada's domestic intelligence agency, dismissing them as unfounded and fabricated.

Zahra Ershadi, Director-General for American Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responded after Dan Rogers, the director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, asserted on Thursday that his agency had prevented potentially deadly threats allegedly orchestrated by Iran against individuals viewed as adversaries.

Rogers claimed that CSIS disrupted operations involving Iranian intelligence and groups he described as their proxies, who were supposedly targeting people they con-

sidered hostile to Iran's interests.

He further stated that his agency had stopped Russian attempts to illicitly obtain Canadian technology and equipment, and he accused China and India of engaging in espionage and transnational repression involving Canada.

In her response, Ershadi criticized Canada for its continued support of Israel and its role in enabling the genocide of Palestinians.

She argued that "the absurd accusations issued by Canada's security agency against Iran serve only to distract from the lawlessness and atrocities carried out by the Israeli regime in West Asia—and from Canada's support for those actions."

'Humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Sudan', Tehran calls for international response

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian diplomat has strongly denounced the "crimes and humanitarian catastrophe" unfolding in the Sudanese city of El Fasher, urging swift and coordinated international action to confront the rapidly deteriorating situation in North Darfur.

Iran's Ambassador to the UN office in Geneva, Ali Bahraini, delivered the remarks on Friday during the 38th special session of the Human Rights Council, convened to address the escalating violence in and around El Fasher as Sudan's internal conflict grinds on.

Bahraini said Iran is deeply alarmed by the worsening humanitarian emergency, pointing to the growing risk of famine, mass displacement, and the destructive role of foreign interference.

"Severe famine, widespread displacement, and immense civilian suffering have created one of the world's most acute humanitarian crises—one that demands the immediate attention of the international community," he said.

The ambassador criticized the global community for "remaining silent" in the face of such atroc-



People displaced from el-Fasher are settled in the newly established camp in al Dabbah, in Sudan, on November 09, 2025.

ities and expressed particular concern over continued external support to armed groups.

"Our foremost concern is the ongoing flow of weapons that fuels these crimes. Foreign interventions—including arms transfers and the recruitment of mercenaries—intensify the conflict and exacerbate the humanitarian disaster," he noted.

Bahraini reiterated Iran's support for Sudan's national unity and territorial integrity.

"Iran firmly rejects any attempt

Referencing IAEA findings, he explained that Iran's temporary reduction in cooperation with inspectors was solely a consequence of the military attacks. He urged the creation of a new global mechanism to shield nuclear facilities and personnel from armed strikes, warning that the credibility of the entire safeguards system depends on such protections.

Iravani also noted that Iran and the IAEA had made progress through a memorandum of understanding signed in Cairo on September 9, which set the groundwork for renewed cooperation after the attacks. However, he said this progress is now threatened by renewed hostility from Washington and European governments, including the E3's attempt to trigger "snapback" sanctions—an action Iran considers legally null after the October 18 expiration of Resolution 2231, which endorsed the JCPOA.

His remarks come as the IAEA prepares to release a new report estimating Iran's enriched-uranium stockpile based on pre-attack data, while avoiding any assessment of the Israeli-American strikes or the assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists that occurred during the June offensive. The report also overlooks the agency's own role in enabling the attacks through its Board of Governors' resolution and makes no reference to the E3's disputed resort to the "snapback" mechanism.

Iravani concluded by rejecting continued threats and pressure on Iran, affirming: "We respond only to respect, to legality, and to equality."

Ershadi also denounced efforts by Canadian authorities to hinder the provision of routine consular services to Iranian nationals living in Canada, urging Ottawa to reconsider what she described as its reckless and unjustified policies toward Iran.

Throughout the Israeli assault on Gaza, Canada and several other Western nations continued supplying Israel with lethal weaponry despite the catastrophic human suffering inflicted on Palestinians.

In the attacks in Gaza since October 2023, Israel has killed at least 69,187 people and injured 170,703 others. A fragile ceasefire has taken effect since October 10.

rights groups, the militants have massacred at least 2,000 civilians, describing the events as a genuine genocide.

The conflict has been marked by atrocities including ethnic killings, sexual violence, summary executions, and the forced displacement of nearly 89,000 people in and around the city.

The Sudanese Army and the RSF—once partners—turned their weapons on each other in 2023.

The World Health Organization estimates the war has killed at least 40,000 people, while the United Nations reports 12 million displaced, making it one of the world's worst displacement crises. Aid organizations say the true death toll could be far higher.

During Friday's session, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution instructing the UN's independent fact-finding mission on Sudan to urgently investigate violations of international law by all parties in El Fasher. The resolution also calls on investigators to "identify, where possible," those responsible, with the aim of ensuring future accountability.

‘Pressure won’t work’

Tehran says Western attempts to force ‘expired resolutions’ on Iran undermine diplomacy, not compliance

TEHRAN – Iran’s ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has firmly dismissed a forthcoming anti-Iran resolution expected at the agency’s Board of Governors meeting, emphasizing that such measures will have no impact on the country’s implementation of nuclear safeguards.

Reza Najafi made the remarks as the Board is scheduled to convene in Vienna from November 19 to 21.

Najafi criticized the United States and the European trio of Britain, France, and Germany — collectively known as the E3 — for preparing a politically motivated resolution targeting Iran’s cooperation with the IAEA. He accused Washington and the E3 of attempting to manipulate international mechanisms to advance “unreasonable and coercive” demands on the Iranian nation.

“Pressuring IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to base reports on expired UN Security Council resolutions is unlawful, unjustified, and counterproductive,” Najafi said. “Such actions not only complicate diplomatic efforts but also undermine negotiations. Importantly, they will not alter Iran’s compliance with its safeguards obligations, which have been lawfully implemented under the supervision of IAEA inspectors.”

The current tensions can be traced to a dramatic escalation in June. On June 13, 2025, the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked attack on Iranian territory, 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 joined the hostilities by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites, actions Tehran strongly con-



Reza Najafi, Iran’s permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (I), speaking at an IAEA session in Vienna

demned as gross violations of international law.

In response, Iran’s armed forces carried out retaliatory strikes against strategic targets in the occupied territories and hit the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest U.S. military facility in West Asia. Iranian officials highlighted that the Israeli attacks came just hours after the adoption of a politically motivated resolution by the IAEA Board and targeted nuclear facilities fully monitored under the Safeguards Agreement.

Following the June attacks, Iran’s parliament unanimously voted on June 25 to suspend all cooperation with the IAEA. Lawmakers stressed that the Board’s June 12 directive and related resolutions had created conditions for the Israeli aggression. Since then, Tehran has consistently emphasized that its nuclear program remains peaceful and fully monitored by the IAEA, rejecting Western attempts to politicize the agency’s mandate.

Despite the suspension, discus-

sions between Iran and the IAEA resumed in September. However, Iranian officials warned that the E3’s decision to invoke the UN “snapback” mechanism following the Cairo agreement created “new conditions” that effectively undermined the framework for cooperation. The IAEA has not publicly criticized this move, continuing instead to pressure Iran to meet its safeguards obligations.

The diplomatic situation has been further complicated by the November 12 IAEA report from its director general Rafael Grossi. The report, covering developments since his early September assessment, reviews verification issues that emerged after Iran suspended cooperation for security and domestic legislative reasons. It also provides updated estimates of Iran’s enriched uranium stockpile: 9,874.9 kilograms in total, including 9,040.5 kilograms in the form of UF₆, as of June 13, shortly before cooperation was suspended.

Press reports indicate that the E3 is preparing a new resolution

for submission at the upcoming Board of Governors meeting. The draft resolution remains under discussion in the capitals of the three European countries, and it is not yet clear whether the United States will formally co-sponsor it.

Grossi’s report calls on Tehran to cooperate with inspectors and grant access to affected sites, while largely avoiding direct comment on the June attacks. Iranian officials have stressed that the country will respond to any unlawful or politically motivated measures, and that unilateral steps against Iran are unacceptable.

Moscow has voiced strong criticism of the European initiative. Russia’s permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, warned that the E3’s actions risk creating a complete diplomatic impasse. Meanwhile, Tehran maintains that its nuclear activities remain peaceful and fully monitored, while reaffirming its right to defend national interests in the face of aggression.

Najafi concluded by reiterating that Iran will continue to uphold its safeguards obligations in accordance with international law and IAEA protocols. “The Iranian nation will not be coerced by politically motivated resolutions. We will continue to implement our peaceful nuclear program transparently, and any external pressures will not change our lawful and responsible stance,” he explained.

As the Board of Governors prepares to convene, Iranian officials insist that the international community condemn the unlawful aggression against Iran and respect its legal right to pursue peaceful nuclear development without interference.

Iranian president hails Iraq’s successful elections in phone talk with PM al-Sudani

TEHRAN – In a phone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian has congratulated Iraq on the glorious and peaceful holding of legislative elections.

The Iranian president described the vote as an invaluable achievement and source of upgrading the credibility and grandeur of the Iraqi nation.

“I hope during the term ahead, mutual relations and cooperation will continue to expand and deepen more than before in all areas,” said Pezeshkian.

The Iraqi premier, in turn, expressed his gratitude to President Pezeshkian for congratulating him on the Iraqi elections, saying the president’s phone call shows Iran’s due regard for the Iraqi nation’s prosperity and success.

