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Araghchi to reporters at an international Tehran conference:

Iran Seeks Diplomacy, but US Operates Under a ‘Jungle Law’ Agenda

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Fortresses of fear: Israel’s walls and the myth of security

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT - Since its establishment, the Israeli entity has relied on walls, both physical and ideological, as central pillars of its security doctrine.

The project itself emerged from the logic of “preventive isolation”: fortifying settlements against an Arab environment portrayed in Zionist discourse as inherently “hostile.”

This entrenched paranoia produced successive generations of barriers: from the enclosure around Gaza, to the apartheid wall across the West Bank, and now the massive concrete blocks Israel is raising along the Lebanese border — especially opposite the plain of Yaroun, where it hopes to manufacture a “secure perimeter” shielding its northern frontier from the resistance (Hezbollah).

Decoding the deception: How Trump’s ceasefire blocks Palestinian statehood

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - U.S. President Donald Trump’s 20-point ceasefire plan for Gaza has been promoted as a pathway to Palestinian self-determination and eventual statehood. Yet Israeli officials have made clear that such statehood will never be accepted, exposing the truce plan as a diplomatic pretense designed to advance U.S. and Israeli agendas under the guise of peace.

Israeli rejection

Israel’s political leadership has spoken with remarkable unanimity. Defense Minister Israel Katz declared that “Israel’s policy is clear: there will be no Palestinian state,” vowing Gaza would be “demilitarized down to the last tunnel.” Foreign Minister Gideon Saar echoed this, insisting Israel “would not agree” to Palestinian sovereignty.

Bombing and coming winter worsen plight of Gaza survivors

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - TEHRAN — Israeli strikes and bitter cold are driving Palestinians into deeper hardship as humanitarian needs surge.

Renewed Israeli air raids struck several Gaza neighborhoods, breaching the so-called ceasefire and compounding the difficulties faced by displaced families.

The Israeli occupation forces targeted locations near the so-called “Yellow Zone,” which remains under the regime’s military control. Helicopters bombed northern Rafah, and additional strikes hit east of Khan Younis and Gaza City’s Zeitoun neighborhood. Medical staff at the Nasser Medical Complex said three Palestinians were killed in the Khan Younis attack.

Trump’s entanglement and the rot of power in Epstein’s shadow ledger

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN - Jeffrey Epstein’s archive release unfolds not as a thunderclap but a slow-motion forensic collapse: more than 20,000 pages unsealed by House Democrats on the Oversight Committee, each a page from corruption’s operating manual.

These emails, texts, calendars, and ledgers supply contemporaneous boasts, logistical blueprints, and casual cruelties that push the darkest implications from rumor into proprietary truth.

This is a predator’s playbook: records of trafficking and the sexual exploitation of underage girls, backed by hidden surveillance to manufacture kompromat. That kompromat warped U.S. policy, enriched Wall Street, and helped shape global conflicts.

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Over 2,770 Iranians among world’s top 2% most-cited researchers

TEHRAN – Stanford University, in collaboration with Elsevier, has placed a total of 2,772 Iranian researchers among the top two percent of the most-cited scientists’ annual list, based on career-long impact.

This version is based on the August 2025 snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of citation year 2024.

This work uses Scopus data. Calculations were performed using all Scopus author profiles as of August 1, 2025.

Scientists are classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields according to the standard Science-Metrix classification. Field- and subfield-specific percentiles are also provided for all scientists with at least 5 papers. ► Page 7

Anger grows in Tehran over renewed Western pressure on nuclear program

TEHRAN – Iranians are reacting strongly to a draft anti-Iran resolution expected to be circulated at this week’s meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors.

In a post on the X platform, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi highlighted the need to comply with international law avoid any arbitrary moves. ► Page 2

Iran robotics team shines at First Global Challenge

TEHRAN – A three-member team of Iranian students has won two silver medals at the ninth edition of the First Global Challenge (FGC), an Olympics-style international robotics competition held in Panama from October 29 to November 1.

The First Global Challenge takes place in a different country each year. FIRST Global invites each nation to send a team to build and program a robot for competition.

Teams work together to complete tasks in a game themed around one of the greatest challenges facing the planet, including the 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering, in an effort to foster understanding and cooperation among the youth of the world as they use their abilities to solve the world’s problems.

Its main objective is to inspire leadership and innovation in youth from all nations by empowering them through education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, known as STEM. ► Page 7

America’s missing honesty

TEHRAN – The Washington Post’s November 15 editorial on the U.S. strikes against Iranian nuclear sites claims to explain “America’s missing Iran strategy.” Yet what it truly reveals is the unsettling mindset that continues to drive U.S. policy in the region.

From the opening lines, the Post acknowledges that the bombings of Iranian territory were never solely about Iran. The paper notes that the attacks “sent a useful deterrence message to adversaries.” Washington’s strike on Iranian soil is openly justified as a warning to global rivals such as Russia and China. Iran is not treated as a sovereign state with its own rights and concerns, but as a geopolitical stage upon which the United States performs its demonstrations of power.

Equally troubling is the tone of the piece. The Washington Post expresses unqualified support for U.S. and Israeli military action, describing the bombings as justified and even necessary, yet never pauses to consider the legal or moral implications of attacking another sovereign country. ► Page 3

Iran hosts intl. conference on Iranology with scholars from 21 countries

TEHRAN- The inaugural international conference on Iranology was held in Tehran on Saturday, marking a significant milestone in promoting Iran’s cultural and academic dialogue worldwide.

Organized by Iranology Foundation in partnership with prominent institutions and research centers, the event brought together over fifty scholars and Iranologists from 21 countries. The event titled “International Conference on Iranology: Contemporary Iranian Studies, Cultural Diplomacy and International Interactions” focused on contemporary Iran, cultural diplomacy, and the role of narratives in shaping Iran’s image on the global stage. ► Page 8

Exclusive Interview



Osprey V: Rock, resistance, and survival in Gaza

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- The story of Osprey V does not begin in a studio or on a stage—it begins in the ruins, during blackouts, under the sound of drones, and in the shadows of war. As Gaza’s first and only English-speaking internationally recognized rock band, Osprey V has become both a witness and a voice for a people under siege. Their music, forged through trauma and resilience, now crosses borders as an urgent echo from a place the world has rarely listened to.

Osprey V is more than a band; it is a living testimony of destruction, a chronicle of survival, and a voice rising against what its members describe as a “new Holocaust.” Their journey traces back to 2003, ► Page 8

Scan this QR code to watch the video.



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

A golden opportunity for Tehran

Ettelaat analyzed postponement of sending the Iran nuclear issue to the UN Security Council. It wrote: The IAEA Board of Governors meeting begins on November 19 and runs through November 21. Reports indicate that the referral of the Iran case to the UN Security Council has been delayed. It is a decision that has temporarily steered diplomacy away from escalating tensions. Europe still has two active pathways to bring the matter before the Security Council: one concerning alleged undeclared nuclear materials, and the other regarding Iran's failure to report since June. This suspension has emerged as the Board of Governors prepares to convene with a broad agenda on Iran: from the status of inspections and uranium stockpiles to assessing Tehran's behavior after the June attacks. The three European countries (Britain, France and Germany known as E3) have also demanded a complete halt to enrichment and research activities. In such circumstances, the temporary suspension of referring the case to the Security Council is more of a way to buy time than a sign of exoneration; a window given to both Iran and the West to decide whether to continue down the path of tension or return to diplomacy.

Etemad: Iran's effective presence at the Riyadh summit

Etemad highlighted Iran's prominent participation in the 26th General Assembly of the UN World Tourism Organization in Riyadh. The paper argued that Seyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, through extensive and effective activity, succeeded in placing Iran at the center of global tourism attention. According to Tehran University professor Gholamreza Zarifian, the minister's active and influential presence at the Riyadh summit was a valuable opportunity to redefine Iran's position in global tourism. In the midst of complex political and economic conditions, cultural and tourism diplomacy can break political deadlocks and foster constructive interactions among nations. This trip was a clear example of the intelligent use of the country's cultural and historical capacities on the international stage. It demonstrated that Iran, by leveraging its cultural, historical, and geographical assets, can redefine its role in global tourism and elevate its regional and international interactions. Experts believe the visit heralds a new era of sustainable cooperation, economic and cultural development, and strengthened tourism diplomacy for Iran, potentially serving as a model for Iran's active presence in international forums.

First VP to attend SCO Council of Heads of Government's meeting in Moscow

TEHRAN – Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref will participate in the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Russia.

Aref is scheduled to travel to Moscow on Monday to attend the summit, which will take place the following day.

The gathering of SCO prime ministers will take place on 17–18 November 2025 in Moscow. Aref is scheduled to address the meeting and hold bilateral talks with senior officials from several participating countries.

As the SCO convenes its Council of Heads of Government summit in Moscow, member states are poised to deliver strategic momentum on economic integration. Under Russia's rotating presidency, this high-level gathering follows the landmark Tianjin Summit three months ago, and comes at a pivotal moment for Eurasian economic connectivity amid a shifting global order.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization,



headquartered in China, is the world's largest regional bloc by geographic scope and population. Its nine member states include Iran, China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

Iran became a full member of the SCO in July 2023. Today, the organization represents roughly one-third of global GDP, nearly 40 percent of the world's population, and close to two-thirds of the Eurasian landmass.

Sobh-e-No: Negotiations no longer yield results

Sobh-e-No addressed the suspension of Iran's negotiations with the IAEA following air raids on Iran's nuclear sites by Israel and the United States. The paper stated: Iran's cooperation with the Agency has been restricted following the unlawful attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran. In addition, Europe's move to activate the snapback mechanism led to the suspension of implementing the JCPOA provisions. Although Western parties never fulfilled their JCPOA commitments and Iran lonely remained loyal to the deal by adopting a strategic patience, the IAEA Board of Governors consistently issued biased reports, resulting in statements or resolutions against Iran. While the JCPOA was originally a necessity to manage the complex international environment of its time, it can be concluded that no form of negotiation with the West is fruitful. The West, particularly the United States, never attempted to use the JCPOA as an opportunity to improve economic or political relations with Iran. Despite Iran's initial voluntary steps to put limits on its nuclear activities, the West chose to dismantle the agreement. In practice, their behavior compelled Iran to pursue resistance and to conclude that negotiations are fruitless and diplomacy has run its course.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: The West seeks to give diplomacy more time

Donya-e-Eqtasad discussed the upcoming seasonal meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors and wrote: It is unlikely that any specific action will be taken at the upcoming meeting, and we will likely witness the West's constant warnings so that there is still an opportunity for diplomatic efforts with Iran, because given the attack on Iranian sites, the situation is sensitive and more time should be given to diplomacy. At the upcoming Board meeting, Iran will likely be asked to resume cooperation with the Agency, while Tehran will be implicitly threatened with the possibility of referral to the UN Security Council. Legally, however, it makes little difference to the West whether the case is referred to the Security Council, since six sanctions resolutions against Iran are already considered valid and enforceable by the West and the UN. Regarding the possibility of Iran resuming cooperation with the Agency, there is cautious optimism. Over time, some of those opposed to cooperation may soften their stance. It has been explicitly stated that Iran will not withdraw from the NPT, and therefore, Iran must implement Article 3, ensuring the non-weaponization of its nuclear program and cooperating with the Agency to guarantee its peaceful nature.

