

Why Is Trump Lying About Talks With Iran?



President Donald Trump walks with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman along the colonnade toward the Oval Office, at the White House, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, in Washington.

Implementation begins for Iran's new law supporting citizens abroad

TEHRAN – Iran has begun implementing a newly approved law designed to strengthen support for Iranians living overseas, after President Masoud Pezeshkian formally communicated the legislation to all relevant ministries and national institutions.

The directive was issued in line with Article 123 of the Constitution and follows the law's approval by Parliament in mid-October and its subsequent endorsement by the Guardian Council in early November.

The legislation mandates coordination across a wide range of government bodies, including the Judiciary; ▶ Page 2

Iran deepens economic push into Afghanistan with new trade, mining, energy initiatives

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Senior representatives from Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) and multiple Afghan economic bodies signed a series of cooperation agreements during a high-level visit to Kabul and the Imam Abu Hanifa International Exhibition, signaling a broad effort to expand trade, investment and technical collaboration across mining, agriculture, energy and healthcare. ▶ Page 4

Iran, ITU to expand co-op on AI, communication infrastructure

TEHRAN – The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister, Sattar Hashemi, and the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Doreen Bogdan-Martin, have discussed ways to promote collaborations in different fields, including artificial intelligence (AI), communication infrastructure, digital multilateralism, and communication security.

The officials met on the sidelines of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25), being held from November 17 to 28 in Baku, Azerbaijan, IRIB reported.

During the meeting, Hashemi expounded on the country's achievements in information technology, AI, and communication. Highlighting the role of ITU as the primary platform for global coordination, he said that fostering multilateralism and promoting cooperation with specialized institutions are among Iran's priorities in its digital foreign policy. ▶ Page 7

Washington pressuring Lebanon's president and army

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Lebanon is grappling with an unprecedented political and diplomatic offensive targeting its highest institutions: the presidency and the army.

The latest flashpoint emerged when Lebanese Army Commander General Rudolph Heikal cancelled his scheduled visit to the United States.

Key meetings with senior U.S. military officials, congressional leaders, and diplomats were abruptly scrapped, prompting Heikal to cancel the entire trip in protest—a rare and bold assertion of Lebanese sovereignty.

The cancellations followed an orchestrated campaign in Washington. U.S. senators and political operatives criticized Heikal for publicly describing the Israeli occupation entity as “the enemy” and refusing to blame Hezbollah in the army's statements.

Senators Lindsey Graham and Joni Ernst attacked both the army and President Joseph Aoun, portraying Lebanon's military as weak and ineffective for not giving priority to disarm Hezbollah.

The strategic loom: Weaving Saudi Arabia into a U.S.-Israel framework

By staff writer

TEHRAN – The Tuesday meeting at the White House between U.S. President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was less about ceremony than about strategy.

Each announcement—from defense cooperation to economic investment—was structured to deepen Saudi dependence on Washington, preserve Israel's military edge, and advance a framework for regional normalization.

Taken together, the outcomes reveal how U.S. policy is weaving security, economics, and diplomacy into a single architecture that consolidates American influence while smoothing the path toward Riyadh-Tel Aviv normalization.

Abraham Accords

Prince Mohammed signaled Saudi Arabia's willingness to join the Abraham Accords, but reiterated that normalization with Israel must be tied to a credible path toward a Palestinian state.

West Bank aggression fuels annexation fears

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Escalating violence and sweeping crackdowns across the West Bank intensify concerns over mounting Zionist territorial control.

A new wave of raids, mass arrests, and settler violence across the occupied West Bank has intensified fears that the Israeli regime is accelerating a strategy of de facto annexation by making normal life for Palestinians increasingly impossible.

Rights groups warn that the regime's expanding military operations, impunity for illegal settler violence, and systematic dismantling of Palestinian civil spaces reflect a broader effort to entrench permanent control over the territory.

Despite repeated UN reports documenting crimes, from arbitrary arrests to unlawful demolitions, the Israeli regime continues to escalate its campaign with no international accountability.

Tehran, Beijing outline housing cooperation roadmap ahead of planned MOU

TEHRAN – Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry said officials from Tehran and Beijing have begun drafting a housing and construction cooperation roadmap that is expected to form the basis of a bilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be signed during the Iranian president's upcoming visit to China.

Farzaneh Sadegh, Iran's minister of transport and urban development, discussed the plan with Ni Hong, China's minister of housing and urban-rural development, on the sidelines of the second China-Europe rail connectivity forum, according to the ministry's news service. ▶ Page 4



300 unknown soldiers martyred during Saddam's war on Iran in the 1980s were honored in cities across the country.

Exclusive Interview

International law has collapsed under great-power pressure, UN observer warns

▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Will MBS become ambassador of peace between Iran and US?

Arman-e-Emrooz says to understand why achieving a nuclear agreement with Iran should, at least from the Saudi perspective, be a central part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's meeting with the Trump administration, we must revisit the end of this June's war between Iran and Israel. The key point is that after the 12-day war, Iran began rebuilding its military capabilities. Moreover, this war undermined hopes for a nuclear deal and deepened mistrust between the Iranian government and the Trump administration. Yet Iran's actions in the weeks and months following the Israeli-American military operation show that Tehran has not surrendered and continues to strengthen its military power. This reality should worry Persian Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia. At present, Trump's demands of Iran appear in Tehran as demands for capitulation, not compromise. Ignoring the Iran issue in discussions between Trump and the Saudi crown prince (known as MBS) could harm Saudi interests, especially given the rising likelihood of renewed conflict in the Persian Gulf. Bin Salman must work to narrow the gap between Iran and the United States; otherwise, he may end up paying the price of the next war himself.

Siasat-e Rooz: We should not rely on the West

In an analysis, Siasat-e Rooz highlighted independence as the path to progress and avoiding reliance on the West. The paper wrote: Some domestic voices insist that the West can solve the country's economic problems, believing that Western achievements can serve as a model. Yet we see that a country like China, without dependence on America and the West, has now become the world's leading economy and the largest producer in the world. Iran, too, despite many difficulties, has achieved significant progress. Scientific, medical, nuclear, and military advances, particularly in missile technology, were accomplished while the U.S. and the West sought to obstruct them through sanctions, threats, and even military aggression. The notion that the West can be both a model and a helper for Iran's progress is an illusion. Certainly, if Iran turns toward the West, everything achieved so far through the efforts of young Iranian scientists will be lost. The desire of America and the West is for a weak and incapacitated Iran.

Etemad: Iran seeking balance between the East and the West

Regarding the trip of First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref to Russia and the recent re-

marks of Kamal Kharazi, the Etemad newspaper sought the views of Maziar Balaei, a member of the National Trust Party. He said on the eve of Aref's visit to Russia, Kharazi made important statements regarding negotiations with the United States, which can be seen as an effort to establish a positive balance between the East and the West. Kharazi noted that Iran will never yield to bullying, but at the same time is always ready for fair and honorable negotiations to resolve problems. Through these strategies and statements, the Islamic Republic demonstrated that—contrary to the views of some analysts who say Tehran seeks one-sided relations with Eastern countries—it is working to create a positive balance in its relations with both the East and the West. While maintaining strategic ties with Russia, China, and even India and Pakistan, Iran also seeks to establish constructive relations with Western countries. This is a course of action that many of Iran's allies, such as Russia and China, have requested and recommended, urging Iran to resolve its disputes with the U.S. and Western states.