Al-Sudani said the most important achievement of the legislative election was that it marked the largest voter turnout since 2015, which indicates growing trust in the Iraqi political system.

Al-Sudani’s supporting Reconstruction and Development list has scored “a major victory” in the November 11 parliamentary elections.

The Independent High Electoral Commission said on Wednesday that al-Sudani’s coalition received 1.3 million votes, about 370,000 more than the next closest contender. Iraqis voted for a new parliament on Tuesday. The Independent High Election Commission announced that a total of 12,003,143 nationals, out of 21,404,291 eligible voters, cast their ballots.

Speaking after the initial results were an-

nounced, al-Sudani said the voter turnout of 56 percent was “clear evidence of another success” that reflected the “restoration of confidence in the political system.”

Sudani was elected in 2022. The incumbent is seeking a second term and is expected to secure a sizeable bloc.

The current parliament, dominated by Shia parties and blocs, began its term on January 9, 2022. The term ends on January 8, 2026.

By law, Iraq must hold legislative elections at least 45 days before the end of the parliament’s term.

The next prime minister will be voted in by the coalition that could negotiate allies to become the biggest parliamentary bloc.

US aggression in Caribbean undermines international peace, says Tehran

TEHRAN – Iran has warned that the recent surge in US military activity across the Caribbean and Latin America threatens regional stability and undermines international peace, urging Washington to respect Venezuela’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a statement on Saturday that US threats to use force against Venezuela’s internationally recognized government represent a clear breach of international law. He added that the move violates core principles of the UN Charter, including the right of nations to self-determination and the prohibition on the use of force under Article 2(4).

Citing findings from various international organizations, Baqaei condemned US attacks on Venezuelan fishing boats, calling them as unlawful actions amounting to extrajudicial

killings. He criticized the United States for “misusing counter-narcotics operations” as a cover for violating Venezuela’s borders and interfering in its internal affairs.

Baqaei also stressed that the United Nations and its Secretary-General must act to prevent policies that endanger global peace and encourage unilateral aggression.

Since August, the United States has deployed warships and thousands of troops to the Caribbean, saying the mission targets Latin American drug cartels. US forces claim to have carried out at least 20 strikes on alleged trafficking vessels in the Caribbean and the Pacific, killing 80 people—operations that human rights groups have denounced as extrajudicial killings.

US military activity in the region has continued to expand. In late September, five F-35 fighter jets were seen landing in Puer-



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Mahan (DDG 72) (L) and USS Bainbridge (DDG 96) sail in formation as an F/A-18 Super Hornet, assigned to Carrier Air Wing Eight embarked aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), descends on final approach to land on the aircraft carrier, November 13, 2025.

to Rico after President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of 10 of the aircraft to reinforce the US presence in the Caribbean. Washington has also sent the USS Gerald R. Ford—the world’s largest aircraft carrier—along with five destroyers to the region, prompting Venezuela to place its forces on heightened

alert and dispatch ships, drones, and warplanes.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has rejected US allegations of drug trafficking involvement, saying Washington is using the accusations as a pretext for a regime-change agenda and to seize control of the country’s vast oil reserves.

IRAN IN FOCUS

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran’s win over Cape Verde: A step toward stability

TEHRAN – Iran’s narrow but meaningful victory over Cape Verde in the Al Ain International Cup offered far more than just a place in the final. It was, in many ways, the first real glimpse of a new tactical direction, one built on pragmatism, structure, and an acceptance that the road to the 2026 World Cup requires evolution rather than idealism.

While the upcoming final against Uzbekistan carries its own narrative weight, the performance against Cape Verde is the true reference point for assessing where Team Melli currently stand.

Against Cape Verde, Iran abandoned the familiar pattern of high possession and relentless attacking that had long been associated with Amir Ghalenoei’s philosophy. Instead, the team ceded the ball, focused on compactness, and relied on organized defensive blocks and rapid transitions.

This shift was no accident. The arrival of Antonio Gagliardi, the Italian specialist known for defensive structuring, was visible in every phase: the disciplined pressing trigger, the narrower defensive shape, and the calculated aggression only when counterattacks became available.

The match itself was far more challenging than many had predicted. Iran created several high-quality chances from direct play, yet the true victory was in defensive execution.

For the first time in over a year, Iran kept consecutive clean sheets, one against Tanzania in October and now against Cape Verde. Considering the team’s inconsistent defensive performances throughout recent World Cup qualifying fixtures, this marks a small but significant step toward stability.

Equally important was the redefined role of key players. The fullbacks, once central to Iran’s attacking width, operated more conservatively, allowing the wingers and the lone striker to shoulder the attacking burden. The midfield duo worked primarily as space-deniers rather than creators, a shift that required discipline but ultimately tightened Iran’s defensive spine. The center-back pairing of Majid Hosseini and Shoja Khalilzadeh, playing together for the first time, delivered one of the most composed performances of the past year and may emerge as the preferred partnership moving forward.

Younger, more dynamic players such as Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh, Mehdi Hashemnezhad, and Omid Noorafkan appear to fit naturally into this evolving tactical model, one that prioritizes endurance, defensive awareness, and transition speed.

The final against Uzbekistan brings its own historical weight. Iran have gone 882 days without defeating the Central Asian side but the true storyline lies in Iran’s tactical reorientation. Against Cape Verde, the national team stepped away from romanticism and embraced practicality. Whether this identity shift is enough to reclaim dominance over Uzbekistan remains to be seen, but the foundation has finally begun to solidify.

Iranian Muay Thai competitors fail to win gold: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Four Iranian Muay Thai competitors won silver at the 2-025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Friday.

Fereshteh Hassanzadeh lost to Morocco’s Kaltoum Akhlouf 30-27 in the final bout of women’s 45-50kg.

Zahra Akbari narrowly lost to Turkey’s Kubra Kocakus 29-28 in the women’s 55-60kg.

Fatemeh Hosseini fell short to Turkey’s Bediha Tacyildiz Sahin 30-27 in the women 60-65kg final

Also, Majid Hashembeigi was defeated against Iraqi athlete Mustafa Al-tekreeti 30-26 in the men’s 75-80kg final.

The 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, known as Riyadh 2025, are an inter-continental multi-sport event organized by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA), 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.

Men’s team come third at 2025 IWBF Asia Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s wheelchair basketball team defeated South Korea 57-44 on Saturday to come third at the 2025 IWBF Asia Oceania Championships.

Japan and Australia will play in the final match later in the day.

The competition started on Nov. 7 at the Centara Life Government Complex and Convention Center in Bangkok, Thailand and will run until Nov. 15.

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.

Japan and China will lock horn in the women’s final on Saturday.

Iran to face Malaysia at IFCPF Asia-Oceania Cup 2025 Opener

TEHRAN – Iran will play Malaysia in its opening match of the IFCPF Asia-Oceania Cup 2025 on Sunday.

Team Melli will play South Korea and Thailand in the following days.

Seven countries will compete: Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Iran, South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. The top two teams will earn automatic qualification for the 2026 IFCPF World Cup in the United States.

Indonesia is in Group A with Australia and Japan, while Group B features Iran, South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The competition will start from Sunday, November 16, in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia.

Women’s handball defeat Guinea: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s handball team beat Guinea 23-21 in Group A of the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Saturday.

Team Melli will face the Maldives on Monday.

Group B consists of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

The 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, known as Riyadh 2025, are an inter-continental multi-sport event organized by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA), 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.

Foreign investment in Tehran stock market more than doubles in a year

TEHRAN – The total value of foreign investors' portfolios in Iran's stock market more than doubled over the past year, reaching over 210 trillion rials (\$210 million) by the late October 2025, up from about 90 trillion rials (\$90 million) a year earlier, official data show.

According to the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the combined value of holdings by foreign individuals and entities rose from 89.6 trillion rials in October 2024 to 211.1 trillion rials this year.

At the end of the seventh Iranian Month of Mehr (October 22), individual foreign investors held portfolios worth 195.3 trillion rials (\$195.3 million), while institutional foreign investors' holdings totaled 15.8 trillion rials (\$15.8 million).

The number of active foreign investors in the Tehran Securities Exchange (TSE) and the over-the-counter (OTC) market also increased, rising from 4,898 to 5,182 year-on-year. Of these, 1,770 were individual investors and 3,412 were institutional investors.

The 12th Kish International Exhibition of Investment Opportunities (Kish Invex 2025) saw the unveiling of the Trade At Last (TAL) phase, a new mechanism designed to enhance Iran's capital market efficiency and transparency.

The event was attended by the head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the head of the Tehran Securities Exchange (TSE), several capital market officials, lawmakers, and senior government representatives.

According to the TSE's communications office, the TAL phase was developed to boost market efficiency, liquidity, and trading infrastructure. The new phase introduces a single-price auction based on the day's final price, marking a key step toward aligning Iran's stock market with international standards.

The TAL mechanism will allow investors to buy and sell shares at a final, stabilized daily price.

Currently, stock price movements in Iran's



capital market are restricted to a daily range of positive or negative three percent, meaning prices can fluctuate by up to six percent in one session. While this volatility benefits short-term traders, many institutional investors such as fund managers, holding companies, and investment firms prefer trading based on the day's closing price to reduce exposure to short-term risk.