Anger grows in Tehran over renewed Western pressure on nuclear program

From page 1 ▶ “Today I met with Mr. George Katrougalos, the UN Independent Expert on promoting a democratic and equitable international order, who is in Iran to attend the ‘International Law Under Assault: Aggression and Self-Defense’ conference,” wrote Gharibabadi.

“Our discussion focused on how unilateral and arbitrary actions—such as aggression and crimes committed by the USA and Israeli regime—erode international law and destabilize the global system, pushing the world further from justice, equality, and peace,” he explained.

“I stressed the importance of Mr. Katrougalos’ mandate and noted that his distinguished diplomatic and academic background positions him to play a vital role in strengthening international law,” he added.

Iranian MP Ebrahim Azizi also lambasted IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi for capitulating under Western pressure.

“The solution to Grossi's wickedness is warning any more, by Europe and the U.S. should know that whatever they were seeking during the war and in New York, they will not attain in the Vienna meeting, either. As for the law suspending [Tehran's] cooperation [with the IAEA], Iran will not remain silent again,” he wrote.

The United States and the European Troika — France, Britain, and Germany — are, according to diplomatic sources, preparing a new resolution against Iran to be submitted at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, scheduled for 19 – 21 November. This disclosure follows Western media citations of a confidential report by Grossi, who is attempting to stoke alarm over Iran's nuclear program by raising fear about the whereabouts of the country's enriched uranium.

Iran's ambassador to the IAEA Reza Najafi has also emphasized that renewed Western pressure will have no impact on



The Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran

the country's implementation of nuclear safeguards.

On Saturday, Najafi criticized the United States and the European Troika 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,” he explained.

The current tensions can be traced to a dramatic escalation in June.

On June 13, 2025, the Israeli regime launched an unpro-

voked attack on Iranian territory, triggering a 12-day war that claimed the lives of well over 1,000 Iranians, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States also got involved in the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites. The stated justification for the aggression was to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, a claim for which neither Israel nor the U.S. provided any evidence.

Iranian officials noted that the Israeli strikes occurred just hours after the IAEA Board adopted a politically motivated resolution, and that the attacks struck nuclear facilities fully monitored under the IAEA safeguards agreement. Last month, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi was forced to acknowledge that the agency had never found evidence that Iran intended to build nuclear weapons.

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.

Tehran signed a new cooperation agreement with the IAEA in September, but that framework was abandoned after the E3 — France, Britain and Germany — moved to reinstate a mechanism to reimpose the pre-JCPOA UN sanctions on Iran.

Iran's enriched uranium now lies buried under the rubble of the nuclear sites struck by Israel and the U.S., according to previous remarks by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. Tehran had offered to transfer its most highly enriched uranium to Western authorities in exchange for the termination of UN sanctions. Europe welcomed the proposal, but the United States opted to keep up pressure on Iran, according to reporting first published by the Tehran Times.

Iran, Lebanon discuss Israeli truce violations



Iran's security chief, Ali Larijani, speaks to Lebanese MP and aide to Lebanon's parliament speaker, Ali Hassan Khalil, in Tehran on November 15, 2025.

TEHRAN – Ali Hassan Khalil, the political advisor to the Lebanese Parliament speaker, sat down with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani in the Iranian capital.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest regional developments and, in particular, exchanged views on the recent moves by the Israeli regime in

Southern Lebanon as well as repeated violations of the ceasefire by the Tel Aviv regime.

Days ago, Israeli forces carried out a new wave of aerial raids and bombed multiple residential neighborhoods across southern Lebanon as the regime continues to violate the ceasefire agreement with the Arab country.

Israeli warplanes bombed

Lebanese villages in Bint Jbeil and struck the outskirts of the town of Tayr Falsayh in the Tyre district of southern Lebanon. Lebanon's National News Agency said that Israeli jets also struck the al-Khanouk area of the Aitaroun municipality in the Nabatieh district with air-to-surface missiles. The attacks caused casualties and inflicted heavy damage on civilian infrastructure in the region.

An Israeli drone also targeted a Renault Rapid vehicle in the Nabatieh district town of Toul, wounding at least one person. The strike took place in a densely populated area while students were leaving school.

Tensions have been mounting in southern Lebanon for weeks, with the Israeli military intensifying air raids inside Lebanese territory. Despite a ceasefire reached in November last year, Israel has kept up its near-daily attacks on south and east Lebanon and is occupying five hills it deems strategic in the south.

In late September Ali Larijani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said developments in the West Asia region have made it clear to many nations that the Israeli regime does not spare any country from its actions.

Larijani, who was on a trip to Lebanon, cited the recent Israeli attack against Qatar as an example, suggesting it demonstrated the need for countries to establish mechanisms for cooperation.

He also highlighted the longstanding friendship between Iran and Lebanon, terming the diplomatic relations as historically close and increasingly warm in recent years. Larijani reiterated Iran's support for a strong and independent government in Lebanon.

The official expressed hope that developments in Lebanon would benefit its people and prepare the ground for a stable and sovereign government.

Hassan Khalil also met with Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf before leaving Tehran.

The Israeli regime has violated its ceasefire agreement with Hezbollah hundreds of times. Israel insists it will continue its attacks until Hezbollah, which has served as Lebanon's most formidable defensive force against Israeli aggression for decades, is dismantled. While the Lebanese government is unable to halt the Israeli violations, it briefly pressured Hezbollah toward disarmament. However, that pressure appears to have ceased following the Israeli attack on Qatar.

Lebanon, alongside several other Arab territories, is considered integral to the “Greater Israel” vision, the expansive territorial map Zionists pursue for what they describe as the divinely mandated Jewish state. This ambition has been openly endorsed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and numerous members of his cabinet.

Araghchi to reporters at an international Tehran conference: Iran seeks diplomacy, but US operates under a ‘jungle law’ agenda

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iranians are growing increasingly doubtful about the prospects of a diplomatic deal with Washington and its European allies. This skepticism was evident at a recent international conference in Tehran, titled “International Law Under Attack: Aggression and Defense”, where senior Iranian diplomats questioned both Washington’s genuine willingness to pursue diplomacy and the American administration’s ability to understand what’s best for the region—and for the United States itself.

The new atmosphere has arisen after more than five months of unprecedented tensions with the West over Iran’s nuclear program. While Tehran was engaged earlier this year in talks with Washington to negotiate a new agreement to replace the JCPOA — the 2015 deal President Trump abandoned in 2018 — Washington aided Israel in launching strikes on Iran’s nuclear, civilian and military infrastructure on June 13. In the following 12 days President Donald Trump vowed to topple the Iranian government, urged the capital’s roughly ten million residents to evacuate, and ordered America’s own strikes on Iran’s nuclear sites. Tensions climbed further after the war, when the European JCPOA signatories (Germany, the UK and France) activated a mechanism that restored UN sanctions against Iran this Octo-



The Head of Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, Seyyed Kamal Kharazi, speaking at the closing ceremony of the international conference, “International Law Under Attack: Aggression and Defense” on November 16, 2025.

ber. Iranian officials say the move was carried out at Washington’s behest; the E3 is now reportedly preparing to pass a resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) demanding that Iran open its damaged nuclear sites to UN inspectors. Tehran suspended cooperation with the IAEA following the U.S.-Israeli strikes, after the UN nuclear watchdog refused to condemn the attacks despite their sheer illegality.

After participating in a panel at the Tehran conference, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi answered reporters’ questions. He said Americans are asking Iranians to enter new negoti-

ations after having essentially bombed the previous negotiating table.

“The truth is that when the Israeli regime attacked Iran on June 13, under the order and guidance of the President of the United States, the first bombs were fired at the negotiating table between Iran and the United States — negotiations of which five rounds had been held, with the sixth round slated for two days later, on June 15,” he said. “Diplomacy was the first victim of the 12-day war.”

Trump said early this month that he was “pretty much in charge of” the June war.

The top diplomat added that

Iran will not concede what Washington failed to secure during the war. The Trump administration is reportedly demanding that the country dismantle its nuclear program entirely and accept limits on missile range so they could not reach Israel. Iranian officials have dismissed the demands as “madness.”

“In the jungle that the U.S. has created, there is no law, and to defend oneself, one must be strong,” Araghchi stated.

Kamal Kharrazi, a foreign policy advisor to Iran’s Leader, was more straightforward in articulating the Iranian government’s view of the United States. Speaking during another panel, he characterized the current occupants of the White House as a bunch of “showmen” who “have no experience with diplomacy.”

“We will continue to resist pressure,” he stated. “America needs to understand that it cannot take away our independence. We will resist like we did during the 8-year war [with Iraq’s Saddam Hussein] and during the 12-day war.” The senior diplomat added that Washington must try to engage in “real diplomacy” with Tehran.

Kharrazi did not elaborate on his definition of “real diplomacy,” but the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, stated last month that Iran would not engage in talks that seek to “dictate results” or include nonstarter demands.

America’s missing honesty

From Page 1 ▶ There is no reflection on international law, no acknowledgement of the human or political consequences, and not even a minimal attempt to justify the aggression that claimed the lives of at least 1,100 individuals from an ethical standpoint. Instead, Iran is depicted as the “belligerent” actor, while the states carrying out the airstrikes are framed as guardians of stability. This would question the independency of American media, even its most prestigious outlets, as they appear to be mere amplifiers of Washington’s security narrative.

The editorial further employs selective facts in a way that distorts the larger picture. It highlights Iran’s limited cooperation with the IAEA and the deepening of ties between Tehran and Beijing. But it omits the context that IAEA access was disrupted only after foreign military attacks, and that cooperation with China is neither illegal nor unusual for a country under intense Western sanctions. It also blames economic hardship in Iran on internal failings alone, without noting that sanctions imposed by the United States have deliberately targeted every segment of Iran’s economy. Perhaps the most unsettling of all is the editorial’s assertion that “there have been no negotiations with the U.S. since it bombed Iran,” completely ignoring the fact that U.S. stopped the diplomatic process by “bombing” Iran. Tehran participated in five rounds of indirect nuclear talks with the U.S. in April and June. These Omani-mediated dis-

cussions were slated to continue with a sixth session in Muscat before Israel and the U.S. launched the 12-day war that President Trump boasted of being “very much in charge of.”