Sobh-e-No: Trump's admission is an official document of intervention and aggression

In an interview with MP Mohsen Mousavizadeh, Sobh-e-No examined Donald Trump's recent admission of his direct role in the 12-day war against Iran in June. He stated that this confession is an explicit and unprecedented political document. The 12-day war was directly designed and executed by the United States. Without Washington's extensive support, the Zionist regime would not have been able to withstand Iran even for a single day. Whenever America and its allies have confronted Iran, the outcome has been nothing but defeat, retreat, and political disgrace for them. Trump's recent admission cannot be regarded merely as a political stance; it carries direct legal consequences. Such statements are prosecutable under international law. Iran's diplomatic apparatus and international judicial bodies must register and pursue this confession as an official document of intervention and aggression, since silence in the face of such remarks only encourages repetition. Legal pursuit at this level would not only reinforce Iran's legitimacy but also significantly raise the international costs of America's future adventurism. Iran must turn this opportunity into a "documented case" — one that details America's role in creating tensions, inciting the Zionist regime, and attempting to destabilize the region, so that global public opinion becomes familiar with the realities behind the 12-day war.

Tehran dispatches first Sunni ambassador under Pezeshkian's administration



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) shakes hands with newly appointed Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi ahead of his departure to Dhaka.

TEHRAN – Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi, the new Ambassador to Bangladesh and the first Sunni ambassador appointed under Masoud Pezeshkian's government, met with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday to outline his proposed agenda for his mission in Dhaka.

Araghchi wished the ambassador success and emphasized the importance of advancing bilateral relations across all areas of mutual interest. Rahimi Jahanabadi has previously served two terms in the Iranian Parliament and was a member of the

National Security and Foreign Policy Commission.

Following this, Eshaq Al-Habib, Iran's new Ambassador to Ireland, met with Araghchi to present his plans for enhancing diplomatic engagement, expanding trade relations, and facilitating cultural and academic exchanges between Iran and Ireland. The foreign minister underlined the strategic importance of Iran-Ireland relations and highlighted the potential for cooperation in economic, agricultural, technological, and cultural fields.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran condemns UN Gaza resolution over violation of Palestinian rights

TEHRAN – Iran has expressed serious concern over the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2803 on Gaza, saying a major part of the resolution's text runs counter to the legitimate rights of Palestinian people.

In a statement, Iran's Foreign Ministry underlined the resolution strips Palestinians of their basic rights, particularly the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Beit-ul-Moqaddas as its capital.

Resolution 2803, passed on Monday, endorses the establishment of an "International Stabilization Force (ISF)" in Gaza under a 20-point plan devised by U.S. President Donald Trump, who says the plan is aimed at ending the Israeli regime's war on Gaza that began in October 2023. Trump's plan opened the way for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas which took effect on October 10. Israel, however, has violated the ceasefire almost every day since it came into effect.

"While expressing support for whatever regional or international move to put an end to the Israeli regime's genocide and crimes against Palestinian people and Gaza, the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip and the full withdrawal of Zionist occupiers, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran voices its serious concern over the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 2803," read the statement.



A Palestinian woman photographed in Gaza after months of Israeli bombardment

It further said those who have adopted the resolution have turned a blind eye to the pivotal role and status of the United Nations and even the previous resolutions of the world body on Palestine. The U.S. has vetoed all but one of the UN resolutions that called for an end to the Israeli killing in Gaza over the past two years.

Palestinian Resistance groups, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, have also sharply criticized the resolution, warning that it fails to uphold fundamental Palestinian rights and risks escalating regional tensions.

Yemen's Foreign Ministry also denounced the resolution, arguing it disregards fundamental Palestinian rights, particularly their right to

end the occupation, ensure self-determination, and establish an independent Palestinian state. Any plan that bypasses these rights, the ministry said, is destined to fail.

The resolution was passed with 13 votes in favor and two abstentions – China and Russia. The measure authorizes a transitional Peace Council to oversee Gaza's reconstruction and an international stabilization force tasked with disarmament operations, including collecting weapons and dismantling military infrastructure in the territory.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces continue to bomb Gaza, with hundreds of Palestinians having been killed over the past few weeks. The

regime has also prevented most aid trucks from entering the besieged enclave, where experts say famine is spreading. They warn incoming aid remains slow and insufficient.

More than 80 percent of Gaza's structures have been destroyed, leaving large swathes of the besieged territory uninhabitable – a situation expected to become catastrophic with the onset of winter.

More than 69,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed, and over 170,700 others wounded since the Israeli genocide in Gaza began. Some figures, however, say the death toll could be as high as 300,000.

Implementation begins for Iran's new law supporting citizens abroad

From page 1 ► the ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs and Finance, Culture and Islamic Guidance, and Communications and Information Technology; as well as the vice-presidential offices responsible for science, technology, legal affairs, and knowledge-based economy. The General Staff of the Armed Forces has also been instructed to take part in the law's implementation.

The rollout of the law aligns with broader parliamentary efforts to address the needs of the Iranian diaspora. Lawmakers involved in shaping the initiative have held extensive consultations with senior foreign policy officials in recent months to outline priorities such as improving consular services, resolving admin-

istrative challenges faced by Iranians abroad, and tapping into the scientific and economic expertise of expatriate communities.

A key feature of the law is its potential to boost investment inside the country. By streamlining procedures, coordinating government agencies, and creating new pathways for overseas Iranians to return, work, or launch economic projects, officials expect the legislation to lower barriers for diaspora investors.

Central to the legislation is the creation of a Supreme Council for the Support of Iranians Abroad, chaired by the president and headquartered at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The council will serve as the main body for coordinating government policies and aligning

the work of various ministries in areas ranging from economic facilitation to cultural and legal support.

The law also requires the establishment of a national system enabling Iranians abroad to submit requests related to returning to the country, seeking employment, or investing in domestic markets. Officials say the platform will be launched by the end of the year.

According to recent assessments shared with lawmakers, investments made by Iranians in 15 neighboring countries during the first half of the current year have already exceeded the total recorded last year—a trend expected to accelerate once the new coordination mechanisms are fully in place.

Panda or dragon? China's strategy amid UN sanctions on Iran

By Mohammad Khatibi

The snapback of pre-JCPOA UN sanctions against Iran have created a complex and delicate balancing act for China.

As one of Iran's key diplomatic and economic partners, Beijing has sought to navigate these restrictions with a pragmatic approach – recognizing Iran's geopolitical importance and vast energy resources while adhering to UN mandates. China's strategy has been to maintain its relationship with Iran without directly violating the UN norms and laws.

China regards itself as responsible for upholding international order and security. When engaging in confrontive dialogue with the West, the Chinese approach these discussions from a distinct perspective, according to Secretary-General of Iran-China Strategic Studies Institute, Farshad Adel.

"They tell the West that it has lost faith in international mechanisms, rendering them ineffective.....Mr. West, you have undermined international mechanisms," he explained.

China asserts that its role is to reinforce the authority of international organizations and to define processes within that framework, Adel added. This is one of the core elements of China's Global Governance Initiative, introduced on September 1st."

This careful diplomacy has often meant that Beijing has resorted to creative solutions, structuring deals through third countries, using off-the-book financial mechanisms, or engaging in non-dollar trade.