The TAL phase addresses this preference and is expected to attract more conservative investors while increasing market efficiency and confidence.

According to the Iranian Capital Market News Agency (SENA), SEO Head Hojjatollah Seyedi said that Iran's capital market has entered a stage of stability and equilibrium following several months of volatility.

He noted that despite challenges such as energy imbalances and financial constraints, listed companies performed strongly in the first half of the year.

"After the 12-day conflict, the resilience shown by the financial market was remarkable," he said, crediting the collective efforts of market participants.

Seyedi explained that Iran's capital market has successfully passed three of the five recovery phases — asset protection, liquidity restoration, and achieving balance — through the coordinated work of financial institutions, listed firms, analysts, and both retail and institutional investors.

He emphasized that confidence and transparency have been crucial in stabilizing and growing the market, adding that fairness in trading ensures the protection of shareholders' rights, especially small investors.

Support package approved to ease liquidity strain on automakers, auto part suppliers

TEHRAN – A senior industry official said a new support package has been approved to increase credit ceilings for major automakers and their supply chains, following coordination between the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade and the Central Bank's High Council to resolve financing bottlenecks.

Farshad Moghimi, deputy minister and head of the Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO), said recent pricing rules across the automotive chain had left Iran Khodro and SAIPA facing working-capital shortages and delays in paying suppliers, making targeted credit assistance unavoidable.

Iran's three major carmakers — Iran Khodro, SAIPA, and Pars Khodro — produced a total of 404,461 vehicles in the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), according to data from

the Codal website.

The combined figure represents a 12 percent decline compared to the same period last year, when output reached 460,763 vehicles, marking a shortfall of 56,122 units.

Despite the overall drop, Iran Khodro maintained positive momentum, producing 263,468 vehicles, an 8.8 percent increase from the 241,957 units manufactured in the same period a year earlier.

By contrast, both SAIPA and Pars Khodro experienced lower production levels, contributing to the industry's overall contraction in the first half of the year.

Industry analysts attribute the mixed performance to supply chain disruptions, market adjustments, and ongoing reforms within the domestic automotive sector, while highlighting Iran Khodro's resilience as a sign of gradual stabilization in parts of the industry.

ICCIMA deputy head outlines measures to ease pressure on manufacturers

TEHRAN – A senior official at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) said manufacturers are being squeezed by stagflation and a tightening liquidity crunch, warning that the dual pressures threaten production capacity unless urgent corrective steps are taken.

Hossein Pirmozden, the chamber's deputy head, told Iran Chamber Online that weak domestic demand has curbed sales and reduced cash flow across industrial units, leaving many producers struggling to maintain operations.

He said a recent Central Bank directive tying loan payments to firms' internal resources had further restricted access to working capital, complicating purchases of raw materials and payment of wages.

The official added that currency constraints, limited access to trade finance instruments, banking sanctions and difficulties entering foreign markets have deepened financial stress for manufacturers. Burdensome regulations and opaque government service platforms, he said, have also made it difficult for businesses to receive reliable responses to operational issues.

Pirmozden said the pressures could be partly mitigated through five policy measures: reforming banking rules, expanding targeted government support packages, strengthening economic diplomacy to open markets, advancing regulatory and transparency reforms and improving firms' own management of working capital.

Iran-China trade could multiply if longstanding barriers are eased, business leader says

TEHRAN – Bilateral trade between Iran and China could grow several-fold if structural obstacles are addressed, a senior Chinese business figure in Tehran said, highlighting what he described as vast untapped economic and geopolitical potential between the two countries.

Tan Kai, President of the Iran Federation of Overseas Chinese Association and a long-time investor in the country, told Tasnim News Agency that weak mutual familiarity, financial restrictions and heavy bureaucracy remain the main factors holding back trade growth, despite decades of commercial ties.

The association, formally launched in Tehran on January 2, 2024, works with backing from the Chinese Embassy and Iranian partner organizations to improve people-to-people exchanges, facilitate business contacts and help close information gaps that he said continue to limit cooperation.

Bilateral trade reached 13.372 billion dollars in 2024 — including 8.928 billion dollars in Chinese exports to Iran and 4.444 billion dollars in imports from Iran — marking a decline from 14.85 billion dollars in 2021 and 16.28 billion dollars in 2022.

China has remained Iran's largest trading partner, but the current volume accounts for only 0.218 percent of China's 6.160 trillion-dollar global trade in 2024. Tan said this gap underscores how far the partnership could expand if both sides address regulatory and financial bottlenecks.

During a forum on economic cooperation opportunities between Iran and China, held in Tehran on November 4, Tan said that Chinese companies view Iran as an appealing destination for industrial investment.

He noted that bilateral trade between Iran and China reached \$13.4 billion last year, adding that the figure could rise substantially through expanded cooperation.

He emphasized Iran's role as a key member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and said Chinese firms are particularly interested in developing partnerships in industrial sectors.

He added that China is home to over 58 million private factories, offering diverse and flexible models of foreign investment that could help support Iran's economic growth.

Former Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, also speaking at the meeting, underlined the importance of strengthening Iran's economic ties with eastern partners. He said that amid sanctions, strategic collaboration with China could play a vital role in mitigating economic pressures.

Meanwhile, Hamed Vafaei, professor of Chinese studies at the University of Tehran, said relations between the two countries need deeper transformation and mutual understanding. He noted that Iran remains an indispensable partner in China's global development trajectory, underscoring the necessity of broadening bilateral cooperation.

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

The event also brought together former Iranian ambassador to China Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Iran's Consul General in Shanghai Ali



Mohammadi, and a group of Iranian and Chinese business leaders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On May 4, Iran-China Business Development Forum convened at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), with the participation of China's ambassador

tegitic importance of Iran-China trade, even amid global economic slowdown, with both countries supplying a significant portion of each other's needs.

Nejabat noted that Iran's Seventh National Development Plan emphasizes industrial modernization and attracting foreign capital and technology. He said Iran aims to upgrade its industries—from automotive and textiles to pharmaceuticals and medical equipment—and that this will be achieved more quickly with partners like China, now a global industrial superpower.

He added that technology transfer and joint investment are two strategic priorities for Iran. Chinese firms, he said, could take advantage of Iran's market size and skilled labor to establish production lines and access broader regional markets.

Conversely, Iran could supply intermediary goods and industrial components needed by Chinese industries. Nejabat said Iran will offer special incentives for foreign industrial investment and provide a secure legal environment for Chinese companies. Infrastructure development—including rail networks, highways, and ports—is also a priority, and many of these projects will require Chinese expertise and participation.

He also pointed to Iran's largely untapped mining sector, including vast reserves of iron, copper, aluminum, and rare earth elements, as an area ripe for development and export growth.

Speaking at the forum, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), outlined four key strategies for expanding trade with China. The first is technology transfer. He said Chinese companies have made major investments in research and development, much of which has not yet been fully commercialized. Iran, as a long-time partner, seeks deeper collaboration in these cutting-edge sectors.

The second strategy, he said, is increasing trade in high value-added goods. Currently, much of the bilateral trade consists of raw or semi-processed materials. The average value of Iran's exports stands at less than \$400 per ton. "We want to change that," he said, calling on Chinese importers to prioritize Iranian products with higher added value. He welcomed the Chinese ambassador's praise for the competitiveness of Iranian nanotechnology and biotechnology products.

The third strategy is joint production through co-investment. Dehnavi said Iran offers a secure investment climate, with legal guarantees allowing foreign investors to repatriate both capital and profits. "There are many documented cases of investors successfully exiting after profitable ventures," he said.

Iran offers highly competitive costs, a wide range of investment opportunities, and strong security for foreign capital, he added, expressing hope for increased joint ventures with Chinese firms.

The fourth strategy is mutual market access. Dehnavi said Iran produces many goods that are well-suited for the Chinese market and that joint production could also help both countries expand into third-country markets. "This kind of cooperation can make our trade ties deeper and more sustainable," he said.

Iran inaugurated its Trade Development Center in Shanghai last week.

Najafi Arab said Iran and China share thousands of years of cultural and commercial relations, which have entered a new phase in recent decades, marked by growing partnerships across multiple sectors. He said the two countries could serve as a model for sustainable cooperation based on mutual respect in today's increasingly interdependent world.

He also highlighted recent visits of Iranian private sector delegations to various Chinese provinces and exhibitions, emphasizing the need to identify investment opportunities and facilitate financial exchanges. The Chamber, with over 140 years of history, is prepared to host expert meetings, present economic opportunities, support joint ventures, and activate professional networks between Iranian and Chinese businesses, he said.

China's Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu, thanked Iranian participants and the Tehran Chamber for organizing the event. He expressed hope that the forum would help strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Referencing the recent meeting between the two presidents at the BRICS summit in Russia, Cong said China is fully committed to enhancing cooperation across all sectors in ways that benefit both peoples.

Also speaking at the forum, Ruhollah Nejabat, chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, said Iran's non-oil exports to China surpassed \$14.8 billion last year, making China the largest destination for Iranian goods and accounting for about one-quarter of Iran's total non-oil exports. Imports from China reached approximately \$19.3 billion, or 27 percent of Iran's total imports, making China Iran's second-largest import partner after the United Arab Emirates.