The proposed solution of the editorial is also a farcical claim: maintain overwhelming military pressure, intensify sanctions, and then pursue negotiations from a position of strength. This is not diplomacy in any meaningful sense of the word. This is coercion, the same “Peace through Strength” doctrine that Donald Trump’s administration has embraced. It is a process in which one side is expected to come to the table weakened, economically strangled, and fearful, and then sign a document already written in Washington.

Iran has repeatedly declared its readiness for genuine dialogue. But genuine dialogue cannot occur under bombardment, economic siege, or threats of future attacks. Iranian officials have repeatedly asserted that Iran is ready to negotiate if there are reasonable demands being made from the other parties. Ultimately, so long as diplomacy is defined by coercion rather than mutual respect, no negotiation can be considered as genuine.

Equally overlooked is a fundamental fact: Iran has never pursued a nuclear weapon. This reality has been affirmed even by the IAEA. Yet the allegation continues to be recycled, including in the Washington Post editorial, as a convenient

Venezuela appreciates Iran’s warning over consequences of US military threats

TEHRAN – Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ivan Gil Pinto has, in a message, thanked Iran for giving a warning over the consequences of the U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean and for Tehran’s support for Venezuela’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This week as well as in mid-November, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei warned about the dangerous repercussions of U.S. military activities in the Caribbean and Latin America for international peace and security. Baqaei called for respecting Venezuela’s national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The spokesperson described the threat of using force against the legitimate and elected government of Venezuela as a clear violation of law and a gross breach of the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly the principle of the right of nations to self-determination and the principle of the prohibition of the use of force outlined in Article 2(4).

Baqaei reminded the United Nations and its Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of their re-

sponsibility to prevent the violation of international peace and security and the promotion of aggressive unilateralism in the world.

In his message, the top Venezuelan diplomat reaffirmed the Iranian people’s solidarity with the Venezuelan people as well as Tehran’s outright demand for respecting his country’s sovereignty.

The comes amid escalating tensions between Washington and Caracas as the U.S. has increasingly signaled it could use military means to pressure Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro from power.

U.S. President Donald Trump has not explicitly said he is trying to overthrow Maduro. However, it would not be the first time Trump or members of his cabinet have sought to see a change in leadership in Caracas.

The U.S. has deployed scores of military assets to the Caribbean and carried out deadly military strikes on at least five unknown boats. The Trump administration said they were drug vessels with ties to cartels and criminal organizations, but has provided no evidence for its claims. Analysts and

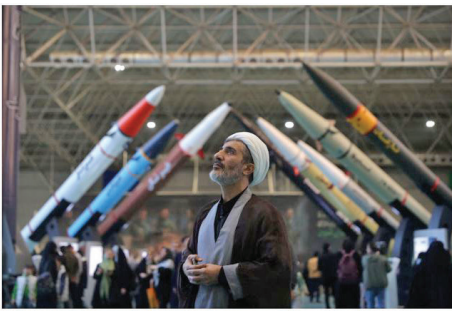
Opinion
Editorial Board

America’s missing Iran strategy

The airstrikes didn’t completely destroy the nuclear program. They only bought time.

Yesterday at 6:30 a.m. EST

3 min 155



A cleric visits the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Aerospace Force Museum in Tehran on Wednesday. (Majid Asgarpour/West Asia News Agency via Reuters)

pretext for pressure and escalation.

In the end, the Post claims the U.S. lacks a coherent strategy toward Iran, suggesting that the “credible threat of force” must remain central to its policy. Perhaps the problem is not merely strategy but honesty. If the U.S. is truly seeking stability, then basing diplomacy on intimidation will only deepen mistrust. A policy built on selective narratives, unexamined aggression, and demands for unilateral concessions cannot produce peace—only more confrontation.

activists have called the attacks a blatant violation of international law.

Meanwhile, The U.S. administration has increased the bounty on Maduro to \$50 million. Trump has also confirmed he has authorized the CIA to operate inside of Venezuela, but he said it was to counter drug smuggling.

The U.S. has also launched what appears to be the sixth lethal boat strike against an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean Sea this year.

“It appears the Trump administration decided to take heavy-handed measures against the Venezuelan government after its actions in Ukraine and West Asia. That was not the posture when Trump first took the oath for his second term — he even concluded a prisoner-swap agreement with Venezuela then,” said Ali Aboutaleb, a Latin America analyst, on a well-known Persian podcast about world affairs. “Many Americans believe a socialist system cannot exist near their borders, and Venezuela’s vast oil reserves are an additional lure that compels Washington to intervene in the country’s internal affairs.”

Khatoon to meet East Bengal at ACL opener

TEHRAN – The race for quarter-final berths begins in Group B of the AFC Women’s Champions League 2025-26 in Wuhan on Monday.

Defending champions Wuhan Jiangda Women’s FC of China, India’s East Bengal FC, Iran’s Bam Khatoon FC and Uzbekistan’s PFC Nasaf will all be aiming to start strongly with only the top two guaranteed progression to the knock-out stage.

Bam Khatoon will face East Bengal FC at the Hankou Culture Sports Centre in Wuhan.

Bam Khatoon enter the competition with valuable experience, having reached the quarter-finals last season before losing 1-0 to Korea Republic’s Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels.

Head coach Marziyeh Jafari will want her side to set the tone early with forward Melika Motevalli and captain Fatemeh Geraeli expected to drive the team’s attacking rhythm.

The Iranian champions, known for their defensive organization and combative midfield, will look to assert control from the start against East Bengal.

East Bengal will be determined to make a strong impression on their AFC Women’s Champions League debut under head coach Anthony Andrews.

The Indian side progressed unbeaten from the Preliminary Stage, topping Group E with a win and a draw and Andrews will look to build on that momentum in the Group Stage.

Spearheading the attack for East Bengal is Fazila Ikwaput, who raked in 37 goals from 22 appearances for Gokulam Kerala last season, while Sangita Basfore provides tenacity in midfield.

Iran’s Karimi wins gold at taekwondo: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iran’s Sayna Karimi won a gold medal at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Saturday.

Karimi defeated Uzbekistan’s Minaya Akbarova in the final match of the Women Taekwondo Under 46kg.

She had defeated Kazakhstan’s Yarina Pugantsova, Turkey’s Emine Gögebakan, Mariama Zakari Issaka of Niger on her way to the final bout.

Hasti Mohammadi of Iran also won a bronze medal at the Women Under 57kg after beating Madina Mirabzalova from Uzbekistan 2-1.

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.

Iran discovers fate at Women’s Kabaddi World Cup 2025

TEHRAN – Iran learned their opponents at the Women’s Kabaddi World Cup 2025.

Team Melli Banovan have been drawn in Group B along with Chinese Taipei, Nepal, Poland and Kenya.

Group A consists of defending champion India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Uganda and Germany.

The 2025 World Cup will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from November 17 to 24.

This year’s tournament holds special significance as it will be hosted outside India for the first time ever.

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) had originally announced that the tournament would be held in Rajgir, Bihar (India) from June 1 to 10, 2025. However, due to unforeseen ad-

ministrative reasons, the Bihar government withdrew from hosting responsibilities.

2025 IFCPF Asia-Oceania Cup: Iran starts on high

TEHRAN – Iran started strong in their title defense at the 2025 IFCPF Men’s Asia-Oceania Cup on Sunday.

Team Melli defeated Malaysia 6-1 at the Sriwedari Stadium. A hat-trick for Moslem Mehrabian helped Iran to the win, as the 2023 winners got off to a good start in Solo.

Amirhossein Ghorbani’s early strike set the tone, and from there, his side had no trouble. Mehrabian, Mehdi Dashtaki and Alireza Ahmadi Mogahadam all found the net before the break, showing why the team are highly fancied in Indonesia.

It was not a seamless Iranian victory, typified by their sole concession, as Adray Uzair controlled and fired home past the Iranian goalkeeper Aref Babaeian.

Mehrabian scored twice following that to complete his hat-trick, and was awarded the IFCPF Player of the Match for his efforts.

Iran will face South Korea tomorrow, with Malaysia turning their attentions to Thailand, ifcpf.com reported.

Men’s handball too strong for Maldives: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s handball team overpowered the Maldives 57-14 at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Sunday.

Iran, who had lost to Qatar 39-23 in Group A, are scheduled to play the UAE on Tuesday.

Group B includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

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.

Azmoun ready to return in about three months

TEHRAN – Iran national football team forward Sardar Azmoun is expected to be fit in about three months.

He sustained a left ankle injury during Shabab Al-Ahli’s latest training session in early October.

Azmoun underwent surgery a week later and has been undergoing a rehabilitation program under the club’s medical staff to pave the way for his return to the pitch soon.

Azmoun is expected to play a key role for Team Melli in the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Iran and Poland women’s futsal share the spoils

TEHRAN – Iran and Poland’s women’s futsal teams played to a 1-1 draw in a friendly on Sunday at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig, Philippines.

Iran’s lone goal was scored by Maral Torkman.

Iran will also meet New Zealand in another friendly.

Team Melli have been drawn in Group D of the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup, alongside Brazil, Italy, and Panama.

Shahzad Mozafar’s team will open against powerhouses Brazil.

The competition is scheduled to be held from Nov. 21 to Dec. 7, 2025, in Pasig City (Manila), Philippines.

Iran Food Expo 2025 focuses on technological imports, sustainable exports, production chain

TEHRAN- Iran Food Expo 2025, which will take place from December 3rd to 6th, is an opportunity to redefine the food industry chain in Iran, Rashid Azizpour, the secretary general of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations, stated, emphasizing the simultaneous role of technological imports, sustainable exports, and the production chain in developing the competitiveness of the food industry.

He stated that the International Food Expo 2025, held from December 3rd to 6th, presents a unique opportunity to analyze and redefine the development path of Iran's food industry.

He also stressed that the future of this industry will only be secured when the three main pillars—namely, technological imports, sustainable exports, and an efficient production chain—operate in a coordinated manner based on long-term planning. He believes that neglecting any of these components reduces the competitive ability of domestic producers and hinders leveraging the capacities of regional and global markets.

Targeted imports are the first pillar, Azizpour noted, adding that imports should not merely address domestic consumption needs but should also serve as a tool for enhancing technology and quality. The entry of standard raw materials, modern machinery, and technological equipment into the country enables the production of goods with competitive quality and export potential. He believes that non-analytical import restrictions in the current situation not only reduce innovation but also hinder the development process of processing industries and weaken Iran's position in international markets. From Azizpour's perspective, smart imports are a link in the production chain without which rebuilding the country's industrial structure is impossible.

Regarding the exports pillar, Azizpour emphasized the importance of converting agricultural products and raw materials into goods that are competitive in regional and global markets. He views exports as the result of a long-term process and states that temporary or luck-based exports cannot solidify the food industry's position. To achieve sustainable exports, the final product must meet international standards and possess a competitive advantage derived from technology and quality. He adds that many countries have succeeded in gaining significant shares in foreign mar-



kets due to a strategic view of exports, not as a final stage but as part of the production cycle.