One of the key tactics China has employed to mitigate the effects of sanctions is the use of alternative financial systems. By engaging in local currency trade or even barter, China has been able to maintain commercial ties with Iran while avoiding the traditional international financial networks that are off-limits to Tehran.



The limitations on Iran's access to Western financial systems mean that China faces additional costs and complexities in conducting business. Also, the country is wary of incurring secondary sanctions from the U.S. or other Western powers, which would carry significant risks, particularly if Beijing were to deepen its involvement in sensitive sectors like military or defense.

However, should the sanctions on Iran be reduced or lifted, several sectors stand to benefit from increased cooperation between China and Iran. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) could see expanded cooperation, with China potentially ramping up its involvement in Iran's infrastructure development, particularly in areas like railways, ports, and logistics

hubs as well as oil and Gas industries.

Rather than direct military cooperation and support, Beijing has favored diplomatic solutions and nonconfrontational strategies, understanding that any significant military engagement with Iran could provoke serious repercussions from the West. China is refraining from any actions that might risk violating UN norms or escalate tensions with its key economic and security partners, such as the U.S. and European Union.

However, diplomatically, China has been one of Iran's most consistent supporters, particularly within international forums like the United Nations Security Council. This support is rooted in a desire to maintain Iran's sovereignty and to balance its own strategic objectives.

China is also cautious about its broader diplomatic and economic interests, particularly key regional actors like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. As such, while China supports Iran's peaceful nuclear program and right to self-defense, it carefully avoids actions that might escalate tensions with its other partners in the region.

"China is actively working to present a new image and brand for itself. This is why Americans often associate China with the symbol of the dragon, while the Chinese prefer to represent themselves with the symbol of the panda. They aim to project a softer, lovelier image," Adel stated.

China's relations with the U.S. and the Persian Gulf states are crucial factors that influence its security cooperation with Iran. While Beijing values its partnership with Tehran, it is acutely aware of the need to maintain stable ties with Washington and other key West Asian states. The country has adopted a careful diplomatic posture, supporting Iran in the international arena while avoiding direct military or security engagements that could harm its relationships with the U.S. or Persian Gulf allies.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Why is Trump lying about talks with Iran?

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – While speaking to reporters during his Oval Office meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, U.S. President Donald Trump told one lie and one half-truth about Iran. The lie was egregious, and the partial truth carried little persuasive weight.

The falsehood was his claim that the United States was actively negotiating with Iran over its nuclear program.

“We’re talking to them,” he said when asked whether he believed Iran wanted to sign a new agreement with Washington.

Earlier this year, efforts were underway to craft a new nuclear accord to replace the 2015 Iran deal — which Trump had abandoned during his first term. Iranian officials indicated they were prepared to reassure Americans that they were not pursuing nuclear weapons if sanctions — reimposed after Washington’s withdrawal from the JCPOA — were lifted. They also insisted Iran would not cease uranium enrichment. Reports suggested, however, that Tehran might be willing to offer greater concessions than it did under the JCPOA, so Trump would end up with a better pact than he had dismantled.

Those negotiations were ren-



dered moot when they abruptly halted on June 13, the day the U.S. assisted Israel in launching a 12day bombing campaign against Iran’s nuclear, civilian, and military infrastructure. A sixth round of nuclear talks had been scheduled to take place in Oman only days later, on June 15. Trump later confessed was “in charge of” the war, and during his meeting with Bin Salman, the president said he had done the “right thing”.

Trump’s claim that he was again in talks with Iranian officials was almost immediately repudiated by Iran’s Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei. “There is no process of negotiation between Iran and the United States,” Baghaei told reporters in Tehran. “As the

foreign minister [Abbas Araghchi] has said many times, talking to a side that does not believe in mutual respect and takes pride in military aggression against Iran has no logical justification,” he added.

The halfttruth Trump offered on Tuesday was that Iranians want a deal. “It would be a nice thing to have a deal with Iran,” he said, adding that Tehran wanted a deal “very badly.”

It is, in fact, obvious that Iran favors an agreement, said AmirAli Abolfath, an expert on American affairs.

“Iran signed the JCPOA, asked the U.S. to return to it after Trump withdrew, engaged in several rounds of revival talks with the Eu-

ropean signatories, and even began new negotiations with Washington this year. It wouldn’t have done all this if it did not want a deal,” he explained. “Where Iran and the U.S. disagree is not whether an agreement should be signed, but what provisions it must contain.”

“The U.S. continues to insist that Iran cease uranium enrichment. It is also now demanding that Iran negotiate limits on its missile program. Both of these demands are nonstarters for Iran,” Abolfath said.

But why does Trump feel the need to lie about his contacts with Iran and present the obvious as a diplomatic triumph? The answer may lie in his frustration and the realization that he cannot change the situation: he cannot make Iranians yield, nor can he revise his Iran policy to secure a genuine win-win outcome.

“When it comes to West Asia, U.S. policy is dictated by Israel. Israel wants pressure to remain on Iran and hopes that one day it can topple the Islamic Republic and fragment the country,” said Foad Izadi, a professor of American studies at the University of Tehran, during an IRIB news segment. “It may not be in Washington’s interests to confront Iran and maintain hostile relations. But Trump can’t change course even if he starts to believe in this.”

Iran Greco-Roman wrestlers win two golds: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers Mohammadhadi Sarvai and Fardin Hedayati won two gold medals at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Wednesday.

Saravi defeated Azerbaijan’s Murad Ahmadiyev 5-1 in the final of the Men’s Greco-Roman 97 kg event, while Hedayati overpowered Egyptian Abdellatif Mohamed Ahmed Abdellatif Mohamed 9-0 in the final bout of Men’s Greco-Roman 130kg.

These two medals brings Iran’s gold medal tally to 21, behind Turkey (65) and Uzbekistan (26).

The 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, known as Riyadh 2025, are an inter-continental multi-sport event organized by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF/ISSA) and held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from Nov. 7 to 21.

The event brings together more than 3,000 athletes from 57 nations, competing across 25 sports in one of the Islamic world’s premier multi-sport events.

Iran runners-up at Al Ain International Cup

TEHRAN – The Iran national football team finished as runners-up after losing to Uzbekistan on penalties in the final of the Al Ain International Cup Tuesday night.

In the final match, which was held at Al Maktoum Stadium in Al Ain, UAE, Uzbekistan dominated the first half and created several chances, but their strikers were unable to capitalize on their opportunities.

Team Melli also put Uzbekistan under pressure in the final minutes of the first half.

Uzbekistan, led by Fabio Cannavaro, were reduced to 10-man after Abdukodir Khusanov was shown a red card in the 69th minute but Iran failed to convert their chances and the match ended 0-0 in regular time.

On penalties, Uzbekistan defeated Iran 4-3 to win the title.

On Monday, Egypt finished third after defeating Cape Verde 2-0 on penalties, following a 1-1 draw in regular time.

Iran’s Para athlete Habibi takes bronze: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iranian woman Para athlete Parastoo Habibi won a bronze medal at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Wednesday.

Habibi came third with a throw of 22.89 at the Women’s Club Throw.

Tunisia’s Marwa Brahmi took gold with 25.79m and the bronze medal went to Moroccan Oumaima Oubraym with 24.2.

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.

Mehdi Taremi joins Iran 100 club

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi made his 100th official appearance for Iran’s national football team.