These figures, he said, demonstrate the resilience and stra-

UN failure has enabled a second genocide in Darfur, ex-UN Sudan chief says

Mukesh Kapila says geopolitics has paralyzed the UN and international system over the past decade

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- In an exclusive conversation with the Tehran Times, Mukesh Kapila, the former UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan and one of the earliest international officials to publicly expose the Darfur genocide, delivers a stark and urgent warning. Two decades after he sounded the alarm, Kapila says the violence unfolding today is not only a tragic repetition, but a far more brutal and technologically advanced assault on civilians.

Speaking with the clarity of a longtime witness to mass atrocities, he reflects on the collapse of global mechanisms that once constrained such crimes, the deepening lawlessness shaping Sudan's conflict, and the unbearable realities faced by besieged communities in El Fasher. His reflections reveal a world that has learned little, and a crisis that grows darker by the day.

The following is the text of the interview:

How do you assess the scale and methods of violence used in Darfur compared to earlier atrocities during your tenure as UN resident coordinator in Sudan?

The situation today is even worse than what I witnessed 20 years ago as the UN chief in Sudan. The primary reason is the significant advancement in the technology of war. Back then, the attackers came with AK-47s, horses, and camels. Today, they operate drones, use advanced surveillance tools, carry more sophisticated machine guns, and move in well-equipped technical vehicles such as Toyotas.



They are also better trained. Many of these fighters previously took part in conflicts in Yemen, gaining experience over the past two decades. As a result, the atrocities have become more “efficient”—meaning the same crimes, including killings, massacres, and widespread sexual violence, are now carried out with modern weaponry that increases the scale and speed of death.

Another major difference is the pattern of displacement. During the first genocide, people who were attacked managed to flee—crossing borders or escaping into the desert. Today, the RSF, who are essentially the sons of the Janjaweed fighters from 20 years ago, have imposed sieges on towns and erected barriers to prevent civilians from escaping. People are now trapped inside these towns and subjected to mass killings. In that sense, what is happening today is far worse.

What underlying political, social, or military dynamics do you believe have allowed such violence to reemerge so dramatically today?

What happened 20 years ago unfolded in a very different international environment. At that time, when I spoke out from my UN position, the world was still paying attention. The UN Security Council was functioning, resolutions were being implemented, and peacekeepers—both UN and African Union forces—were deployed on the ground. It was one of the first joint hybrid peacekeeping operations, and it worked. Humanitarian assistance was also flowing, including support for refugees who fled to neighboring countries such as Chad.

In short, the international system—its legal mechanisms, political tools, and humanitarian frameworks—was operational.

None of that exists today. We

now live in an environment where anyone can attack anyone, anywhere, at any time. It is a profoundly lawless moment in global affairs. The political and legal restraints that once acted as barriers to mass violence have largely disappeared. That is the key difference.

This resurgence of violence is happening at a time when the world is more lawless, fragmented, and indifferent than ever before. That is the most significant underlying dynamic enabling today's atrocities.

As someone who has spoken directly with survivors and witnessed displacement firsthand, what are the principal challenges communities face today, especially amid the situation in El Fasher?

First, on the notion of a “mass exodus” from El Fasher—unfortunately, I wish that were the case. Only a few thousand people have managed to escape. Around 200,000 civilians remain trapped inside the city. What we should be seeing is a real mass exodus—hundreds of thousands fleeing—because, in the absence of international assistance, escape is the only viable means of survival. Some have succeeded, many have died while trying, but the overwhelming majority remain besieged.

Survivors today are facing an entirely new level of brutality. In the past, we often did not know what was happening until we arrived on the ground. Journalists—people like you—were prevented from entering conflict zones, and even UN officials faced severe restrictions. That remains true today; international media still cannot access these areas.

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

Lebanon's central bank bows to Washington

From page 1 ► Not fifteen thousand, as Lebanese law established. One thousand. In other words, the price of a modest refrigerator, or a month's rent, now triggers a full-blown financial inquisition.

According to the circular, every entity licensed to handle cash must now collect and store exhaustive customer data under the banner of “Know Your Customer.” And exhaustive is an understatement.

The forms reviewed and “proudly” approved by the Central Council require everything short of a blood sample: full identity details, birth data, address down to the nearest landmark, employment history, monthly salary, sources of income, purpose of the transaction, marital information, frequency of transfers, and anticipated cash activity.

Lebanon enters the realm of forensic accounting: beneficial owners, business activity, financial health, family circumstances, and ownership percentages, all for the privilege of transferring \$1,000 of your own money.

Ironically, or perhaps predictably, the circular claims legal grounding in existing regulations, while simultaneously violating them. Lebanese law (No. 42/2015) explicitly sets the cash-declaration threshold at \$15,000, following FATF guidelines.

Yet the BDL, eager to demonstrate obedience to Washington's “recommendations,” simply rewrote the rules. Without Parliament. Without oversight.

Without debate.

To make matters worse, the circular expands monitoring from border crossings to internal Lebanese transactions, effectively transforming every money exchanger into a miniature intelligence desk.

Meanwhile, the same political and financial class that looted depositors' savings now expects citizens to trust the very banking system that evaporated their life earnings.

The message is clear: “Return to the banks that robbed you — or prove your innocence each time you touch a thousand dollars.”

The Lebanese are now subjected to invasive scrutiny harsher than what many countries on the FATF grey list impose. As a reminder: even the UAE, a country under international review, never humiliated its residents with such intrusive, arbitrary demands.

As the saying goes, “If it quacks like a duck...” this circular walks, talks, and quacks like a foreign-imposed surveillance regime disguised as reform.

One cannot help but notice the timing: U.S. officials visit Beirut under the pretext of “drying up Hezbollah's financial resources,” then promptly leave behind a regulatory time bomb.

Days later, the Central Council rubber-stamps it with the enthusiasm of a student handing in homework written by someone else.

The deadlines are equally telling: institutions have until December 1, 2025 to forward declarations; new clients must be processed immediately; existing clients have six months to surrender their data.

Whether any of this genuinely combats money laundering is beside the point. The political utility is the message, because at the end of the day, this isn't about \$1,000 — it's about control, subordination, and the quiet normalization of foreign interference dressed up as “compliance.”

If Lebanon's central bank is willing to rewrite national law at the snap of foreign fingers, what comes next? How long before every financial transaction becomes a political weapon? And when will Lebanon reclaim the right to regulate its own economy — without foreign guards stationed at every cash register?

To underscore the gravity of the moment: the fact that U.S. envoy Ortagus openly hailed Central Bank governor Karim Saeed as the “spearhead” in Washington's battle against Hezbollah is nothing short of a national scandal.

Not metaphorically, literally. An American envoy publicly assigning the governor of Lebanon's Central Bank a frontline role in the United States' strategic confrontations is the kind of spectacle one expects in a country under de facto occupation, where the institutions of the so-called sovereign state operate as mere administrative appendages of the occupying power.

One European source told The Guardian the proposal was “delusional,” noting the political impossibility of deploying troops into a territory where they would be viewed as reinforcing an ongoing occupation.

Crucially, this arrangement leaves the vast majority of Palestinians trapped in a geographically limited “red zone,” an area devastated by bombardment, stripped of basic ser-

by the Zionist regime, while offering Palestinians only a symbolic police force with no real authority.

The U.S. concept relies on an “international stabilization force” of up to 20,000 soldiers, drawn largely from European states, to operate solely inside the “green zone.” Foreign troops would coordinate with the Zionist occupation forces and man control points along the internal boundary.

ish approach to Beijing, conveying instead her will to “deepen their personal relationship” and promote a “mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests.”

It is necessary that China and Japan not revive the old hostilities that date back to colonial times and continued up to the Second World War, but build toward the future. As two countries separated only by the sea, Japan and China cannot move borders, and their friendship will benefit the entire world, especially the Asian continent.

Japan-China spat over Taiwan is a source of concern

From page 1 ► In his meeting on October 31 with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, the Republic of Korea (another country that is a source of Asian pride), Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reaffirmed the 1972 Joint Statement. However, it is regrettable that the two countries have summoned each other's ambassadors and traded unsettling remarks.

In that meeting, according to the Japan Times, Takaichi allayed fears she would take a more hawk-

BBC at a crossroads: From Trump dispute to Gaza bias allegations



From page 1 ► Polling conducted during the visit confirmed this sentiment: Ipsos found that more than 60% of Britons disliked Trump, while a YouGov survey indicated only 16% held a favorable view, with the vast majority expressing unfavorable or indifferent opinions.

Protesters carried placards with harsh slogans such as “Trump Not Welcome,” “No to Racism, No to Trump,” and “Dump Trump.” These banners reflected broader frustrations with his confrontational style, legal controversies, and policy positions on issues such as immigration and climate change. The protests, combined with polling data, reinforced the perception that Trump's presence in Britain was deeply unwelcome.

This context magnified the BBC's handling of a Panorama documentary that misleadingly edited Trump's January 6 speech. The controversy became a flashpoint, ultimately contributing to the resignations of Director General Tim Davie and BBC News Chief Deborah Turness.