The third pillar, the production chain, according to Azizpour, is the backbone of creating added value in the food industry. He explained that coordination between agriculture, processing industries, and packaging is a necessary condition for delivering a final product capable of competing in global markets. Processing industries, in particular, play a key role in enhancing quality, standardization, and creating exportable products. He believes that selling raw materials is only part of the economic cycle, and real value is created when a product is transformed into a commodity with a commercial and export identity.

Azizpour further emphasized that the Food Expo 2025 provides an environment for interaction among producers, technologists, and supply chain managers. He believes this interaction can provide an integrated perspective of the real needs of the food industry and pave the way for precise policymaking in the fields of imports and exports. He says the coordination of these three pillars can transform Iran from a mere producer into an influential player in the region.

According to the secretary general of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations, the future of Iran's food industry depends on today's decisions. Targeted imports, exports based on competitive advantage, and a coherent production chain can contribute to the sustainable development of the industry and turn Iran into a regional hub for food industries.

He concluded by noting that the Food Expo is not just an exhibition, but a stage for redefining the relationships between technology, production, and the global market, and success in it requires a comprehensive view and long-term planning.

Oil market adjusts as heavy crude prices stabilize after earlier highs

TEHRAN – Heavy crude prices have eased from the elevated levels of recent years, reflecting a broader adjustment across global benchmarks as supply conditions normalize and geopolitical risks moderate.

OPEC's November report shows the average price of Iran's heavy crude at about \$70.7 over the first ten months of 2025, compared with \$81 in 2024.

The shift follows a period of unusually high prices in 2022 and 2023, when elevated volatility pushed global oil indicators above \$100 per barrel.

The pattern aligns with movements in wider

benchmarks. The OPEC Reference Basket averaged \$70.8 in the same period, down from its 2022 high of roughly \$102, while North Sea Brent moved to around \$70.1 after similar peaks.

Market analysts attribute the adjustment to a combination of increased OPEC+ output aimed at balancing supply, steadier expectations for global economic growth, and a relative easing of geopolitical tensions.

After the sharp surge triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict in early 2022, prices have gradually settled into a more stable range as markets absorb earlier shocks and adjust to long-term supply expectations.

clearance bottlenecks and support businesses navigating foreign exchange allocation, import registration and standards evaluation processes.

Hassanzadeh also commended the governor of Hormozgan Province for managing the aftermath of the recent blast at Shahid Rajaei Port and providing assistance to affected workers and companies.

He expressed hope that incidents stemming from inexperience, non-compliance with standards and cargo congestion in customs zones will not recur under broader economic and customs policy plans.

Aluminum ingot production exceeds 350,000 tons in 7 months

TEHRAN – Production of aluminum ingot in Iran reached 353,700 tons in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (September 23-October 22), according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

According to the IMIDRO's report, the aluminum ingot output in the seven-month period shows a 0.4-percent rise from the production in the same period of time in the last year, which was 352,423 tons.

As the organization has reported, among the country's four major producers, South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) had the best performance in the mentioned seven months, producing 146,277 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) producing 99,389 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 89,917 tons, and Iran Alumina



Company producing 18,117 tons of ingots.

Aluminum ingots is non-ferrous product that is produced by pouring molten aluminum into special molds. These molds come in a variety of sizes and shapes, and the ingots created by this variety have different types in ap-

pearance. Today, aluminum is the second most widely used metal in the world after iron.

The continued growth in production in the aluminum chain indicates a stable supply of raw materials and improved productivity in the downstream industries of this sector.

China footwear hub Jinjiang explores joint production with Tehran

TEHRAN – A trade delegation from Jinjiang, China – the country's largest footwear manufacturing hub – visited the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) for direct meetings with the board members of Iran's Footwear Industry Association, exploring opportunities for joint collaboration.

The two sides agreed on plans for joint shoe production, exports to third-country markets, and technology and know-how transfer.

The joint meeting, hosted by TCCIMA, brought together the board members of the Footwear Industry Association and producers of footwear, machinery and raw materials from Jinjiang. Discussions focused on potential cooperation in manufacturing, exports and technology exchange.

The session concluded with the signing of a memorandum of understanding aimed at expanding economic ties between Tehran and Jinjiang.

At the start of the meeting, Hessameddin Hallaj, TCCIMA's deputy for international affairs and economic development, said the chamber is prioritizing broadening engagement with China and strengthening links with its various provinces.

He noted that in recent weeks an 18-member Iranian food industry delegation visited the China International Import Expo in Shanghai, where TCCIMA provided a dedicated pavilion to showcase Iran's export capacities and expand cooperation with China and third-country markets.

He said TCCIMA's key goals include boosting bilateral exports, expanding joint cooperation in international markets, and promoting technology and knowledge transfer, adding that with strong political relations between the two countries, efforts are underway to deepen economic ties as well.

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

As the organization has previously reported, the production of aluminum ingot in Iran reached 307,386 tons in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

Based on the mentioned report, among the country's four major producers, South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO) had the best performance in the mentioned six months, producing 127,475 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) producing 85,265 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 76,393 tons, and Iran Alumina Company producing 15,863 tons of ingots.

IMIDRO is a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran. It has eight major companies and 55 operational subsidiaries active in steel, aluminum, copper, cement, and mineral exploitation fields.

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 to Iran, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, and senior officials from the Tehran Chamber.

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

Opening the event, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab welcomed Chinese delegates who traveled to Iran for the Iran Expo. He expressed gratitude for the Chinese ambassador's continued efforts to expand economic ties between the two nations.

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.

Bombing and coming winter worsen plight of Gaza survivors

From page 1 ▶ People living close to the so-called “Yellow Zone” say life has become extremely unstable. Residents say the regime’s military continues to demolish homes. One person living only a few yards from the zone said conditions keep getting worse because they never know when the next strike will happen.

At the same time, Gaza is facing the coming winter that is creating a new humanitarian crisis. Heavy rain and cold temperatures have flooded makeshift tents and damaged shelters where many displaced Palestinians are staying. Aid groups say the Zionist regime is blocking the entry of tents, blankets, and other basic winter supplies, leaving families without protection.

Several displacement sites are now flooded because they sit lower than surrounding areas, causing water to rush into tents from every direction. Families are dealing with soaked mattresses, wet clothing, and rising water inside their shelters. Some tents have collapsed



due to the rain. Those staying in damaged buildings say water is leaking through ceilings and walls, and they are afraid the structures could collapse.

A displaced woman living in a flooded tent told Al Jazeera she had reached “exhaustion” after spending all morning trying to remove water from her shelter. She explained that she is a widow with no

relatives to help her and that she feels completely alone. “I just need help,” she said, describing how her children have no winter clothes or blankets.

Aid organizations warn that the flooding increases the risk of illness because people cannot keep their bedding or clothes dry. They also say families lack plastic sheets, heating fuel, and other ma-

terials needed to stay warm. Along Gaza’s coast, some tents have been washed away by strong tides, forcing families to relocate again.

This is the third winter since the U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal campaign, in which many Palestinians are living in temporary shelters that cannot withstand rain or cold. Conditions are getting worse as winter approaches and heavy rain fall sweeps the besieged Palestinian territory. Aid groups warn that children are sleeping in wet clothing and low temperatures, and many families have no way to stay warm.

Even though some areas are experiencing fewer explosions than before, the crisis is far from over. Airstrikes continue, the humanitarian situation is becoming more severe, and essential aid remains restricted. Under the control of the Israeli occupation regime, and with vital supplies limited, families in Gaza are entering winter with almost no protection and very little hope for relief.

Decoding the deception: How Trump’s ceasefire blocks Palestinian statehood

From page 1 ▶ Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of “silence and diplomatic disgrace,” demanding an explicit rejection. Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir denied the existence of a Palestinian people altogether, proposing “voluntary emigration” as a solution. Culture Minister Miki Zohar argued that any deal with Saudi Arabia must exclude recognition of a Palestinian state.

Far-right MK Avi Maoz accused Trump of “advancing a Palestinian terror state,” while the Yesha Council reaffirmed its long-standing position that “it’s either [Israeli] sovereignty or a Palestinian state.” This chorus of rejection across the political spectrum leaves little doubt: Israel will not permit Palestinian statehood, and the U.S. administration is fully aware of this reality.

Normalization costs

The broader geopolitical context is equally revealing. Normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia has become a central objective for Washington. Reports suggest Israel is prepared to accept U.S. sales of advanced F-35 fighter jets to Riyadh, but only if linked to normalization. Saudi Arabia, however, has insisted that any agreement must include a credible roadmap toward Palestinian statehood — a principled stance that sets Riyadh apart from other Arab states

that normalized relations without securing concessions for Palestinians.

Israeli officials, by contrast, demand normalization without statehood. Smotrich even disparaged Saudi Arabia with a racist remark, suggesting the Saudis could “keep riding camels,” highlighting the contempt with which Israel’s far right views Arabs and the fragility of U.S. efforts to broker a deal.

Diplomatic cover

Trump’s ceasefire plan ultimately functions as a diplomatic mask. It invokes the language of Palestinian self-determination to reassure Arab states, while embedding security provisions that serve Israel’s priorities.

* For the United States, the plan sustains its influence, facilitates arms sales, and positions Washington as an indispensable mediator.

* For Israel, it requires no immediate concessions while keeping normalization prospects alive.

* For Arab states, it offers symbolic recognition of Palestinian aspirations, though without substantive guarantees.

This dual messaging — promises of statehood for Arab audiences, security assurances for Israel — reveals the U.S. truce plan’s instrumental nature. It is less a peace initiative than a mechanism for advancing U.S. and Israeli strategic interests under the cover of diplomacy.



US President Donald Trump and other world leaders pose for a group photograph at the Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit in the Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh on October 13, 2025. (Evan Vucci / POOL / AFP)

Regional consequences

The consequences are clear. Palestinians see no genuine path to sovereignty, given Israel’s outright rejection. Israeli ministers advocate forced emigration and disparage Arab partners, revealing the extremism driving policy. Taken together, these dynamics show that normalization, under the current ceasefire plan, threatens to widen divisions rather than build stability, ultimately entrenching inequality and prolonging conflict instead of opening the road to peace.

Strategic reset in India-Afghanistan ties

Chabahar to play vital connectivity role

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN -- India’s renewed engagement with the Taliban administration in Afghanistan reflects a pragmatic shift by prioritizing interests over earlier ideological reservations.

India’s reset with the Taliban comes at a time when Afghanistan and Pakistan have ongoing conflict amid deadly border skirmishes following explosions in Kabul on October 9, which Afghan foreign ministry blamed on Pakistan. Islamabad accuses the Taliban in Kabul of harboring the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group, often referred to as the Pakistani Taliban. TTP has emerged as one of the biggest national security threats in Pakistan.