He played for 100th time against Cape Verde in the 2025 Al Ain International Cup, where Iran finished as runner up following a loss against Uzbekistan in the final.

Taremi made his debut against Uzbekistan

in a friendly match on June 11, 2015. He also came on as a second-half substitute in a World Cup Qualifying match against Turkmenistan on June 16, 2015.

The 33-year-old forward has scored 56 times for Team Melli.

Women’s handball fall short to Kazakhstan: 2025 Riyadh

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s handball team lost to Kazakhstan 29-26 in the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Wednesday.

Iran will face Uzbekistan in the bronze-medal match on Thursday.

The 6th Islamic Solidarity Games, known as Riyadh 2025, are an inter-continental multi-sport event organized by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF/ISSA) and held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from Nov. 7 to 21.

The event brings together more than 3,000 athletes from 57 nations, competing across 25 sports in one of the Islamic world’s premier multi-sport events.

Bam Khatoon, Nasaf seeking win at AFC Women’s CL 2025/26

TEHRAN – Iran’s Bam Khatoon and Nasaf of Uzbekistan are seeking win at the AFC Women’s Champions League 2025-26.

Khatoon lost their opening match against Indian side East Bengal 3-1 in Group B.

Leading Group B with three points, a win for the Indian club will mean progression sealed with a match to spare but Wuhan Jiangda Women’s FC, PFC Nasaf and Bam Khatoon FC will also be seeking victories.

The match will be held at the Hankou Culture Sports Centre in Wuhan, China.

Tying with the holders in the opening match was just the confidence booster Uzbekistan’s Nasaf needed as they prepare to face Bam Khatoon side reeling from their defeat to East Bengal.

Khan Vladislav’s side not only bounced back from going behind to Wuhan Jiangda but did so in commanding fashion with Nilufar Kudratova’s equalizer one of seven attempts on target, three more than the China side had in the game.

With a tough final day encounter to come against East Bengal, Nasaf will need maximum points against Bam Khatoon if it is to advance to the quarter-finals.

Facing a tougher task will be Marziyeh Jafari who will have to pick her Bam Khatoon players up after their unexpected defeat on Monday.

The experienced head coach will be demanding her team to be more clinical in front of goal after it spurned several good chances against East Bengal, with another defeat potentially ending the campaign early.

Iran rout Zanzibar at 2025 Women’s Kabaddi World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran overpowered Zanzibar 51-15 at the 2025 Women’s Kabaddi World Cup on Wednesday.

It was Iran’s third win in a row as the Persians had defeated Poland 55-11 and Kenya 42-10 in their previous matches.

Iran will play Chinese Taipei in a decider on Thursday.

Team Melli are drawn in Group B along with Chinese Taipei, Nepal, Poland, Zanzibar and Kenya.

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

The 2025 World Cup is taking place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from November 17 to 24.

International law has collapsed under great-power pressure, UN observer warns

Thomas G. Weiss says geopolitical paralysis has left the UN unable to restrain U.S.-Israel actions against Iran

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – The recent 12-day U.S.-Israel assault on Iran has reignited debates about whether the global legal system retains any real authority or has collapsed under the weight of great-power politics. For Thomas G. Weiss, a leading thinker on international governance and long-time observer of the UN, the crisis is symptomatic of a much deeper breakdown.

In this interview with the Tehran Times, Weiss argues that international law today survives more as rhetoric than as a restraining force. He warns that the UN, paralyzed by geopolitical divisions and decades of neglect, has drifted further from its founding purpose of maintaining peace and preventing aggression. From the misuse of self-defense claims to the near-total absence of accountability for war crimes, he outlines a system in which impunity has become the norm. As the UN approaches a pivotal leadership transition, Weiss contends that the coming years may be the last window to restore even modest credibility to global governance.

The following is the text of the interview:
Many observers believe that the 12-day U.S.-Israel war against Iran marked another moment when international law was completely sidelined. From your perspective, what does this tell us about the current state of the global legal order?

The global legal order is always what states make of it. It is particularly unsettling at this moment because international law seems to be under duress everywhere. In truth, that has always been the case. There is far more rhetoric about international law than real respect for it. And because there is no enforcement mechanism—aside from an occasional Security Council resolution or a World Trade Organization ruling—there is effectively no way to compel states to behave. Today, we have a large number of states misbehaving simultaneously.

The U.S. and Israel justified their operation under the notion of anticipatory self-defense.

Does this concept have any legitimate basis in international law, or is it simply a political narrative to justify aggression?

As with many provisions in international law, states interpret terms to suit themselves. UN Charter Article 51’s concept of self-defense has been invoked by many states to justify decisions that had nothing to do with genuine self-defense. Anticipatory self-defense is an even thinner justification—because the threat is not even imminent. It essentially means eliminating a potential threat before it becomes one. It is the weakest possible legal argument, and it is unsurprising that the United States and Israel rely on it regularly.

You have written extensively about the illusion of global governance. Has the UN become more symbolic than functional in maintaining peace and preventing aggression?

One could argue it has been that way since 1945. Respect for law and the UN’s ability to act rise and fall over time. But the present moment may be the worst in my professional career. The UN is essentially on the sidelines when it comes to international peace and security. The Security Council is paralyzed, issuing only the occasional lament.

The UN is an intergovernmental organization based on state interests. It works only when states want it to work. And today, there is absolutely no consensus—especially within the Security Council—on what to do. The General Assembly may condemn Russia in Ukraine or Israel in Gaza and the West Bank, but that is as far as it goes.

If you compare it with organizations like NATO or the EU, those bodies generate tangible benefits from cooperation. The UN today struggles to identify such incentives. And this paralysis extends beyond security. Look at the COP 30 climate discussions in Brazil—there is precious little movement despite a rapidly deteriorating environment.

Do you think international law was ever truly universal, or has it always served as a political instrument shaped by power and



The United Nations Security Council

privilege?

International law has always been shaped by great powers. After major global conflicts—such as the Napoleonic Wars, World War I, and World War II—victorious powers occasionally act with a moment of common sense and attempt to construct better legal and institutional arrangements.

But ultimately, I often cite Thucydides: the strong do what they will; the weak suffer what they must. Power, not norms or morality, largely determines outcomes. There have been moments when international law has attempted to rise above this—such as with the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals—but those were rare. Our present situation is not one of those exceptional moments.

Considering reports of civilian infrastructure being targeted in Iran, could such actions amount to war crimes under the Geneva Conventions or the Rome Statute?

I was not directly involved, but based on public reporting, these actions clearly violated international law. Whether bombing military or nuclear facilities constitutes a war crime will be debated for years. But it certainly violated fundamental rules prohibiting cross-border attacks without a declaration or act of war.

However, there will be no accountability. Cases involving Netanyahu and Putin at the ICC are already stalled, and accusations against the U.S. or Israel are even less likely to move forward. Impunity is the rule, not the exception.

Iran deepens economic push into Afghanistan with new trade, mining, energy initiatives

From Page 1 ▶ At the exhibition's second day, ICCIMA Deputy Head Qadir Qiyafeh and Karim Hashemi, head of Afghanistan's Chamber of Commerce and Investment, signed a cooperation agreement aimed at raising bilateral trade and strengthening institutional ties between the two chambers.

A separate agreement valued at \$100 million was concluded between Mohammad Reza Salehi, head of Iran's Energy Federation, and Habibi, chairman of Afghanistan's Union of Construction Companies, covering a five-year cooperation framework.