Leadership crisis

These high-profile departures underscore the pressures facing publicly funded media organizations in maintaining professional standards under intense scrutiny. Yet, according to a former UK newsroom editor who spoke on condition of anonymity, the resignations do not necessarily reflect a deeper editorial crisis. Speaking to the Tehran Times, the editor also indicated that Trump's lack of popularity in the UK meant the controversy generated little public sympathy for him, softening the impact of Davie's decision to step down.

“There have been a few high-profile mistakes which have been rightly amplified, but in the context of enormous output. I do believe the corporation is suffering an identity crisis - what do balanced and impartial mean in a sharply divided political environment? How can mainstream content complement or compete with digital innovators? What is the purpose of the BBC in today's global environment? The impression is that Davie jumped at an opportunity for which he wouldn't take much blame—not his fault, and not much love for Trump in the UK.”

On the Panorama documentary itself, the veteran media observer was blunt: “This was a silly mistake by a program maker. It was very foolish, unnecessary. The lack of speedy response from the BBC was also foolish, and reflects the muddled thinking or competing forces internally.”

Yet the Panorama controversy was not an isolated case — it fed into wider concerns about the BBC's editorial judgment, most visibly in its coverage of the Israel–Gaza conflict.

Bias accusations

In late 2024, more than 100 BBC staff members signed a letter accusing the broadcaster of pro-Israel bias in its reporting. The letter, also endorsed by hundreds of media professionals, argued that the BBC failed to meet its own standards of fairness and accuracy, citing selective sourcing, headline framing, and asymmetrical coverage. Signatories warned that such practices risked dehumanizing Palestinians and eroding public trust.

Critics pointed to headlines that foregrounded Israeli claims while minimizing Palestinian perspectives and civilian impact. Coverage was said to lack full context regarding military operations and casualties, and editorial choices were described as consistently favoring Israeli narratives.

The political reporter admitted he had not consumed enough of the coverage to judge definitively, but added: “The BBC is typically accused of bias by both sides, and has been on Gaza. The trouble with trying to offer a balance — even against instincts — is that you can end up angering both sides. Traditionally, the BBC has seen making both sides unhappy as a sign it's doing something right, but these days that's more difficult.”

Nonetheless, internal dissent has converged with public demonstrations to challenge the BBC's credibility. Protests outside BBC offices in London and other cities in the UK accused the broadcaster of “whitewashing” Israeli actions in Gaza and failing to represent Palestinian suffering adequately.

Past controversies

Criticism of the BBC's Middle East coverage is not new. During the Second Intifada in the early 2000s, advocacy groups accused the broadcaster of disproportionately framing events through Israeli government narratives. In 2014, during the Gaza war, similar complaints resurfaced, with campaigners arguing that BBC reporting gave greater prominence to Israeli military statements than to Palestinian civilian casualties. Each flare-up has reinforced perceptions that the BBC struggles to balance its coverage of the conflict.

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

Connolly's victory redefines Ireland's voice

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Ireland's new president, Catherine Connolly, represents more than just a change of face in a ceremonial office. Her election, with a record-breaking majority, reflects a deeper shift in Irish society — one that is increasingly skeptical of the West, critical of Israel, and determined to assert its own independent path.

Connolly has made clear that she intends to use the presidency to speak out on issues that matter to her voters. Chief among them is Palestine. Ireland recognized Palestinian statehood in 2024, a move that led Israel to withdraw its ambassador from Dublin. That decision was not an isolated gesture; it was the culmination of years of public anger in Ireland over Israel's conduct in Gaza. Large protests filled the streets of Dublin and Galway during the war, with demonstrators condemning what they saw as the collective punishment of civilians. For many Irish people, the images from Gaza echoed their own history of famine, colonization, and forced emigration. Connolly has tapped into that sentiment, calling the normalization of war and genocide “unacceptable.”

Western media often downplays the scale of

anti-Israel feeling in Ireland, portraying it as fringe activism. In reality, it has become mainstream. The government has pursued laws to ban imports from illegal Israeli settlements, and Connolly herself has spoken of genocide in terms that leave little doubt about where she stands. Her language is sharper than her predecessor Michael D. Higgins, who criticized Israeli policies but kept his tone within the bounds of humanitarian law. Connolly is more direct, and her voters expect her to be.

Her criticism does not stop at Israel. Connolly has openly challenged the United States, Britain, France, and the European Union. She has accused them of militarization and of pursuing policies that normalize war. This is striking because Ireland has long cultivated close ties with Washington, especially under Joe Biden, who leaned on his Irish heritage. But that relationship has cooled. U.S. officials see Ireland as benefiting from American defense spending while refusing to join NATO. Trump has threatened to pull back U.S. investment from Ireland's low-tax economy. Against this backdrop, Connolly's election looks like a popular rebuke to Western power.

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

Iran designated to four key UNESCO committees

Tehran--In the final days of the 43rd session of UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had been nominated for membership in several executive and scientific bodies of the organization, has achieved to become a member of four key UNESCO committees with the consensus of the member states.

According to IRNA, following this consensus, the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected to the Legal Committee, the Intergovernmental Committee on Bioethics (IBC), the Intergovernmental Committee on Return and Restitution (ICPRCP), and the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme.

These selections are the result of joint consultation and coordination between the National Commission for UNESCO in Iran, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the

Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UNESCO, and various organs of the organization, and create an important position for the country in the areas of law, bioethics, cultural heritage protection, and social policymaking.

The global function of these committees plays a decisive role in developing international standards, scientific advice, cultural mediation, and linking social research with policymaking; an issue that can provide new capacities and opportunities for Iran.

The UNESCO General Conference concluded its work on Thursday (November 13), after about two weeks of intensive activity, and our country's achievements during this session of the conference, especially the election to four key committees, were among the notable results of Iran's active participation in this international meeting.

Documentary series explores historical roots of European colonialism

TEHRAN — A new documentary series titled “Colonialism, the Story of a History” examines the origins and historical development of colonialism in Europe.

The 13-part series, directed by Mohsen Farsi, began weekly airing yesterday on Iran's IRIB state broadcaster.

According to the Farsi, the work covers the development of colonialism from the 13th century to the present, tracing its intellectual and economic foundations and its global expansion.

“At first, I assumed this would be a routine television documentary, but research led us to astonishing stories that sometimes felt like reading novels or watching science fiction films,” the director noted.

He said research for the series took more than 10 months. “Initially, we aimed to at-

tract younger viewers, but as our research expanded and we interviewed historians and scholars, the analytical level increased,” he said. “Some university professors have even said they intend to show parts of the series to their students.”

The documentary covers the development of colonialism from the 13th century to the present, tracing its intellectual and economic foundations and its global expansion.

For centuries, the Iranian soil faced varying forms of colonial pressure and intervention. Today, many remnants of those eras, including diplomatic compounds, customs houses, military barracks, telegraph stations, and oil installations, have become historical attractions for tourists or important sources of documentation and study for researchers examining Iran's modern history.

Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple, a treasure of history and cultural identity of ancient Iran

TEHRAN--Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple is located in the heart of Reyvand mountains and is considered one of the most important religious buildings pertaining to Sassanid era.

This fire temple is situated near the city of Davarzan in Khorasan Razavi province and is known as one of the three sacred fires during the Zoroastrian era. The building represents the splendor and grandeur of Sassanid architecture and has a special place in Iranian history and culture, ISNA reported.

Regarding the fire temple and its geographical location, Ja'far Baesi, a researcher and historical expert, said that Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple is known as a special fire for Zoroastrian farmers and, along with two other Sassanid fire temples, Azar Faranbagh and Azar Goshash, act as symbols of the sacred fires of the Zoroastrians.

He also said that Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple, with its special design, represents the high art and skill of the architects of that era. The four-arched form of this building, which is a special type of architecture during the Sassani era, indicates the importance of fire in Zoroastrian religion and the daily lives of the people of that time.

Stressing that this building was a place for worshipping and maintaining the sacred fire of the Zoroastrians and played an important role in the social and religious life of the people, he said that the geographical location of this fire temple is also very special. Its location in an inaccessible area has not only given it a unique identity, but also protected it from human and natural threats.

Baesi continued that although this geographical feature has made it difficult for visitors to access this historical monument, the natural beauties of the region and its rich history always have their own special attractions.

He stated that Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple can be considered a model for other historical monuments in Iran. This building, with all its beauty and values, needs support and atten-

tion so that it can be recognized as an important point in Iranian history, he added.

In this regard, cooperation between government institutions, the private sector, and the local community is a necessity for preserving this monument, he added.

Stating that Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple, with its rich history and architectural splendor, is still waiting to be given more attention and passed on to future generations as one of Iran's most important cultural heritages, he said: “By supporting and paying more attention to these monuments, we can preserve the country's cultural treasures as part of our national identity and utilize them as resources for learning and thinking about Iranian history and culture.”

Baesi reminded: “Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple is not only a historical and cultural monument, but also a treasure trove of our national history and identity.”

Given Iran's cultural diversity and richness, introducing and protecting these monuments can also help in the sustainable development of tourism and improving the quality of life of the people.

He continued that given the importance of this fire temple and other historical monuments, there is a need for cooperation and collective effort to preserve and introduce them.

Stating that the Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple should be passed on to future generations as a treasure trove of Iranian history and culture, he considered the protection of historical monuments a social and cultural responsibility, adding: “These monuments not only represent our national identity, but can also serve as sources for attracting domestic and foreign tourists.”