India has restored full diplomatic relations with Afghanistan and upgraded its Technical Mission in Kabul to an embassy, India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced in October. The announcement followed Afghan Foreign Minister Mowlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi’s six-day visit to India.

Muttaqi’s visit followed restoration of flights between the two sides and Jaishankar welcomed Muttaqi’s invitation to Indian companies to explore mineral deposits in Afghanistan and boost trade.

The Indian embassy in Kabul was downgraded four years ago amid

fighting between the Taliban and the government headed by Ashraf Ghani. The Taliban are expected to send two diplomats to New Delhi this month.

Pakistan and Afghanistan signed a ceasefire agreement in Doha, that was followed by four rounds of talks in Istanbul aimed at cementing the ceasefire towards a long-term peace. There have been some limited gains during these talks, but overall, they’ve struggled to produce a lasting, workable solution.

With the ongoing peace negotiation, the 2,600-kilometer border between the two nations has remained unstable and mainly closed. Now the landlocked Afghanistan is leaning more heavily on trade routes through Iran -- specifically Chabahar Port -- for trade with India and Central Asia.

In May 2024, Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization and privately-owned India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) signed a 10-year agreement involving a \$120 million investment for the development and operations at the Shahid Beheshti Terminal.

Meanwhile, Nooruddin Aziz, the acting minister of industry and commerce of Afghanistan, has called for enhanced cooperation and joint investment with Iran. He made the remarks at the Iran-Af-

ghanistan Joint Economic Commission meeting held on Saturday in the city of Hirmand, Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

According to Azizi, the Chabahar-Milak railway and highway projects are being advanced to strengthen the infrastructure.

Sanctions waiver

On Oct. 30, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs announced that the United States has granted India a six-month extension to the sanctions waiver for operations at Iran’s Chabahar Port. Issued under the provisions of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA), the waiver allows India to continue developing and utilizing the port without attracting secondary U.S. sanctions. Strategically, the waiver remains crucial for maintaining India’s access to Afghanistan through an alternative corridor than via Pakistan.

Worth mentioning is that in 2019 India managed to gain exemption from the sanctions on Iran’s oil and the two agreed to pay each other via their national currencies. Washington had reimposed sanctions on Iran in November 2018 during U.S. President Donald Trump’s first presidency, when the U.S. pulled out of the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and seven other countries.

Reports indicate that India has

restarted importing crude from Iran. Data from India’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed the country imported Iranian crude worth \$111 million in June. In addition to crude, India imported \$94 million worth of Iranian petroleum products between January and July this year

Pakistan-India bombings

Twin bombings a day apart rocked capitals of India and Pakistan within 24 hours. On Monday night (November 10) a car explosion in New Delhi killed at least 10 people and injured more than 30 others. The car went into flames near the city’s historic 17th century Red Fort, or Lal Qila, which is a symbol of India’s independence and a popular area for tourists.

On Tuesday afternoon, a suicide bomber self-detonated next to a police car in Islamabad killing at least 12 and wounding at least 27. Pakistan has also accused Afghanistan of involvement, although TTP has denied responsibility. The leader of the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar group, a splinter faction of the TTP, claimed responsibility, the Associated Press reported.

Russia on Wednesday strongly condemned “terrorist attacks” in Pakistan and India, calling for greater international cooperation in combating extremism.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Trump’s entanglement and the rot of power in Epstein’s shadow ledger

From Mar-a-Lago whispers to Mossad backchannels, the unsealed trove shatters MAGA illusions and Wall Street facades



From page 1 ▶ Other documents, revealed in leaked emails analyzed and published by Drop Site News, trace Epstein’s role as an Israeli intelligence asset with deep ties to former Israeli PM Ehud Barak — backchannel deals and Mossad-linked operations.

At the heart of this rot lurks Donald Trump — not an incidental golfing acquaintance but a moral sinkhole enabler.

His decades-long “friendship” with Epstein surfaced in Mar-a-Lago soirées, alleged to include underage “recruits” supplied by Ghislaine Maxwell — the convicted sex-trafficker sentenced to 20 years in 2022 and daughter of alleged Mossad agent Robert Maxwell — along with interventions that greased the trafficking machine.

Epstein’s voice cuts through the files. In an April 2011 email to Maxwell he gloated: “that dog that hasn’t barked is trump... [Victim] spent hours at my house with him; he has never once been mentioned.”

Hours sequestered with a trafficking survivor in a convicted pedophile’s lair — yet Trump, the “drain the swamp” crusader, offered silence where salvation might have rung out.

The pattern repeats across the archive. By January 2019, months before Epstein’s suspicious “suicide” under DOJ oversight, he told Michael Wolff, “Of course, he knew about the girls.”

Those threads show up in 28 documented post-conviction contacts, 2015 texts syncing Lolita Express flights to Trump’s schedule, and alleged 2017 maneuvers involving a backdated \$30 million casino loan routed through Mar-a-Lago slush funds, with Trump’s driver implicated as the courier and later rewarded.

The vulgarity unmasks alliances. A March 2018 message involving Steve Bannon’s circle asked, “Ask him [Bannon] if Putin has the photos of Trump blowing Bubba [Bill Clinton]?” — crude banter weaponizing private degradation into leverage.

Epstein boasted, “I am the one able to take him [Trump] down.” In 2015, he dangled lurid offers to reporters: “Would you like [a] photo of Donald [Trump] and girls in bikinis in my kitchen?”

Revelation threaded Epstein’s confidences — to Obama White House official Kathryn Ruemmler, Trump was “so gross... worse in real life and up close”; to former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, he lacked “one decent cell” — yet these judgments coexisted with mutual reliance: Trump wished Maxwell “well” in 2019.

Epstein’s boasts trace an inexorable pattern:

Fortresses of fear: Israel’s walls and the myth of security

From page 1 ▶ Yet none of this is new. It is merely a repetition of decades of failed strategies built on the false promise of “absolute security,” a concept marketed by the Israeli military since its inception.

A history of retreat behind barriers

Since the 1950s, Israel has surrounded its borders with Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, and Egypt with barbed wire, minefields, and fences. But the 1973 war, and later the rise of Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon, exposed the fragility of these so-called “protected borders.”

Each new barrier was met with a new form of resistance that surpassed it.

The apartheid wall built in the West Bank in 2002 after the Second Intifada was presented as a shield against “Palestinian terrorism.” In reality, it isolated Israel from the world.

In 2004, the International Court of Justice declared the wall illegal, violating Palestinians’ rights to land, movement, and life. Stretching more than 700 kilometers, the wall still failed to stop resistance, including attacks originating within

social dalliances opened political gateways and transactional logistics.

Calendars show meetings with Barak and Summers; his correspondence with Barak portrays Epstein as an Israeli cutout — rape used as blackmail to bend policy, secure massive U.S. aid, and shape regional actions in Gaza, Syria, and Ukraine.

“Spent the afternoon with Larry Summers... work well with you,” Epstein wrote in September 2013; Barak’s replies read like kompromat code: “greatly... advise for Sovereign Heads.”

In 2014, amid unrest in Ukraine, Syria, Somalia, and Libya, Epstein wrote to Barak, “Isn’t this perfect for you?” Barak: “You’re right in a way. But not simple to transform it into a cash flow.”

Reports also document Israel–Mongolia cyber pacts, \$1 million Barak loans tied to Unit 8200 exports, SIGINT pitches to Côte d’Ivoire, and Mossad-linked Yoni Koren staying at Epstein’s Manhattan pad (2013–2016) amid cryptic wires and access to officials, lairs turned infiltration hubs.

The thesis is bleak: sovereignty and influence bartered for kompromat’s quiet yield.

A Wall Street confessional appears too: thousands of missives, \$158 million “loans,” and references to “Sovereign Heads” — conduits laundering vice into billions. Wolff’s 2015 counsel, “let him [Trump] hang himself,” shows how media players were courted to smother or expose scandals.

The network sprawled bipartisan and modular: Clinton’s gloat — “Bill’s been on the plane 26 times—he owes me” — ties to flight logs and Gifford’s claims.

Emails about Bill Clinton sit beside references to tech, finance, and foreign-security deals. Bill Gates, Noam Chomsky sessions, Bannon coaching, and Peter Thiel introductions all flicker through the sheets.

Abuse becomes currency: Apollo windfalls, Syrian plays, Mossad conduits. It ravages society — pedophiles cocooned, genocides eased, dissent surveilled.

Aftershocks cleave the GOP: Representatives Thomas Massie and Marjorie Taylor Greene push disclosure; Trump’s reprisals, social-media splintering, and midterm fallout follow.

The archive’s implications ensnare Trump — “spent hours,” “knew,” “in deep.” Verdict in the files: elites traded impunity for power; institutions bargained too long. This is not merely depravity — it’s power’s rot. Heed it, or inherit extortion’s empire.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran-Kuala Lumpur direct flights resumed

TEHRAN — Iran Airtour has resumed direct flights between Tehran and Kuala Lumpur after a three-year suspension, the Iranian embassy in Malaysia said on Saturday.

The first flight took off on Sunday, Nov. 16, with one weekly service now operating between the two capitals, according to a statement released by the embassy and reported by ISNA.

The embassy said that more flights are expected to be added in the coming months.

Iran Airtour is the sole carrier currently operating the route.

The reestablishment of the direct air link is expected to support tourism and business travel between the two Muslim-majority countries.

Bastam added to Iran’s list of historical cities

TEHRAN - Bastam, a tourism destination near Shahroud, has recently been added to Iran's list of historical cities during the second conference of Iran's historical cities held in Yazd.

The conference brought together representatives from 43 cities to discuss strategies for preserving and promoting urban heritage, according to organizers.

Bastam is one of 54 cities now registered as historical cities in Iran, officials said at the event.

The ancient city, located in north-central Iran near

the Alborz Mountains, is known for monuments clustered around the tomb of Bayazid al-Bastami, a poet and mystic who died in c. 874 CE.

The town contains a mausoleum, a 12th-century minaret and mosque wall, a 1313 portal, and a 15th-century college. Nearby ruins include a mosque and cloister with stucco work.

Much of Bastam's historic architecture was built under Mongol rulers Mahmud Ghazan (r. 1295–1304) and Oljeitu also known as Mohammad-e Khodabandeh (r.1304–1316).

Ardabil plans to promote tourism capabilities in Persian Gulf states

TEHRAN – Ardabil province is set to promote its tourism attractions to attract more visitors Persian Gulf littoral countries, a provincial tourism official said.

Yahya Najargabel, the deputy tourism chief of Ardabil province, told a coordination meeting that the region's climate and natural sites make it a suitable destination for tourists from Persian Gulf states.