Another deal was signed to construct a 100-megawatt solar power plant worth \$40 million by an Iranian energy developer.

Plans for a cross-border mineral processing hub

During his visit to Afghanistan, Qiyafeh met the country's Minister of Mines and Petroleum, He-dayatullah Badri, where both sides discussed a proposal to establish a joint processing center at the border to refine Afghan minerals using Iranian technology and expertise.

The ICCIMA deputy head said Afghanistan's vast mineral reserves require high-level exploration and modern processing capabilities to unlock value.

He said Iranian companies possess long-standing industrial expertise, particularly in steel and mining technologies, which could be transferred to Afghan partners.

Qiyafeh proposed creating a joint mining committee between private-sector operators from both countries to coordinate exploration, investment planning and long-term strategy.

He also highlighted the need for reliable electricity supply for processing activities and said Iran was ready to participate in power-generation projects linked to the mining sector.

Badri welcomed the proposals, saying Kabul aims to deepen cooperation with Tehran under previous understandings reached with Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

He said Afghanistan prefers to keep extraction and processing inside its borders but is open to structured collaboration that brings investment, technology and skilled training.

Financial mechanisms, electricity supply discussed to support industrial expansion

In another meeting with board members of Afghanistan's Chamber of Industry and Mines, Qiyafeh said both sides must address financial channels for transferring funds, border challenges and customs constraints to support investment flow.

Afghan representatives urged Iranian companies to increase their presence, noting strong competition from firms in China, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

They also asked for improved border logistics, faster customs procedures and specialized training programs in Iran for Afghan businesses.

Qiyafeh said Iran has started revising its economic approach toward Afghanistan and emphasized that the joint chamber has become an active platform linking the Afghan private sector with Iranian decision-makers.

He reiterated that Afghanistan's mining sector needs a clear long-term strategy and reliable electricity supply — areas where Iran can play a key role.

Afghanistan's chamber head, Ahmad Nabizadah, pointed to significant mineral reserves near the Iranian border and said cooperation could accelerate if both sides adopt a focused priority and ensure that agreements are implemented rather than repeated.

He also raised concerns about the movement



of Afghan trucks on Iranian roads and called for streamlined procedures to support two-way industrial activity.

Agricultural cooperation seen as key to balancing bilateral trade

In a separate meeting with Afghanistan's Chamber of Agriculture, Iranian officials emphasized contract farming as the most effective tool to create balanced trade between the two neighbors.

Qiyafeh said Afghanistan's fertile land, rural workforce and strong agricultural base could help increase its exports to Iran, narrowing the trade gap that currently favors Tehran.

He encouraged Kabul to focus on producing crops in demand in Iran, supported by modern irrigation methods and improved farming efficiency.

Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber chairman Mahmoud Siyahat said Afghanistan is not yet industrialized and faces regulatory obstacles in mining, making agriculture the most realistic sector for balancing trade.

He outlined a contract-farming proposal in which Afghanistan provides land, Iranian partners supply seeds, inputs and technology, and Afghan farmers produce crops needed by the Iranian market.

He identified sugar beet, oilseeds, cotton, meat, livestock and legumes as priority items.

Afghan agriculture chief Khan Mohammad Foroutan said his chamber stands ready to manage coordination between farmers and investors in both countries and highlighted the need for agreements on standards, quarantine processes and transit arrangements.

Tehran seeks healthcare investment partnerships with Kabul

Iran also proposed expanding cooperation in healthcare, including building joint hospitals in Afghan cities and creating shared pharmaceutical and medical-equipment production lines.

During a meeting with Afghanistan's deputy minister of health, Qiyafeh said Iranian private-sector actors have already established low-cost medical facilities in Iran for traders and could replicate this model in Kabul or other Afghan cities through joint investment.

He pointed to Iran's strong pharmaceutical manufacturing sector, with companies exporting to Europe and Asia, and urged Kabul to streamline Afghanistan's drug-registration procedures, which Iranian firms say are slow and complex.

Iranian officials recommended drafting a joint investment roadmap for producing medicines and medical equipment inside Afghanistan, arguing that structured cooperation would improve supply, reduce counterfeit drugs and support long-term health sector development.

Afghanistan's deputy minister said Kabul has reduced its reliance on Pakistan — previously the main supplier of medicines — and now seeks to source pharmaceutical needs from Iran.

He said the Afghan market is open to structured Iranian investment and regulatory cooperation.

from U.S. and European sanctions.

He said cooperation between the French embassy and ICCIMA could help "soften and reduce" existing limitations, adding that French private companies remain interested in the Iranian market even as Western policies discourage investment.

Hassanzadeh criticized the French embassy's current visa policy, saying long-standing Iranian business partners face delays and barriers, and that Iranian truck drivers transporting goods between Iran and Europe also encounter difficulties that require review.

Tehran, Beijing outline housing cooperation roadmap ahead of planned MOU

From Page 1 ▶ Sadegh said both countries are ready to expand collaboration in housing policy, urban development and construction technology, noting that China's experience in large-scale infrastructure and residential projects makes it a valuable partner for Iran's urban programs.

She emphasized that continuous bilateral talks would help accelerate joint progress and open new chapters of cooperation in the housing and construction sectors.

Sadegh said Iran is prepared to draw on China's technical knowledge in urban growth management, resilient building design and modern construction methods.

She added that the forthcoming memorandum of understanding, planned for signing during the president's trip, represents a starting point for a long-term framework covering knowledge transfer, capacity building and coordinated development strategies.

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 larg-



est 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 Vafae, professor of Chinese studies at the University of Tehran, said relations between the two countries need deeper transformation and mutual understanding. He noted that Iran remains an

indispensable partner in China's global development trajectory, underscoring the necessity of broadening bilateral cooperation.

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

The event also brought together former Iranian ambassador to China Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Iran's Consul General in Shanghai Ali Mohammadi, and a group of Iranian and Chinese business leaders.

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

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

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

Najafi Arab expressed hope that the talks would "open new

economic gateways" between the two countries, citing Hangzhou's strength in electronics, innovation, and technology infrastructure.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kohak project an example of effective co-op between S. Korea, Iran: South Korean ambassador

TEHRAN- South Korean Ambassador to Iran, Kim Junpyo, emphasized the continuation of cooperation with Iran in environmental and social projects, and stated that the implementation of the "Kohak" rural wastewater project in Sistan-Baluchestan province is a successful example of effective and friendly cooperation between South Korea and Iran.

Making the remarks in the Kohak rural complex on Wednesday at the inauguration ceremony of the first rural wastewater project in Sistan-Baluchestan province, southeast of Iran, the ambassador said that it is gratifying that the Korean government has been able to contribute to improving environmental conditions, increasing local resilience, and enhancing public services by participating in such projects.

He emphasized: "Our perspective on these cooperations is long-term, and we hope that the implementation of more joint projects in the fields of water, environment, and health will be realized in the near future."

The South Korean ambassador added: "The inauguration of this project shows that when various sectors, from local governments and relevant ministries to international organizations, come together, they can deliver tangible results for the people; results whose positive effects will remain not only today but also in the years to come."

Emphasizing Seoul's readiness to continue developmental cooperation with Iran, Ambassador Kim stated: "The Republic of Korea values its strategic partnership with Iran, par-

ticularly in humanitarian and social fields, and we wholeheartedly welcome the implementation of new projects that improve people's lives, especially children and families."