Baesi emphasized: “By using new technologies, we can draw more attention to the Azar-Barzin Mehr fire temple and other historical monuments. The use of social media and online platforms can be an effective tool in introducing and promoting the culture of preserving historical monuments.”

Minister calls for halt to disputed construction near UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace

TEHRAN - Iran's cultural heritage minister on Friday called for an immediate halt to a suspicious construction near the Golestan Palace in downtown Tehran, saying no violations of heritage protection rules would be tolerated.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri visited the palace complex and surrounding construction sites on Friday following public concern over a new building rising in the area. The palace is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Iran's most important Qajar-era monuments.

“All regulations concerning protected areas and buffer zones are mandatory,” Salehi-Amiri said during the visit. “No one has the right to violate heritage boundaries,” the minister underlined.

Reports in recent days suggested that while an eight-meter height limit was approved for the project, the building's foundation indicates it may be designed for a much taller structure.

“These monuments are entrusted to officials, but they belong to the people,” Salehi-Amiri said. “Neither the public nor responsible bodies will allow that even visual boundaries of the site to be distorted.”

Salehi-Amiri said the ministry has coordinated with Tehran



municipality to halt construction, and that the judiciary is expected to follow up on enforcement.

A special committee will review technical details and report findings to the public. The group will be chaired by Deputy Minister Ali Darabi and include heritage experts Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, Saeed Talai, and Reza Kardouni.

Salehi-Amiri said all decisions must follow legal procedures and be reviewed by relevant heritage councils. He called on local officials to coordinate with Teh-

ran's district mayors to ensure compliance with national preservation rules.

“The Ministry of Cultural Heritage will not allow profiteers to achieve their ends,” he said. “We stand with public opinion against any violations.”

He also urged the mayor of Tehran to enforce greater oversight on construction near historic buildings, while noting that the municipality has generally cooperated with the ministry.

Golestan Palace, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2013, served as a royal resi-

dence and seat of government during the Qajar dynasty. It is known for its fusion of Persian and European architectural elements and played a central role in the development of modern Iranian art.

Salehi-Amiri said Tehran's historic fabric is a valuable national asset and called for greater public awareness of the capital's cultural sites. “Many people in Tehran and elsewhere do not know this historic area,” he said. “It can be a major destination for domestic and international tourism.”

Chinese imports found in Iran's Kish Island, excavations indicate historical trade links



TEHRAN — Archaeologists have uncovered imported Chinese ceramics during the seventh season of excavations at the ancient city of Harireh on Kish Island, reaffirming historical trade connections between China and southern Iran, researchers said on Saturday.

The new excavation season began after a 14-year hiatus, conducted under the authoriza-

tion of Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism and with support from the Kish Free Zone Organization. Work focused on a ruined structure, where archaeologists found ceramics, seashells, animal bones, gypsum architectural elements, stone tools, metal objects, glassware fragments, and unreadable bronze coins.

The dig aimed to document

previous excavations, prepare the site for tourism development, and study the historical shift of regional power from Iran's Siraf port to Kish and its role in long-distance maritime trade.

Researchers said one key urban axis links Harireh's central mosque and glass workshop to elite residential houses, a historical bath, and the harbor district. This includes areas used for date syrup production, storage, and port-related architecture.

Mohammad Mortezaei, head of the seventh excavation season, said a large number of Chinese celadon ceramics--13 varieties in total--were found at the site. He said the findings show Kish's importance in trade with China and the Far East.

“These ceramics were imported and include both lower-quality types and luxury ware,” Mortezaei said. “Some examples appear to be Iranian-made imi-

tations.”

Mortezaei said the excavated building was constructed from coral stone, featured two floors, and was adapted to local topography. He said it included residential rooms and spaces possibly linked to pearl extraction, supported by the discovery of large shell deposits, related tools, and a nine-meter-deep well with interconnected channels.

Archaeologists also found turquoise-glazed tiles and a damaged star-shaped luster tile. The tile inscriptions are unreadable until conservation work is completed. Researchers said the presence of such tiles suggests the structure belonged to an important family and was used over multiple periods.

The team expects restoration to follow the completion of excavations so the site can be added to Kish's list of visitor attractions.

Aras Free Zone Organization joins UN Tourism as new member

TEHRAN — The Aras Free Zone Organization has been officially accepted as a member of UN Tourism during the organization's 26th General Assembly, which was recently held in Riyadh, Arabian official said.

According to Miras Aria (CHTN), Hadi Moghadamzadeh, chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of Aras Free Zone Organization, said that in an important event and on the sidelines of the 26th general assembly and at the 124th session of the executive council of this organization, which was held in the Saudi capital on November 8, Aras Free Zone Organization became an official member of the UN Tourism.

He called the accession of the Aras Free Zone Organization a turning point in introducing Iran's tourism capacities in the global arena and stated that with the approval of this membership, the Aras Free Zone Organization, as a destination management organization in form of an affiliated member, joined the most prestigious institutions active in the world's tourism industry and began its official cooperation with UN Tourism.

Explaining the positive consequences of this membership, he said: “The UN Tourism plays a pivotal role in improving tourism



standards and facilities, especially in developing countries. This membership opens a window to the latest scientific achievements, innovations, and best practices of the public and private sectors around the world in key areas such as strategic planning, international marketing, human resource training, and advertising.”

Moghadamzadeh pointed to the extensive benefits of this cooperation and listed the upcoming opportunities: “Now, we can benefit from all the technical and advisory assistance of this organization, be present on international platforms and directly interact with the main players in the world tourism

industry, and have access to its rich electronic library. Also, holding joint global events, improving visibility for reputable travel agencies, facilitating the presence of foreign tourists in the region, access to the latest world tourism statistics and reports, and membership in UN Tourism's specialized networks and working groups are other advantages of this membership.”

He added: “This position also provides us with the opportunity to actively participate in the global conferences and collaborate and exchange experiences with other affiliated members, including more than 500 leading entities from the private sector, educational institutions, and local officials.”

Moghadamzadeh stated that this organization consists of 160 member countries, six affiliated members, and more than 500 affiliated members from academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society. He and considered Aras' presence in this group a source of pride and honor.

According to relevant officials, the Aras Free Zone Organization originally secured this membership in 2019, but it was subsequently suspended for several years.

Iranian students clinch gold medals in ISIF 2025

TEHRAN –Iranian students have secured three gold medals and a special award in the International Science and Invention Fair (ISIF) 2025, ranking them among the top innovators worldwide.

Organized by the Indonesian Young Scientist Association (IYSA), the competition was held in Bali from November 12 to 15.

Iranian students competed in various fields, including biotechnology, educational technology, artificial intelligence, mathematics, engineering, chemistry, and nanotechnology.

Raman Nafarieh won a gold medal and a special award in biotechnology. The team, comprising Radin Abbasi and Sam Rashidi, clinched a gold medal in engineering. Moreover, Matin Hayati won a gold medal in educational technology and artificial intelligence.

The ISIF 2025 brought together a total of 800 teams from 24 countries, including China, the U.S., Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan, Canada, Turkey, Luxembourg, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

Iran grabbed five gold medals and two special awards in the ISIF 2024.

Recent achievements

Iranian students continued to showcase their excellence at international competitions by winning medals at the Yakutia International Science Fair (YISF) and the World Invention Creativity Olympics (WICO).

YISF was held in Yakutsk, Russia, from July 6 to 9. The event



brought together 129 teams from 10 countries, participating in two different categories.

The first category included mathematics, computer science, and information technology, and the second one involved physics, astronomy, and engineering.

In the second category, Mehran Rajabi and Alireza Jafarnejad ranked first for their project titled 'EcoNet Bin: AI-Driven Waste Segregation with IoT-Enabled'.

'Protecting Curious Little Minds: A Smart Child Safety Solution with IoT and Image Processing' was the name of the project presented by Moeid Rajabi and Helena Rajabi, who secured second place.

Artin Radmatin, Baran Bahman, Mohammad-Hossein Ez-zati, Niki Abtahi, Sarina Nosrati, and Baran Derakhshandeh won third place for 'Evaluation of the effect of using magnetic gear in improving the performance of process systems based on me-

chanical gear'.

Also, Zhina Aminorroaya-Karladani grabbed the special prize for her project, 'UVGuard Grooming Brush'.

In the first category, Artin Salari and Amir-Abbas Kavosi Amin ranked second for 'Smart Glasses for the Blind with Real-Time Object Detection'.

Ilia Majidzadeh Heravi and Parsa Karimi Yazdi came in third for their project titled 'CommuniMate SmartApp: An Innovative Solution for Deaf Communication'.

The 14th WICO was held from July 17 to 19 at Seoul National University of Education in South Korea. Hosted by the Korea University Invention Association (KUIA), the 2025 edition brought together 313 teams from 28 countries, creating a global platform to share advancements in science, technology, and invention.

Radin Abbasi and Sam Rashidi

claimed the gold medal for building a humanoid robot called Nan-nyBot, which manages children's activities using the Internet of Things.

Matin Hayati's project, 'automatic analysis and display of EEG signals for seizure prediction using frequency band analysis', and Raman Nafarieh's project titled 'studying the effect of plant nanogels on skin cancer cells' grabbed the silver medals.