“The province of Ardabil, given its climatic conditions and existing attractions, is a suitable destination for tourists from the countries situated around the Persian Gulf,” Najargabel said, according to the Young Journalists Club news agency.

He said the province is engaging with private-sector operators to introduce Ardabil's tourism potential and investment opportunities in the Persian Gulf markets, “especially with a focus on Oman”.

Najargabel said efforts are also underway to attract organized tour groups from those states by cooperating with neighboring provinces, including Gilan.

“With the initiative of private-sector operators and collaboration between Ardabil and Gilan provinces, we can make this goal achievable,” he said.

He noted that tours from Oman typically last 15 days, adding that a joint travel package designed between Ardabil and Gilan could help host Omani visitors to enrich their journey in the Islamic Republic.

Ardabil, the provincial capital, is located in northwestern Iran about 61 km from the Caspian Sea on a high plain 1,400 meters above sea level, east of Mount Sabalan. The city experiences cold weather that can extend into late spring.

Esfahak, symbol of rural sustainable development



TEHRAN— Esfahak, recognized as one of the world's Best Tourism Villages by UN Tourism, is symbol of cultural heritage and rural sustainable development, said South Khorasan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Seyyed Ahmad Barabadi.

Pointing to the anniversary of the World Heritage Registration of the village of Esfahak, he said that this measure shows the authenticity, integrity, indigenous architecture, and continuity of cultural life of Esfahak village, which has made it a unique symbol of sustainable livability in the desert, IRIB reported.

He added that this success is the result of the coordinated efforts of the people, officials, experts, researchers, and tourism activists who, by adhering to the principles of protecting, authenticity-based restoration, and ethnographic research, have played a role in preserving the historical identity of Isfahan.

Barabadi said that Isfahan today is not only a responsible tourism destination, but also a successful model for sustainable rural development and a link between cultural heritage, local ecology, and the livelihood of the host community.

He expressed hope that with coherent planning and the development of sustainable tourism infrastructure, Isfahan's global status will be transformed into effective cultural and economic opportunities for the region. He appreciated all the efforts made in this direction.

Esfahak village is one of the beautiful tourist attractions located 38 kilometers from Tabas city in South Khorasan province. This desert and historical village with traditional architecture and adobe and mud houses is considered one of the historical and cultural regions of Iran due to its old texture and special architecture.

The village has drawn international attention for its sustainable reconstruction and architectural preservation efforts. The nomination dossier for global recognition included extensive scientific research conducted by the E.M.C., which played a key role in earning the UNESCO research seat.

UNESCO's research chairs promote higher education and collaborative knowledge production across the globe in fields such as education, science, and culture. Each chair is established within a university or research institution for a renewable four-year term and must include a distinguished academic leader, researchers, faculty, and students working together in a specialized area of study.

Last year, Esfahak was named one of the Best Tourism Villages for 2024 by UN Tourism. Moreover, the village won a TO-DO Award in 2020. The award is annually presented by the German Institute for Tourism and Development.

Severely damaged by the 1978 earthquake that struck Tabas, Esfahak was once deemed uninhabitable, with residents living in temporary tents. Later, they built makeshift wooden rooms, known as Otagh-e-Chooobi (wooden rooms), as they began rebuilding their lives.

With a commitment to sustainability and cultural preservation, villagers re-established the community over the years, developing eco-lodges and restoring traditional homes using ancient adobe techniques.

Esfahak's transformation into a cultural and eco-tourism destination has garnered attention for its unique architecture and sustainable practices, earning the village the prestigious Asia Architecture Award. Today, it attracts tourists from across the world, drawn to its picturesque adobe structures and commitment to preserving local identity.

Since 2021, the Best Tourism Villages initiative has aimed to promote sustainable tourism in rural areas, focusing on preserving natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and indigenous lifestyles, including gastronomy and local values.

Iran minister says UNESCO recognition of Cyrus Charter reflects deep cultural roots of justice

TEHRAN – Iran's minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts said the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's recognition of Cyrus the Great's Charter demonstrates that justice has long been embedded in Iranian culture.

Reza Salehi-Amiri made the remarks on Saturday at an international Iranology conference, held at the Islamic Culture and Communication Organization. The event focused on “cultural dialogues, opportunities and cooperation capacities” and was attended by scholars and university professors from Armenia, Greece, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Georgia, China, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Tunisia, Oman, Iraq and other countries.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran represents “deep layers of history, culture and civilization,” adding that the country's cultural identity has developed through continuity rather than rupture. He said this historical continuity has contributed to Iran's survival despite multiple invasions over the centuries.

He described Iran's history as an example of cultural resilience, saying that although the country has faced numerous invasions,



“what remained was Iranian culture and civilization.”

Salehi-Amiri also highlighted Iran's role along the ancient Silk Road, saying the country acted as a mediator among cultures, benefiting from and influencing diverse traditions. These exchanges, he said, contributed to a dynamic and global Iranian identity.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister underlined the UNESCO approval reflects long-standing Iranian values of justice, tolerance, respect for diversity and human dignity.

Salehi-Amiri added that Iran is one of the few countries offering almost all forms of tourism, and its handicrafts--supported by more than 299 registered

works--preserve the country's “aesthetic texture and historical memory.”

Earlier this month, the UN cultural body adopted a resolution recognizing the Cyrus Cylinder as one of the world's earliest declarations promoting cultural diversity and human rights. The resolution, titled “Cyrus Cylinder: An Early Charter of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity,” was jointly proposed by Iran and Tajikistan and approved by a majority of member states at the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Samarkand.

The resolution encourages UNESCO member states to raise public awareness of the Cyrus Cylinder, translate its text into various languages for education-

al purposes, and use its values to promote peace and cultural co-existence. It marks the first time an ancient Iranian artifact has been formally recognized at the global level as a document associated with the origins of human rights.

The Cyrus Cylinder, a small clay tablet measuring about 23 centimeters in length and 11 centimeters in width, is inscribed in Akkadian cuneiform and housed in the British Museum. It dates back to around 539 BCE, when Cyrus the Great, the founder of the Achaemenid Empire, captured Babylon in present-day Iraq.

The inscription describes how Cyrus defeated Babylon's king Nabonidus with the favor of the god Marduk and subsequently allowed religious freedom in the city. It records that Cyrus returned displaced peoples to their homelands and restored their temples and deities.

The cylinder remained buried for more than 2,400 years until it was discovered in 1879 by British archaeologist Hormuzd Rassam during excavations in Mesopotamia.

The cylinder gained renewed attention in the late 1960s when Iran's last Shah of Iran described it as the “world's first charter of human rights.”

Mazandaran launches fam tour for Russian, Kazakh and Turkmen visitors

northern Iran.

“This program is aimed at presenting the province's tourism capacity at a transnational level and within the framework of developing northern tourism diplomacy,” ISNA quoted Toulaei as saying on Sunday.

He said Mazandaran's strategic location on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea and its cultural ties with CIS countries (Commonwealth of Independent States) make it a suitable hub for regional engagement.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official noted that a Mazandaran Week event is designed as a combination of cultural, economic and media activities to present a realistic and dynamic image of the province. “It highlights rich nature, an active economy, and authentic cultural heritage.”

Toulaei said the six-day fam tour will include visits to tourism sites across eastern, central and western Mazandaran, as well as specialized meetings to discuss joint tourism routes.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

First Announcement

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER
No.: 52505870

KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE REFRACTORY MATERIALS FOR DRI&PELLETIZING PLANT FURNACES

This Company Intends to Purchase the Refractory Items Required for Its Steel-Making Shop by Holding a Public International Tender By selecting One Or More Companies from Top Domestic or Foreign Manufacturing Companies That Have the Appropriate and Acceptable Abilities in Terms of Records and Experience.

Therefore, The Applicant Companies Are Invited To Send The Official Letter Announcing Their Readiness To Participate In The Tender To The Following E-mail Addresses :

j.bagaan@ksc.ir ; da.iranparast@ksc.ir

Note1: The Closing Date for Declaration of Readiness to Participate in The Tender Is **30.NOV.2025**. Deadline For Receipt the Tender Documents Is **04.DEC.2025**. All Financial and Technical Bids Must Be Delivered to The Address: RAW MATERIAL PURCHASING DEPARTMENT- KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)- KM10 AHVAZ & BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD- AHWAZ – IRAN P.O.BOX: 1378 - POST CODE: 61788-13111 On Before the Closing Date **21.DEC.2025**. The Opening Date of Technical Offer Envelopes Will Be At **11:00 AM On The 23.DEC.2025**

Note 2: THE OFFERED PRICE SHOULD BE VALID UP TO **6 MONTHS AFTER OPPENING DATE.**

Note 3: Terms of The Guarantee Of Participating In The Tender :

- 1-The Foreign Companies That Participate Directly In The Tender Must Provide A Corporate Guarantee.
- 2- Foreign Companies That Participate By The Domestic Agent In The Tender Must Provide A Bank Guarantee.
- 3- The Domestic Companies That Participate Directly In The Tender Must Provide A Bank Guarantee.

Note 3: FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TO BELOW CHANAL:

Tel No.: +98-61-32136118

EMAIL: J.BAGAAAN@ksc.ir

WEBSITE: WWW.KSC.IR

Iran robotics team shines at First Global Challenge

TEHRAN – A three-member team of Iranian students has won two silver medals at the ninth edition of the First Global Challenge (FGC), an Olympics-style international robotics competition held in Panama from October 29 to November 1.

The First Global Challenge takes place in a different country each year. FIRST Global invites each nation to send a team to build and program a robot for competition.

Teams work together to complete tasks in a game themed around one of the greatest challenges facing the planet, including the 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering, in an effort to foster understanding and cooperation among the youth of the world as they use their abilities to solve the world's problems.

Its main objective is to inspire leadership and innovation in youth from all nations by empowering them through education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, known as STEM.

Based on the theme Eco Equilibrium, and with a focus on biodiversity, the 2025 FGC brought together students from 191 nations for the most international robotics challenge in the world.

This year's challenge tasked participants with navigating their robots through a rich, simulated world to carefully restore habitats, maintain ecological balance, and protect vulnerable species, emphasizing the delicate systems that support our planet and the critical role innovation plays in their survival.

The Iranian robotics team consist-



ed of Mohammad Montazeri, Mehdi Montazeri, and Saleh Azizi. Their project, titled 'PyroGuard', is a system developed based on the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) for the prevention, early detection, and response to forest fires through real-time analysis of thermal anomalies and environmental sensing.

The remote-controlled system is also capable of sending smart alerts, monitoring soil and vegetation temperature.

The team secured two silver medals for New Technology Experience and Courageous Achievement in awards called the Innovator Award and the Rajaa Cherkaoui El Moursli Award.

In 2024, Iran won a silver medal for Engineering Documentation (Katherine Johnson Award), and a bronze medal for New Technology (Experience Innovator Award).