Noting that Sistan-Baluchestan requires diverse support in infrastructure areas, he added: "We believe that developing water and wastewater infrastructure in less privileged regions is one of the most fundamental measures for enhancing public health, sanitation, and quality of life."

The South Korean ambassador continued: "It is a great honor for me to be here today alongside the warm-hearted people of Sistan. I sincerely thank the officials of Sistan-Baluchestan province, the executive managers, and all those who worked to advance this project."

These projects are part of a successful collective effort: UNICEF representative to Iran

UNICEF ad interim Representative to Iran, Monika Oledzka Nielsen, also spoke at the ceremony, expressing gratitude to the South Korean government and its ambassador for supporting the implementation of infrastructure projects in Sistan-Baluchestan. She stated, "It is an honor that, with the support of the Republic of Korea, access to a range of essential services has been provided in Sistan-Baluchestan."

She emphasized: "These projects are part of a successful collective effort that can bring about sustainable changes in the lives of chil-

dren and families."

Nielsen added: "The joint cooperation between UNICEF, the Ministry of Energy, the South Korean government, and local executive bodies in implementing projects in the fields of water, sanitation, and education reflects a shared vision for improving living standards in underprivileged areas. Today, we clearly see how such partnerships can have a profound and direct impact on enhancing the welfare and health of children."

Referring to the importance of the Kohak wastewater project, the UNICEF representative said: "This project has been pursued through innovative methods and can help alleviate some of the environmental and water scarcity challenges in the region. Our focus, along with local partners, is on creating a healthier environment for children, which not only benefits their health but also has a positive impact on education, especially for girls."

Referring to the contributions of the South Korean government in the health sector of Sistan-Baluchestan province, she added: "The support provided to hospitals in this province, especially the Ali Ebn-e Abi Talib Hospital in Zahedan, has enhanced services for mothers and newborns and played an effective role in improving immunization indicators."

The representative of UNICEF in Iran emphasized: "The results of these cooperation encourage us to expand partnerships in numerous areas, and this will deepen the relations between UNICEF and national and local institutions."

ICCIMA head urges France to expand cooperation in non-sanctioned sectors

TEHRAN – The head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) called for broader economic engagement with France in non-sanctioned sectors such as agriculture, water and pharmaceuticals during a meeting with the French ambassador in Tehran, saying commercial ties could help ease political constraints between the two countries.

ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh told French envoy Pierre Cochard that, despite political frictions and restrictions affecting bilateral ties, both sides have the capacity to rebuild practical channels in areas exempt

Washington pressuring Lebanon’s president and army

From page 1 ► The message was unambiguous: Lebanon’s institutions must follow foreign dictates—or risk external interference, including possible Israeli military action.

At home, factions aligned to Lebanese Forces (LF) have long cultivated influence in U.S. policy circles, lobbying to present Hezbollah as Lebanon’s main obstacle while undermining state authority.

Under President Aoun, these efforts shifted toward the presidency and army, framing Lebanon’s leadership as obstacles to foreign agendas rather than sovereign decision-makers. This internal-external nexus amplifies pressure on Lebanon’s institutions, misrepresenting prudence and measured governance as weakness.

President Aoun has consistently rejected internal strife, insisting that crises be resolved through dialogue rather than confrontation.

Yet LF-aligned factions and U.S.-connected operatives have misrepresented this caution, seeking to portray Lebanon as incapable of self-governance without foreign oversight.

This mirrors the political isolation of former Prime Minister Saad Hariri. He has been sidelined for refusing to inflame internal tensions, a pattern now threatening both



Aoun and Heikal.

The stakes are existential. There is a question whether Aoun will follow the example of former President Émile Lahoud, who oversaw Lebanon’s liberation in May 2000 and famously refused to compromise the Resistance?

Lahoud declared: “Our advice to some fools who have forgotten or ignored what happened at that time: ask former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, whom I hung up on after telling her I would never give up an inch of my country’s land.”

Those “fools” Lahoud referenced are precisely the LF and other domestic actors driven by foreign agendas to foment confrontation at Lebanon’s expense. Aoun’s measured resistance echoes this leg-

acy: unwilling to cede Lebanon’s sovereignty even under intense pressure.

General Heikal remains at the crossroads of constitutional duty and foreign coercion. By maintaining neutrality vis-à-vis Hezbollah and insisting on operational integrity against the Israeli enemy, he drew American ire. U.S. officials demand that the army abandon neutrality and act as a proxy against the Resistance, a strategy that risks internal conflict and provides Israel with a pretext for incursions.

Washington’s exploitation of the Lebanese Army is methodical: canceled meetings, delayed visits, and political pressure are used to undermine credibility and portray the army as incapable. Even French mediation over the Syrian-Leba-

nese border, framed as technical, is leveraged to weaken state authority.

Reports from Washington claim that Heikal’s statement has escalated into a broader debate over U.S. military aid. The issue has reportedly reached Secretary of State Marco Rubio, placing Lebanon’s army cooperation and funding directly under scrutiny.

Any discourse that challenges the U.S.-Israeli narrative, particularly on Hezbollah, now carries immediate diplomatic consequences, demonstrating how Lebanon’s institutions are being weaponized under the guise of “support.”

In this high-stakes geopolitical environment, Lebanon’s army and presidency are caught in an imbroglio: defend national sovereignty or appease foreign powers. Their refusal to act as instruments of external agendas is increasingly framed as failure, threatening institutional integrity and the very principle of sovereign decision-making.

Just as Hariri was isolated for refusing to inflame internal tensions, President Aoun and General Heikal now face a coordinated foreign-backed campaign of coercion and intimidation. Lebanon’s independence, legitimacy, and capacity for self-governance hang in the balance.

The strategic loom: Weaving Saudi Arabia into a U.S.–Israel framework



From page 1 ► This conditional approach reflects Riyadh’s adherence to the Arab Peace Initiative, which links recognition of Israel to Palestinian sovereignty. For Israel, Saudi participation in the Abraham Accords would represent a major diplomatic breakthrough, reduce regional isolation and embed economic and security cooperation. The conditionality ensures that normalization is framed as part of a broader peace process rather than a unilateral concession, thereby balancing regional legitimacy with strategic benefit.

Defense pact

Trump’s announcement granting Saudi Arabia “major non-NATO ally” status formalizes Riyadh’s position within the U.S. security architecture. The accompanying defense agreement strengthens an 80-year partnership and commits Saudi Arabia to burden-sharing in regional deterrence. This arrangement benefits the U.S. by anchoring Saudi defense modernization to American systems, training, and doctrine—creating long-term dependency. For Israel, the pact ensures that Saudi capabilities are integrated within U.S.-controlled frameworks, reducing the risk of independent divergence and reinforcing a shared deterrent posture against regional threats.