The Iranian team, comprising four high school students, grabbed two silver medals and two bronze medals at the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI), held from August 2 to 9 in Beijing, China.

Arash Yousefnejad and Ali Shayan claimed the silver medals, while Parsa Golestani and Radin Rahmani-Nodehi won the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

Iran won two silver medals and two bronze medals at the Eighth International Economics Olympiad (IEO) 2025, held from July 20 to 29, in Baku, Azerbaijan. This year, 68 countries participated in the IEO.

Four Iranian students clinched three gold medals and a silver medal at the 36th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2025), held from July 19 to 27 in Quezon City, Philippines, ranking second among 81 countries, up from third in 2024.

Five Iranian students secured silver medals at the 55th International Physics Olympiad, ranking 11th globally.

Winners of Science Promotion Award honored

TEHRAN – The winners of the 26th edition of the Science Promotion Award were announced and honored on Friday.

The Science Promotion Award is dedicated to individuals and groups that have utilized their knowledge and creativity to present science in a simple yet interesting way to all members of society, IRNA reported.

The award aims to recognize and appreciate researchers, teachers, students, and media experts who have made significant efforts to promote science and technology in society.

This year, the award is given in different fields including sustainable efforts (scientific and educational activities in international law), media, basic sciences, diabetes, expansion and promotion of Iranian culture and knowledge, promotion of safety knowledge and awareness in addressing hazards, conservation of environment (climate change), promotion of knowledge in less privileged areas, engineering science in daily life, promotion of educational justice in deprived areas, sociological science, and the promotion of Persian language.

International Week of Science and Peace

The International Week of Science and Peace, November 9-15, was first celebrated in 1986 as part of the observance of the In-

ternational Year of Peace.

Based on the success of the 1986 observance, the organizers continued their efforts in successive years. In recognition of the value of the annual observance, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/61 in December 1988, which proclaims the "International Week of Science and Peace", to take place each year during the week in which 11 November falls.

The General Assembly urged Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to encourage relevant institutions, associations and individuals to sponsor events and activities related to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and maintenance of peace and security; urged Member States to promote international co-operation among scientists and required the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as its forty-fifth session on the activities and initiatives of Member States and interested organizations in connection with the week.

The annual observance of the International Week of Science and Peace is making an important contribution to the promotion of peace.

The Week encourages greater academic exchanges on a subject of universal impor-

ance while also generating greater awareness of the relationship between science and peace among the general public.

World Science Day for Peace and Development

Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

The first World Science Day for Peace and Development was celebrated worldwide on 10 November 2002 under UNESCO auspices. The celebration involved many partners, such as governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations, UNESCO National Commissions, scientific and research institutions, professional associations, the media, science teachers, and schools.

By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Afghanistan thanks Iran for free services to refugees during COVID-19

Afghanistan has appreciated Iran for offering health and treatment services to Afghan refugees infected with coronavirus free of charge.

All measures, especially the recent decree by the Iranian president to provide free medical treatment to Afghan refugees in Iranian public hospitals, have assured the Afghan government, IRNA reported on Sunday.

According to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing transportation services to transit trucks and providing the necessary health assistance to vulnerable Afghan nationals are among the measures that are highly appreciated.

افغانستان از همکاری ایران برای مداوای مهاجران مبتلا به کرونا قدردانی کرد

وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان از کمک و همکاری جمهوری اسلامی ایران به مهاجران افغانی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا و مداوای رایگان آنها قدردانی کرد.

در این اطلاعیه آمده است: تمام اقدامات به ویژه صدور حکم اخیر رئیس جمهوری ایران برای درمان رایگان مهاجران افغان در بیمارستان های دولتی ایران موجب خاطر جمعی رهبری دولت افغانستان شد. براساس اطلاعیه وزارت خارجه افغانستان، ایجاد تسهیلات در رفت و آمد کامیون های ترانزیتی و فراهم آوری مساعدت های لازم بهداشتی برای مهاجران در مناطق آسیب پذیر آن کشور اقداماتی هستند که از جانب دولت افغانستان به چشم قدردانی نگریسته می شوند.

SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Sistan-Baluchestan hosts workshops on positive parenting skills

TEHRAN – To promote positive parenting skills, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has organized workshops targeting counselors from Primary Health Care (PHC) centres and schools across 14 cities in the southern and eight in the northern parts of Sistan-Baluchestan province.

So far, two workshops have been held in the province. The first training workshop took place in Chabahar from October 6 to 9, 2025, and the second was held in Zahedan from October 19 to 22.

Their goal was to help local Primary Health Care and School counselors guide and support parents of adolescents in adopting positive parenting approaches, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on November 10.

Psychologists and counselors in Sistan-Baluchestan province are now better equipped to support families with parenting skills thanks to a UNICEF-supported Adolescent Positive Parenting training program.

What did the counselors learn? They gained the crucial knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to engage with parents of adolescents effectively, support parents in fostering their adolescents' healthy and positive development, strengthen family relationships, and bring the training to the community.

These workshops are just the start. Following the training, multisectoral teams will start holding adolescent-positive parenting sessions at the community level.

These teams include key partners from schools, Primary Healthcare (PHC) services, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), and Social Emergency Services.

By working together, these groups will ensure that at least 2,000 parents and caregivers in all 22 cities of Sistan-Baluchestan can access the help they need to support their adolescents positively.

Online resources for parents

Parents are encouraged to visit the UNICEF Iran website's dedicated section on parenting (link). It offers a wealth of resources, articles, and advice to help families promote their children's healthy development and well-being.

Adolescent positive parenting

In December, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) and the Ministry of Education (MoE), organized a comprehensive training workshop on "Adolescent Positive Parenting" in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province, to ensure adolescents in vulnerable areas will benefit from a supportive environment.

This intensive eight-day training, conducted in two four-day rounds in December, brought together 90 psychologists, counselors, and mental health practitioners from Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs), schools,



and community centres. The programme, funded by EU Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the UNICEF website reported on December 23.

The workshop aimed to enhance their knowledge, skills, and technical expertise in delivering positive parenting programmes tailored specifically for parents of adolescents.

As part of a UNICEF-supported initiative, parents of adolescents in vulnerable districts are empowered with hands-on training in positive parenting skills.

The goal is to establish supportive and nurturing environments for adolescents in vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

The "Adolescent Positive Parenting" package, developed with UNICEF's support, includes three detailed manuals and workbooks for trainers, parents, and adolescents. It also features 17 educational films for trainers, five videos for parents, and five motion graphics designed to enhance learning and engagement.

To conduct the workshop, the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), Provincial Drug Coordination Council (DCCC), Iranian Academy for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and a local non-governmental organization collaborated with UNICEF, as well.

In the initial phase, the trained professionals will reach out to at least 1,600 parents in Khorasan Razavi Province, offering them practical training on positive parenting skills.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to scale up adolescent parenting programmes initially launched in Qom Province for vulnerable parents.

Over 4,000 parents of adolescents in marginalised areas of Qom have participated in at least eight sessions of parenting training, demonstrating the programme's success in fostering stronger family relationships and adolescent well-being.

By collaborating with key governmental and non-governmental organisations, UNICEF continues to expand its reach, ensuring that adolescents and their families in vulnerable districts receive the essential support and guidance they need for a brighter future.

National Youth Population Award held

TEHRAN – The third National Youth Population Award was held on Saturday with the presence of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The event underscored the crucial role of neighborhoods and mosques in removing childbearing barriers and addressing family problems in cities.

The performance of the related organizations was assessed based on two main criteria, including their legal and internal duties, and the best ideas, photos, and movies that focused on families and childbearing were chosen.

Youth population law

Enacting the youth population law has stabilized the total fertility rate, slightly increasing the general fertility index over the past two years. After experiencing seven years of decline by about 20 percent, the fertility rate is now stabilized at around 1.6.

The total fertility rate has experienced a sharp decline since the Iranian calendar year 1394 (2015-2016), as the number of births reached 1.057 million in 1402 (2023-2024) from 1.570 million in 1394. However, since

the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022–March 2023), the downward trend in fertility came to a halt.

However, it has intensified concerns over the decreasing trend in population growth in the coming years, and the probability of turning Iran into one of the oldest countries in the world, IRIB quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the Civil Registration Organization, as saying.

"At best, Iran's population with a total fertility rate of 2.5 will reach 102,890,000 by the next seven years," Mahmoudi said.

An important factor contributing to lower birth rates in the country is the cost of living. Indeed, due to the high inflation rate and the expensive real estate sector, many families are choosing to have a smaller family size. The current one-child trend is prevalent in many young Iranian families, many of whom also have to support their aging parents.

Due to the financial constraints, late marriage is another new trend. Delayed marriage, along with extended intervals between childbirth, is another factor.



NOVEMBER 16, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:16 Dawn: 5:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:42 (tomorrow)

Iranian films to go on screen in Indian festival

TEHRAN-Three Iranian films will go on screen in different sections of the 56th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which will run in Goa from November 20 to 28.

“My Daughter’s Hair” directed by Hesam Farahmand will go on screen at the Best Debut Feature Film of a Director Section of the festival.