Awards for environmental conservation

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) presented two awards, namely Reverse the Red and the International Ranger Awards 2025, to the country at the World Conservation Congress.

The congress was held in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, from October 11 to 15.

Reverse the Red is a global movement that ignites strategic cooperation and action to ensure the survival of wild species and ecosystems and reverse the negative trend of biodiversity loss.

The Iranian Ambassador to Abu Dhabi, Reza Ameri, received the award on behalf of the country.

The IUCN WCPA presented 13 rangers and ranger teams with the 2025 International Ranger Awards, recognising their incredible dedica-

tion to nature conservation.

The International Ranger Awards are intended to honour the courage, resilience, and perseverance of rangers across the world; displaying their achievements, raising public awareness about the importance of such professionals, and providing winners with funds to support the land they help protect.

Iran is the first country in West Asia to have won this award. Said-vaa National Park and the southern Parvar Protected Area Ranger Team (nine members) in Semnan province are awarded for determinedly overcoming social and ecological challenges to advance conservation.

Azin Saeedi, as the representative of the rangers, has received the award, doe.ir reported.

Moreover, Behzad Qiasi, a faculty member of the University of Tehran, won the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Young Scientists Awards for his project titled 'Develop a sustainable hydrotourism model in Iran's Miankaleh Biosphere Reserve'.

This year, 11 young researchers from across the globe, including Morocco, China, Congo, the U.S., Brazil, Ghana, and Algeria, received MAB Young Scientists Awards for their outstanding efforts and contributions.

The prize announcement took place during the 37th session of the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC), held in Hangzhou, China, after the fifth World Network of Biosphere Reserves' global summit, which took place from September 22 to 26.

Scientific articles grow by 40% in 2nd national congress on Persian medicine

TEHRAN – A total of 569 articles were submitted in the second national congress on Persian medicine, indicating a forty-percent growth compared to 390 articles handed in the first national congress on Persian medicine, according to the scientific secretary of the congress.

Among the submitted articles, 24 were accepted to be presented in the form of lectures, and 433 as posters at the congress, the health ministry's website quoted Hossein Rezaeizadeh as saying.

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

Some of these studies will be published in the international magazine of 'Traditional and Integrative Medicine', he noted.

Based on scientific achievements and participants' feedback, the executive committee of the second congress on Persian medicine is planning to add new research topics to the third congress, planned to be held from November, and boost cooperation with international magazines to lay the ground for specialized training and promote the structure of the Committee, he added.

The second national congress on Persian medicine brought together experts in Persian medicine,

traditional pharmacy, and the history of Iranian traditional medicine.

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

Addressing the second congress, Nafiseh Hosseini-Yekta, the director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office, said that a recent survey has shown that 83.8 percent of people in the country tend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine.

The survey's findings have confirmed people's positive attitude towards Persian traditional medicine. However, only 10 out of 83.8 percent use traditional medicine and supplements for the treatment of their illnesses, she added.

The first national congress was held in May 2024. The main goal of the congress is to foster a deeper understanding of traditional medicine

to promote collaboration among specialists in different fields of medicine. It also aims to globalize Iranian medicine by showcasing the latest achievements and findings to scientific communities worldwide.

Iran ranks third in traditional medicine trials

Like many ancient medical systems, Persian medicine takes a holistic approach to health, emphasising lifestyle factors such as adhering to a proper diet, moderate exercise, sufficient sleep, and mental/emotional balance.

According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), Iran ranks third in traditional medicine trials in the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), highlighting the country's status as one of the world's pioneers in traditional and complementary medicine.

China and India rank first and second, respectively, the health ministry's website reported.

The share of clinical trials in traditional and complementary medicine in Iran makes up about three percent of all clinical trials registered in the country, while just about 0.3 percent of the healthcare staff are experts in traditional and complementary medicine. The report shows the high capacity of Iranian researchers to move towards evidence-based medicine.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said.

The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.

Over 2,770 Iranians among world's top 2% most-cited researchers



TEHRAN – Stanford University, in collaboration with Elsevier, has placed a total of 2,772 Iranian researchers among the top two percent of the most-cited scientists' annual list, based on career-long impact.

This version is based on the August 2025 snapshot from Scopus, updated to the end of citation year 2024.

This work uses Scopus data. Calculations were performed using all Scopus author profiles as of August 1, 2025.

Scientists are classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields according to the standard Science-Matrix classification. Field- and sub-field-specific percentiles are also provided for all scientists with at least 5 papers.

Career-long data are updated to end-of-2024, and single recent year data pertain to citations received during calendar year 2024.

The selection is based on the top 100,000 scientists by c-score (with and without self-citations) or a percentile rank of 2 percent or above in the sub-field.

The career-long assessment captures the cumulative research influence of a scientist over their entire career up to the end of the previous calendar year (the end of 2024).

The ranking uses a composite citation indicator (c-score), which combines several bibliometric criteria to provide a comprehensive measure of a scientist's sustained impact, focusing on quality and significance over mere publication volume.

The criteria used to calculate the c-score include total number of citations (NC), H-index (H), Co-authorship-adjusted hm-index, Citations to single-author papers (NCSF), Citations to single or first-author papers (NCSF), Citations to single, first, or last-author papers (NCSFL).

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

The reputable "updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators", which provides updated versions of scientist rankings based on standardized indicators, reported on September 19 that Iran has experienced an unprecedented growth in both one-year performance and scientific career-long indicators, IRNA quoted Peyman Salehi, deputy science minister, as saying.

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

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

In one-year performance, the medical field (with 853 researchers), and in career-long performance, the engineering field (with 287 researchers) has the highest number of Iranian most-cited researchers.

Also, the number of highly cited Iranian researchers in the career-long index has grown significantly from 1,018 in 1403 to 1,021 in 1404. A five-year trend analysis shows that Iran has achieved this remarkable achievement from 433 in 1399.

The single-year index focuses on the citations

received by articles in a specific year.

In the recent report, citations received in 2024 were the basis for the ranking, which indicates the current scientific impact and the ability of the researcher to produce new knowledge, he concluded.

The 2024 edition of the Nature Index Research Leaders report has placed Iran 32nd among Research Leaders globally.

The report is based on Nature Index data from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Institute for Fundamental Sciences (IPM), University of Tehran, and Sharif University of Technology are ranked first to third in the country.

The country is ranked second in Physical Sciences, third in Chemistry, as well as Health Sciences, fourth in Earth and Environmental Sciences, and fifth in Biological Sciences in the region.

Iran's best global ranking is in Physical Sciences with the rank of 27.

The Nature Index is an open database of author affiliations and institutional relationships.

The Index tracks contributions to research articles published in high-quality natural science and health science journals, chosen based on reputation by an independent group of researchers.

The Nature Index provides absolute Count and fractional share counts of article publications at the institutional and national levels and, as such, is an indicator of global high-quality research output and collaboration.

Data in the Nature Index are updated regularly, with the most recent 12 months. The database is compiled by Nature Research Intelligence, part of Springer Nature.

In 2024, a total of 1056 Iranian researchers were recognized among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers, indicating a 12 percent increase compared to 938 identified researchers in 2023, the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Institute said.

"The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (with 427 researchers) represents 40.44 percent, and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education (with 518 researchers) accounts for 49.05 percent of the most-cited Iranian researchers," IRNA quoted Ahmad Fazlollahi as saying.

Clinical medicine with 22.54 percent, Multidisciplinary with 21.78 percent, Engineering with 17.05 percent, Pharmacology and Toxicology with 9.66 percent, Chemistry with 8.43 percent, and Agricultural sciences with 7.01 percent held the highest shares of the most-cited researchers, respectively.

Iran targets world's 12th spot in science production by 2027

Despite ongoing sanctions, Iran is planning to elevate the country's ranking for scientific productions from its current 17 to 12 by 2027.

Due to sanctions, economic restrictions, and the limitations on publishing papers by Iranian scholars, particularly during the last three years, Iran's ranking in scientific productions has lowered from 15 to 17, Shahin Akhondzadeh, an official with the health ministry, has said.

The country's advancement in science production requires compensating for the regression in research and technology through providing funds, facilitating research, and promoting meritocracy, which will reduce young elites' migration, as well, the health ministry's website quoted Akhondzadeh as saying.



NOVEMBER 17, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who is sure of God's compensation, shows much generosity himself.
Imam Ali (AS)

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

43rd Fajr International Film Festival poster unveiled

TEHRAN – The poster for the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival was unveiled on Saturday during a ceremony held beside the Tomb of Saadi in Shiraz, Fars Province.

Designed by Mehdi Davaei, the poster is based on a photograph by Jassem Ghazbanpour. In this image, Ghazbanpour captured Abbas Kiarostami, the renowned Iranian filmmaker and Palme d'Or laureate at Cannes, IRNA reported.

Speaking briefly at the ceremony, Raed Faridzadeh, the head of the Iranian Cinema Organization, said: "The function of cinema is nothing other than creating a space where you can pause and reflect in silence through works that each narrate a part of our collective story. One of the great masters of world cinema, the late Abbas Kiarostami, who created such works and narrated a portion of our collective identity, is featured on this year's festival poster."

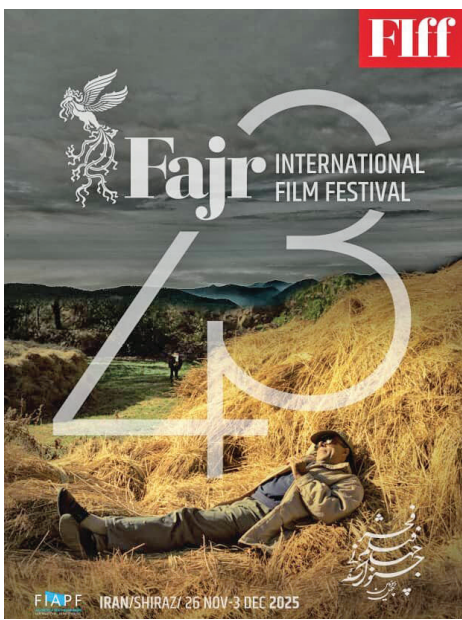
"It is an honor for the festival to bear the name of Master Kiarostami. His unique style of storytelling has a deep connection with Iranian culture, thought, and language. I hope we will have a magnificent festival in the city of Shiraz," he added.

Faridzadeh also met the Leader's Representative in Fars Province and explained about the festival. "For many years, this festival was held in Tehran, and we decided to make use of the capacities of other regions of the country. What better choice than a province that has strong infrastructure and the ability to introduce a significant part of our religious and national identity".

He noted that, based on the memorandum of understanding between the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Governor of Fars Province, the Fajr International Film Festival will henceforth be hosted by Shiraz.

"Since the theme of this festival is 'The Union of Poetry and Cinema,' Shiraz is the best place in the country to host it," Faridzadeh noted.