F35 sale

The decision to authorize the sale of F35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia represents a departure from the traditional U.S. policy of preserving Israel’s “qualitative military edge” through downgraded exports. Yet in practice, the deal does not undermine Israel’s superiority. By controlling the timing of delivery, the level of technology provided, and the training pipelines, Washington ensures that Saudi capabilities remain calibrated. Israel’s advantage is preserved through its unique access to tailored software libraries, indigenous integration, and persistent upgrade flows. While some speculate that Saudi acquisition of advanced jets could erode Israel’s edge, the

reality is that U.S. oversight keeps Israel’s aerial superiority intact. More importantly, the transaction itself creates conditions for closer ties and potential normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Saudi investments

The announcement of up to \$1 trillion in Saudi investments in the U.S., focused on technology, AI, and rare materials, creates deep economic interdependence. For Washington, this capital inflow supports jobs and innovation, while for Riyadh, it secures access to frontier technologies under U.S. regulatory oversight. Israel stands to benefit indirectly, as normalization would open pathways for trilateral cooperation in emerging industries, embedding economic ties alongside security arrangements.

Gaza resolution

The meeting’s outcomes align with the logic of Trump’s recently approved Gaza resolution, which prioritizes U.S. control, external oversight, and conditional progress toward Palestinian statehood. Saudi buy-in provides Arab legitimacy and resources to support implementation, while U.S. control over advanced capabilities ensures Israel’s security concerns are addressed. The resolution places the U.S. at the center of governance in Gaza, aligning developments with Israel’s security needs. Although it refers to a possible pathway toward a Palestinian state, Israel’s opposition makes this prospect largely symbolic and risks pushing the idea of statehood further into the background. In effect, the resolution functions less as a roadmap to sovereignty than as a mechanism to consolidate U.S. influence and reinforce Israel’s security position.

The Trump-Bin Salman meeting shows how defense, diplomacy, and economics are being woven together to serve a broader strategy. Saudi Arabia becomes more dependent on U.S. systems, Israel’s military edge remains secure under American oversight, and the Gaza resolution gains regional backing through Saudi involvement.

West Bank aggression fuels annexation fears

From page 1 ► These concerns were sharpened by the latest assault on the town of Beit Ummar, where Israeli occupation forces sealed all entrances before launching what locals describe as one of the largest arrest sweeps in years. More than 100 Palestinian residents were rounded up as the regime’s military transformed the town’s football field into a makeshift interrogation site, flooding the area with reinforcements and corralling residents for on-the-spot questioning.

The repression deepened with the punitive sealing of the home of a Palestinian gunned down by the occupation troops. The regime’s military forced his family out, with local media reporting assaults and property damage during on-site interrogations.

Human rights organizations have long condemned such collective punishment measures as violations of international law that serve to intimidate whole communities.

Across the West Bank, similar patterns unfolded. In a refugee camp south of Tubas, Israeli occupation forces deployed infantry units throughout residential blocks, raiding and searching homes. In Nablus, the eastern part of the city was stormed again, adding to a years-long cycle of invasions.

Israel escalates ‘barbaric’ attacks on Lebanon

By Shahab Sarmadi

TEHRAN – Israel continues to violate the ceasefire reached with Lebanon’s Hezbollah in November 2024, launching fresh air raids that have left over a dozen civilians dead.

On Wednesday, an Israeli strike on the Bint Jbeil district in southern Lebanon killed one person and injured several others, underscoring Tel Aviv’s disregard for Lebanese sovereignty and international mediation.

The attack came just a day after a devastating Israeli airstrike on the Ein elHilweh Palestinian refugee camp in the southern port city of Sidon, which killed 13 people and wounded several others. The strike hit a car in the car park of a mosque inside the camp, sending ambulances rushing victims to nearby hospitals. Lebanon’s Ministry of Public Health warned that the toll was still rising, making it one of the deadliest incidents since the

ceasefire was brokered.

Israel claimed responsibility for the Tuesday strike, saying its forces targeted Hamas operatives allegedly using compounds in Lebanon. The Israeli military vowed it would “continue to act forcefully against Hamas’s attempts to establish a foothold in Lebanon.” Hamas, however, rejected the accusation outright, calling it a “fabrication” and stressing that it does not operate training facilities in Lebanon’s refugee camps. In its statement, Hamas condemned the bombardment as “barbaric aggression against our innocent Palestinian people as well as Lebanon’s sovereignty.”

Lebanon’s Ministry of Public Health has reported that since the ceasefire, more than 270 people have been killed and about 850 wounded by Israeli military actions in Lebanon. The broader conflict between Israel and Lebanon began on October 8, 2023, a day after Israel launched its war on Gaza. It escalated into a full-scale war in September 2024,

killing more than 4,000 people in Lebanon, many of them civilians, before a U.S.-brokered ceasefire was reached in late November last year.

Hezbollah has condemned the strikes as proof that Israel cannot be trusted to honor agreements, framing its resistance as essential to defending Lebanon’s sovereignty and protecting Palestinian refugees who remain vulnerable to bombardment. For many Lebanese, Hezbollah’s role resonates as the only credible deterrent against further violations.

Hezbollah’s resistance has become more critical than ever, as Lebanon faces the dual challenge of rebuilding after war while defending itself against continued assaults. The persistence of Israeli strikes demonstrates that peace cannot be achieved through broken promises and unilateral force, but only through genuine respect for agreements and recognition of Lebanon’s right to protect its people.

MAGA is dead. Israel did it.

When the revolution was devoured, the pigs and the men dissolved into one

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Picture a bonfire briefly blazing across the American night, seemingly ready to burn the old order and warm the forgotten. In 2016, it seemingly roared, improbably carrying Donald Trump from ridiculed outsider to victor, swiftly sweeping aside the GOP establishment with a raw cry against endless wars, open borders, and elite corruption.

The white working class, Rust Belt laborers, disillusioned veterans, and young men scrolling through a world that felt rigged against them finally felt seen.

Trump’s Electoral College upset over Hillary Clinton felt like destiny. Eight years later, in 2024, the fire blazed again even while it seemed the establishment was trying to put Trump in jail: a decisive 312–226 rout of Kamala Harris, a popular vote majority, and gains among minorities. Victory tasted sweeter than ever.

Yet here we are, scarcely a year

into Trump’s second term, and the flames gutter. Polls show approval cratering to 38%—the lowest of his presidency—amid fury over stagnant wages, soaring costs, and a sense that the movement has been quietly hijacked.

MAGA, that unruly coalition of nationalists and populists, now lies fractured. It feels like we’ve reached the grim ending of Orwell’s Animal Farm—where supposed revolutionaries have seamlessly morphed into the very tyrants they once vowed to overthrow.

And at the heart of the rupture, whispering through online forums and podcast rants alike, is a phrase that captures the bitter disillusionment of a growing wing: “Israel did it.”

Chapter 1: The Great Schism

The American right was never monolithic, but MAGA briefly forged it into something ferocious. Tucker Carlson recently distilled its essence

into five pillars: put American citizens first, secure the borders, end pointless wars, revive real jobs, and defend free speech as liberty’s bedrock.

Today, those pillars teeter. One faction clings to them fiercely: young nationalists, paleoconservatives, libertarians—the “America First” purists who see global entanglements as the ultimate betrayal.

On the other side stand the entrenched ultraZionists and neoconservatives. Extremists like Mark Levin thunder against any critique of Israel. Senators such as Lindsey Graham remain ever eager to wage war across the Middle East. Commentators like Ben Shapiro frame unwavering support for Israel as moral clarity.

Donors such as Miriam Adelson funnel hundreds of millions, always laced with expectations. Tech billionaires like Larry Ellison buy up media outlets—both digital, like TikTok, and

football fields. The use of cluster munitions is widely banned as up to 40% of submunitions do not explode upon impact, posing a danger to civilians who might later stumble upon them and be killed when they explode.