Also known as “Raha,” the drama follows a struggling family in an unstable economy. Tohid and his wife and children have an average life. Until a very simple event shatters the story of their lives.

Tohid buys a second-hand laptop with money earned from selling his daughter’s hair, bringing temporary joy. However, a conflict soon emerges with a wealthy family over the laptop’s true ownership. As tensions rise, Tohid confronts harsh realities that reshape his life and his family’s future, forcing him to fight for what truly matters.

“K-Poper” by Ebrahim Amini will be competing for the ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal.

The movie tells the story of a teenage girl from Iran who has fallen in love with a popular Korean K-pop singer. She dreams of going to Seoul to see him perform and to participate in a competition. Although she has been accepted into the competition, her mother is strongly opposed to her going.

“Woman and Child” by Saeed Roustayi will also be screened at the non-competitive section of From the Festivals.

The film tells the story of Mahnaz, a 40-year-old widowed nurse, who struggles with her rebellious son, Aliyar, who has been suspended from school. Family tensions reach a peak during the betrothal ceremony



A scene from “K-Poper” by Ebrahim Amini

with her new boyfriend Hamid, and a tragic accident occurs. In the aftermath, Mahnaz will be forced to confront betrayal and loss, and to embark on a quest for justice.

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is a premier cinematic event in South Asia and the only festival in the region accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers’ Associations (FIAPF) in the Competitive Feature Films category among the 44th international festivals. Established in 1952, IFFI has a rich history of showcasing exceptional films from around the globe. Its mission is to serve as a unique platform for ambitious filmmakers, cineastes, and industry professionals to access and celebrate outstanding international cinema.

IFFI’s International Cinema section features a diverse selection of films that are culturally rich and aesthetically compelling from various parts of the world. The festival continues to uphold its esteemed reputation by dedicatedly promoting the art of filmmaking through the screening of internationally acclaimed films, carefully curated and short-listed by distinguished members of the film industry.

Cartoon of Day



Boogeyman

Cartoonist: Kutoshi Kimimo from Italy

Mexican Embassy in Tehran celebrates Day of the Dead with visual arts exhibition by Iranian artists

By **Mohamadreza Seyedagha**

TEHRAN – The Mexican Embassy in Tehran held a visual arts exhibition from November 3 to 11 to celebrate the tradition of the Day of the Dead.

Held in collaboration with the Tehran Visual Arts Association, the exhibition showcased 40 works of art across various fields including painting, illustration, graphic design, and sculpture, all created by Iranian artists on the subject of the Day of the Dead, one of Mexico’s most beloved traditions, filled with color, flowers, scents, and memories.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, the Ambassador of Mexico in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Guillermo Puente Ordorica, explained the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead and details of this year’s exhibition.

“The Day of the Dead in Mexico is an ancient tradition. Over the years, especially after the arrival of Catholicism, it blended with pre-Hispanic beliefs. In the original Indigenous worldview, death was considered a natural part of life — a cycle. One moment you are in this world, and a moment later, you are in the next world, but you are still able, symbolically, to return. It is a continuous renewal,” the ambassador elaborated.

“To be part of this cycle, of course, you must pay respect to your loved ones so they do not feel forgotten. They should feel remembered and loved. Every year, particularly on November 2, we believe we have the chance to call on them and give them an opportunity to symbolically re-



The Ambassador of Mexico in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Guillermo Puente Ordorica, speaks to the Tehran Times on November 11, 2025.

the world celebrate it”.

The holiday is especially popular in Mexico where it is a national holiday. It is also celebrated in the Philippines, in Mexican-American communities in the United States, and to a lesser extent, in other Latin American countries, especially by people of Mexican heritage.

Traditions connected with the holiday include honoring the deceased using calaveras and marigold flowers, building altars with the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these items as gifts for the deceased.



turn to our world. It has become a national celebration in Mexico,” he added.

“The Day of the Dead is perhaps one of the most iconic cultural celebrations in Mexico — certainly among the top ones. It represents profound social and cultural values. If you look at the colors and the different artistic expressions surrounding this celebration, you’ll see that they originate from popular traditions and manifestations,” he emphasized.

The tribute to death celebration in November of each year represents one of Mexico’s most deeply rooted traditions; a tradition that has been practiced for over 500 years.

The Day of the Dead is an ancient Aztec celebration of the memory of deceased ancestors that is celebrated on November 1 and 2. The holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and remember friends and family members who have died.

When asked if this celebration has been spread to other countries, Guillermo Puente Ordorica said: “Over the years, UNESCO declared the Day of the Dead part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Today it is widely recognized, and Mexicans all around

However great the variation may be among the altars of the different regions, certain elements are always present: water, salt, flowers, and candles. Water relinquishes the souls’ thirst and refreshes the path to the beyond. Salt is an invitation to the banquet and serves to purify its essence. Candle symbolizes the souls of our departed loved ones, and the vivid yellow and orange color represent light and the sun which assist the souls not to lose their way in returning home. It is also a tradition to lay a carpet of flowers from the altar to the street so that the dead find their way towards the altar.

Speaking about the similarities between the Mexican tradition and the ways to remember the loved ones in Iran and other countries, the ambassador said: “I’ve noticed, through conversations with colleagues and other ambassadors, that many countries have similar traditions in which people honor their deceased loved ones. In Iran, I discovered that during certain periods—close to the New Year, if I’m not mistaken—people visit cemeteries, bring flowers, share food or drinks, and spend time symbolically with those who have passed away. This shows that the idea of remembering loved ones is universal, not only Mexican”.

“Other than visiting cemeteries, the Iranians also remember loved ones throughout the year. I find this very meaningful. It shows that Iranians, like Mexicans, maintain a deep connection with both life and death, and with the people they love — whether they are still alive or have passed away. It also reflects the importance both societies place on family structures and emotional bonds,” he noted.

Referring to the exhibition at the site of the embassy, the Mexican ambassador said: “This year, we decided to collaborate with Iranian schools, universities, cultural centers, and institutions that teach Spanish in Iran. We also invited artists and creators who were interested in participating”.

“The Iranian people have an extraordinary artistic sense, and this year the Tehran Visual Arts Association collaborated with us. They enthusiastically organized a contest, receiving around 400 artworks. Then, a jury of three Iranian artists selected 40 pieces, which we are exhibiting now,” he stated.

According to the ambassador, “another important aspect of this year’s program was the workshops we organized in the months leading up to the exhibition. Iranian participants, guided by an Iranian teacher, created Catrina dolls — one of the most iconic symbols of the Day of the Dead. What we discovered is that Iran has its own rich tradition of handmade dolls, so the idea was to merge the Mexican concept of Catrina dolls with Iranian craftsmanship. The result, as you can see, is fascinating: Catrina dolls made with Iranian techniques and materials”.

Catrina is a recurring figure in Mexican visual arts depicted as a lively skeleton wearing a large plumed hat associated with early 20th-century upper-class European women’s fashion. It was first created by Mexican printmaker José Guadalupe Posada in the early 20th century and became an icon in Mexico through her popularization by artists such as Mexican muralist Diego Rivera and a traveling art exhibition during World War II.

The skeletons depict individuals from all classes and occupations, which scholars have interpreted as symbolic of a macabre egalitarianism, suggesting that regardless of status, death comes for all.

Catrina has become a national symbol of modern Mexico. Her unmistakable visage and hat are

reproduced in various forms at the Day of the Dead celebrations. Altars to the deceased often feature figurines of Catrina.

A significant part of this year’s exhibition is the dedication of the Altar of the Dead to the women of great pre-Hispanic civilizations. Elaborating on this issue, the ambassador said: “As you may know, Mexico recently, for the first time in more than 200 years of our history as an independent country, elected its first female President. So, this year is a celebration of that achievement”.

“Additionally, in Mexico, the year 2025 has been declared the ‘Year of the Indigenous Women’. Combining these themes, we decided to dedicate our altar to four extraordinary women from Mexico’s major ancient civilizations, each representing a different cultural tradition. They are not the only significant women in our history, but they are also highly symbolic. Through them, we want to share with the Iranian people both the richness of these civilizations and the central role women played in them,” he underlined.

They include the Mexica woman: Tecuichpo (Isabel Moctezuma), Maya woman: The Red Queen, Mixtec woman: Lady 6 Mono (Huachino), and Toltec woman: Xiuhtatzin (Little Toltec Flower).

Daughter of Moctezuma II, Tecuichpo was a key figure in Mexica history. Her name means “cotton flower” or “white flower”. During her lifetime, she witnessed the fall of Tenochtitlán and survived the tumultuous period of the Spanish conquest, becoming a symbol of resistance and cultural adaptation, maintaining her noble lineage while facing the drastic changes imposed by the conquerors.

Consort of the celebrated ruler Pakal, the Red Queen was a queen of the city of Palenque who marked her time with her influence and sacredness. She was revered as a divine figure, reflecting her relevance in the Maya dynasty.

Lady 6 Mono, born in Jaltepec in 1073, was a prominent queen, ruler, warrior, and empire builder in the Mixtec world of Oaxaca.

The first Toltec queen, Xiuhtlaltzin ascended the throne after the death of her husband Mitl in 1035. Her brief four-year reign set a precedent in Toltec history, notable for her conciliatory nature and her role as protector of her husband’s legacy