Referring to the foreign participants, he said: "There is great enthusiasm among filmmakers



to come to Iran, and more than 170 international guests will travel to Shiraz."

He also announced that, in addition to foreign filmmakers, ministers, deputy ministers, and film officials from 14 countries will attend the event.

Regarding the various sections of the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival, Faridzadeh said: "A special competitive section called 'Broken Olive,' dedicated to the children of Gaza and featuring nine films, will be held this year".

He added that Eastern Vista, Discovering First-Time Filmmakers, and the Film Market are among other sections of the festival.

Faridzadeh also noted that specialized panels on Middle Eastern cinematic language, along with other film-related discussions, will be held on the sidelines of the festival.

The 43rd Fajr International Film Festival will take place from November 26 to December 3, hosted by the city of Shiraz.

Tehran hosts intl. conference on Iranology with scholars from 21 countries

TEHRAN- The inaugural international conference on Iranology was held in Tehran on Saturday, marking a significant milestone in promoting Iran's cultural and academic dialogue worldwide.

Organized by Iranology Foundation in partnership with prominent institutions and research centers, the event brought together over fifty scholars and Iranologists from 21 countries. The event titled "International Conference on Iranology: Contemporary Iranian Studies, Cultural Diplomacy and International Interactions" focused on contemporary Iran, cultural diplomacy, and the role of narratives in shaping Iran's image on the global stage.

Taking place at the Iranology Foundation's conference hall, the event was lauded as one of the most comprehensive gatherings of recent years in Iranology and cultural diplomacy.

Experts emphasized that the diverse participation underlined Iran's strategic focus on fostering international understanding through scholarly exchange and cultural cooperation. The Foundation's extensive library and archives, housing over 100,000 books and numerous manuscripts, served as a testament to Iran's rich intellectual heritage and its commitment to research.

The conference's main themes centered on



Ali Akbar Salehi, President of the Iranology Foundation speaks at the first International Conference on Iranology: Contemporary Iranian Studies, Cultural Diplomacy and International Interactions in Tehran on November 15, 2025.

two panels: "Iran in a Globalized World" and "Iranology, Cultural Diplomacy, and International Relations."

Speaking at the event, Ali Akbar Salehi, President of the Iranology Foundation, highlighted the importance of dialogue and mutual respect in scholarly work, referencing the Foundation's architecture that blends traditional Persian design with modern elements as a symbol of Iran's cultural resilience.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN- The story of Osprey V does not begin in a studio or on a stage—it begins in the ruins, during blackouts, under the sound of drones, and in the shadows of war. As Gaza's first and only English-speaking internationally recognized rock band, Osprey V has become both a witness and a voice for a people under siege. Their music, forged through trauma and resilience, now crosses borders as an urgent echo from a place the world has rarely listened to.

Osprey V is more than a band; it is a living testimony of destruction, a chronicle of survival, and a voice rising against what its members describe as a "new Holocaust." Their journey traces back to 2003, when young cousins Raji and Mo'men first imagined forming a rock band in one of the most oppressed and overlooked places on earth. Gaza had no instruments, no teachers, no stages, no audience—and no peace. Yet the dream refused to die.

By 2010, the cousins were teaching themselves guitar online. Joined by their third cousin Sa'ed, they spent their teenage years practicing in a small room above their family's electronics shop, often rehearsing through blackouts with broken equipment and bombs echoing in the distance.

In 2015, they officially founded Osprey V.

What the name means

The osprey—a fierce bird of prey—thrives in the harshest terrains: resilient, solitary, and precise. Its ability to rise from devastation mirrors the band's identity and their struggle for survival. The "V," representing the number 5 in Latin, signifies the band's five original members and symbolizes unity, identity, and defiance. In their early years, they even concealed their faces, allowing the message to speak louder than their names.

Osprey V's formation was, in itself, an act of defiance. Led by Raji Al Jaru, who founded Gaza's first music store and built more than 100 makeshift studios in a land where amplifiers are harder to find than almost anything else, the band emerged against every imaginable barrier.

"We had to suffer a lot to make this happen, but we made it happen," Raji says, describing the struggle to create music in a land cut off from the world.

When Israel's latest war on Gaza erupted in October, even the band's fragile shelter collapsed.

"Literally in the war, the bombing was happening. We stopped a little bit, stopped the recording, then we paused and just continued. I had to record in a car because we didn't have a place to record in. Ash was the director of our latest film, 'Inaudible,' which shows where I was in the car trying to catch some silence and record my vocals," Raji recalls.

Music in exile

Raji is speaking now from Jordan, a refuge secured only by the tenuous grace of international connections and the dedicated advocacy of journalists and activists, whose reporting made it possible for the Jordanian government to "bring me out of the genocide three months ago."

He is painfully aware of the fates of those left behind—his own family and the band's bassist, Mo'men, who remains in Gaza—and of the extraordinary toll that displacement exacts.

"You have to take what you can within five to ten minutes. Every single time you leave, you have to pay at least 2,000 or 3,000 shekels for each departure," Raji recounts, describing the trauma of leaving, the loss of possessions, and the experience of moving



from "so-called safe places," which often became scenes of fresh massacres.

In the midst of this chaos, Raji continued to make music. Even when internet access disappeared for 80 or 90 days, he and his friends resorted to hanging a phone from a rope to catch any signal, sending vocal stems to collaborators in Egypt and beyond.

"The only thing that saved my life was my music... it kept me going and kept me hanging," he says. "I remember myself listening to my music every single day in the car in a hope that I might be able to come out alive and that my voice will be heard."

Witness to genocide, voice of resistance

Osprey V calls itself "the voice of the voiceless." Their music is testimony—but also resistance. As Raji says, "We are literally the last musical voice from Gaza... witnesses of this new 2023 Holocaust."

Each song tells a story: of home lost, of dreams broken, of ordinary love interrupted by violence and exile. "Home is not the borders, it's not the lines, it's every broken dream, it's every broken heart," Raji sings, summing up a lifetime of forced migration and longing.

One song, "Lost and Insecure," tells of a pair of Gaza lovers separated by the need to flee and the impossibility of return. Another, "Angels Kneel," composed before and during the bombardment, interrogates what it means to hold onto humanity in the face of atrocity, drawing on icons from scripture to speak to a universal search for dignity and justice.

"I altered the lyrics in the beginning when the genocide started... These faces are going to haunt us every single day until the day we die because we did not give them justice after all the genocide and the crimes that were happening in Gaza," Raji explains.

Art as resistance, rock as language

Why rock music, and why in English? For Raji, the choice is overtly political. Rock, he says, is a genre forged in the fires of resistance—the soundtrack to wars, to marginalization, to suffering.

"I've never seen any genre better than rock. Even rock stars and big bands before used this same genre in World War I and World War II, when they experienced pain," he reflects.

Choosing English, the band sought not only to reach international audiences but to confront Western narratives about Gaza and Palestine: "It was so important to be the ambassadors of Gaza people... We are from Gaza, Gaza is from us. Even if we left Gaza, Gaza is still within us."

But their art is under attack. The destruction of Gaza's her-

itage—the bombing of ancient mosques, churches, and the few remaining theaters—are, the band insists, part of a "systematic attack towards culture." Musicians have been killed for their art; their YouTube channel was deleted during the war; performances for the French Institute were cancelled when the war erupted.

Yet every attempt to erase their voice has only made them fight harder to amplify it.

Collaboration amid collapse

Osprey V is as much a movement as a band, sustained by an unconventional assemblage of artists and activists. Ash Moniz, a Canadian drummer and creative director who joined the band amid the chaos, became a pivotal advocate—connecting displaced musicians with resources, instruments, and international collaborators.

For Ash, the act of listening itself became a form of resistance.

"No matter how loud people in Gaza are screaming, people in the West aren't listening. So I really began thinking about what it means to listen, and music provides a different way to listen. Maybe people can be heard differently," Ash says.

His vision for Osprey V is expansive: "Every form of life in Gaza is a form of resistance, and art is such an important part. So many people I know have spent two years trying not to die—they want to actually live. Art is literally keeping people alive."

Rock's universality, Ash adds, makes it the ideal vehicle for Osprey V's urgent message.

"People think rock is just a Western genre, but it's actually not true. There's rock all over the world and there's something very alive about this genre of music," he says.

From song to action

Osprey V aspires not only to raise awareness, but to spur practical change. Their music is used for campaign fundraising—one song, "Drops," catalyzed efforts to dig water wells in Gaza. They have set up ways for international supporters to donate via small subscriptions, sustaining both the band and other artists in exile.

"Music could become an action on the ground, financially supporting people, and mentally—as a message that could really define it all," Raji insists.

On the edge of oblivion

The cost of this journey is devastating. Raji recounts the loss of friends and collaborators—journalists like Ismail Abu Hatab and Saleh Jafarawi, artists murdered or disappeared, memories wiped in a heartbeat. Yet he refuses to be silenced.

"The only terrorist in the region is Israel. The only cancer we have is Israel. It has always been this way. We're never going to

have peace in this region unless we get rid of Israel or Zionism," he says, refusing to bow to euphemism or to the language of those who wish to erase him.

His love for his homeland, and for the cultures and communities that survive there against all odds, is palpable: "I am 100 percent Gazan. My world revolves around Gaza. It will always revolve around Gaza."

He takes pride in Gaza's diversity, recalling how ancient churches and synagogues stood alongside mosques until they too were targeted for destruction.

Osprey V, he says, will never abandon Gaza—"even if we left Gaza, Gaza is still within us. My family is still in Gaza, my memory is still in Gaza."

Listening, truly listening

In their film "Inaudible," Osprey V asks the world not merely to hear, but to listen—to artists' screams, to the hope and despair of a generation made refugees in their own land.

"Maybe even if people are hearing the screams over and over for years, they will hear a song and it touches them in a way they never knew before," Ash says.

The band's very existence is a daring refusal to disappear.

For those outside Gaza, Osprey V's music is a summons: to remember, to bear witness, to act.

"Hope comes from Gaza," Ash says. "Even in so many artists that I know around the world, a lot of people think, oh, what's the point of making art during a genocide? But when you actually get to know people who are surviving the genocide, art is everything."

The story continues

Osprey V is now scattered yet unbroken. Raji and Ash are in Jordan, while Sa'ed, another core member of the band is in Egypt, and Mo'men remains in Gaza—their families still divided by borders, bureaucracy, and siege.

Their story, like their music, moves—angry, aching, but utterly alive.

They do not forget those left behind: the children killed, the journalists silenced, the artists erased. For every bombed stage, for each silenced voice, they respond with songs—sometimes joyful, often desperate, always rooted in the ironclad will to survive and to bear witness.

"As long as our voices, and the voices of the unheard, echo somewhere in the world," Raji says, "Gaza is not finished. Our story isn't over. We are the voice of the voiceless, and we will keep singing."