To date, 124 states have joined the convention on cluster munitions, which forbids their use, production and transfer. Israel is not a party to the convention and is not bound by it.

“We believe the use of cluster

munitions is always in conflict with a military’s duty to respect international humanitarian law because of their indiscriminate nature at time of use and afterwards,” said Tamar Gabelnick, the director of the Cluster Munition Coalition. “Their wide area impact means they cannot distinguish between military and civilian targets and the cluster munition remnants kill and maim civilians for decades after use.”

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

Mazandaran hosts Caspian tour operators and influencers to promote Iran's image

TEHRAN – Tourism officials in Mazandaran province hosted tour operators and social media influencers from Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan this week as part of a program aimed at promoting Iran's image and showcasing the region's tourism capacity.

Hossein Izadi, head of the provincial office of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts, said the initiative seeks to present an "accurate" picture of Iran.

"Introducing Iran correctly to the world is highly on agenda for us," Izadi said during a meeting with the visitors.

He said portraying Mazandaran's natural and historical assets could counter negative perceptions of the country.

Izadi said Mazandaran's varied climate and its historical and natural sites offer opportunities for different types of tourism. He added that new investment and internationally rated hotels had strengthened the province's readiness to host foreign visitors. "This has become part of a broader effort to shape a realistic image of Iran for international visitors."

Also, Mazandaran deputy governor Mohammad-Ebrahim Toulaei, expressed hope that the event would support northern Iran's tourism diplomacy. "This is aimed at presenting the province's tourism capacity at a transnational level," he said.

Toulaei said Mazandaran's position on the southern Caspian coast and its cultural links with CIS countries make it a suitable hub for regional cooperation. He said the event combines cultural, economic and media activities to present a realistic image of the province.

He said the six-day tour includes visits to sites across eastern, central and western Mazandaran and meetings on potential joint tourism routes. He described the event as a platform for expanding cooperation in health tourism, ecotourism and the green economy.

Mazandaran's attractions include mountain ranges, forests, beaches and more than 800 registered historical and cultural sites. The village of Kandelous was recently named among the world's 52 best tourism villages for 2025 for its cultural heritage and sustainable tourism record.

Broom weaving skills registered on National Intangible Cultural Heritage list

TEHRAN--The techniques and skills of broom weaving have been registered on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list to identify, introduce, document and protect this craft, said Alireza Izadi, director general for the registration and preservation of cultural heritage at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

He told IRNA that making broom can be considered a branch of handicrafts, but its indigenous skills and knowledge are considered examples of intangible cultural heritage.

Izadi stated that this skill is common in any region that has reedbeds or plants suitable for broom weaving.

He added that broom weaving is more well-known in the northern provinces of Gilan and

Mazandaran, South and North Khorasan provinces, Fars (especially the villages around Neyriz and Arsanjan), Kerman and Sistan-Baluchestan, Isfahan and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari provinces (in areas where there are reedbeds).

Izadi clarified that the broom weaving in Iran has a long history and is completely indigenous. "In the past, due to the abundance of reedbeds and soft plants, weaving simple brooms from plant stems was a common activity in the rural settlements. With the development of agriculture and the establishment of villages, preparing brooms from reeds, soft, and thin branches of trees became a complementary profession to agriculture, and many villagers engaged in broom weaving during the low agricultural seasons."

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Cultural and civilizational developments of Iron Age in Western Iran



TEHRAN--The Iron Age in Iran is not just a historical period; it is the narrative of thousands of years of life, migration, and art that has been left in cemeteries and ancient sites from Zagros to the north of the country and has been revived today through scientific explorations.

Announcing this, Habibollah Mahmoudian, a specialist in prehistoric archaeology, told ISNA that the archaeologists have named the period from 1500 to 500 BC the Iron Age, while Iron Age I covers the period from 1450 to 1100 BC.

Based on the archaeological findings, many sites, cemeteries, and ancient sites in Iran were settled during this period, he added.

He noted that Western archaeologist Eric Schmidt, in 1934-1935 and also in 1938, led a delegation from the American Institute of Iranian Archaeology and Art to explore and excavate the Rumeshkan Valley and the Seymareh Valley. "He intended to obtain the detailed information about the cemeteries of Lorestan, and this delegation succeeded in discovering graves containing bronze attributed to Lorestan bronze in Khatunban, Lorestan. He also made important findings in the Sorkh Dom region of Lorestan."

Mahmoudian explained that archaeologist Aural Stein succeeded in discovering the settlements of Hasanlu and Dinkha Tepe between 1931 and 1935. Geoy Tepe was also investigated by archaeologist Burton Brown and artifacts belonging to the Iron Age I and II were found in this ancient site, he added.

"During the excavation of Ganj Tappeh in 1950, they succeeded in discovering Iron Age settlements in this area. This site was also excavated by Belgian archaeologist Louis Vanden Berghe in 1954, and the Belgian delegation succeeded in excavating and exploring 14 graves in this season. The archaeological findings of this delegation indicate the Iron Age I culture in this ancient site."

He continued: "Archaeologist Theodore Cuyler Young studied the information obtained from archaeological activities, especially the pottery of Iran in the Iron Age from 1500 to 500 BC and identified several pottery horizons. A very important point in his studies was that Iranians migrated from north-eastern Iran to the west and to the Zagros region from the last quarter of the second millennium BC."

Cuyler Young discovered Iron Age artifacts in Godin Tepe, and archeologist David Stronach excavated in Noshijan Tepe between 1967 and 1977 and succeeded in discovering the Iron Age III culture, he added.

Mahmoudian recalled: "Holeylan Valley was excavated from 1924 to 1963 by a Danish archaeological team led by Jorgen Meldgaard and Henry Burton. During this season, Iron Age layers were found in Goran Tepe. Babajan Tepe in Delfan Valley was also investigated from 1963 to 1968 by a British archaeological team. This site has three settlement phases, the oldest of which is related to the Iron Age."

The archaeologist explained that Iranian Archaeological Department conducted extensive research in 1961 to complete the archaeological map of Iran. The northern region of the country was among these areas that were researched. Iranian archaeologist Ezzatollah Negahban achieved to gain the most important archaeological findings.

"Negahban managed to discover the Marlik cemetery and obtained many objects in this area. Negahban considers these works to belong to the late second millennium and early first millennium BC."

Mahmoudian said: The area of ???Iron Age to Bronze Age cemeteries in western Iran is also of great importance. "Manjal cemetery is located in the mountainous area of ???Manjal, from around Char and belongs to the Bronze Age. This large cemetery has dozens of excavated graves, and the natural features of its area include water springs, forest cover, fertile land, and a temperate climate. Nearby the cemetery is the Manjal Coal Mine, which was exploited in the past."

4.5 million tourists visit Iran in six months, minister says

TEHRAN—Close to 4.5 million tourists from target countries visited Iran during the first half of current Iranian year (March-September 2025), said Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Cabinet session which was held on Wednesday in presence of the journalists and reporters, he said: "In October and November, we returned to normal conditions before the 12-day Israeli war, and this favorable situation has begun again," Mehr news agency reported.

He predicted that the country would witness rise in number of tourists by the end of this year compared to the last year.

Salehi-Amiri also said that the



development of health tourism is one of the priorities of Tourism Ministry.

"In this regard, a comprehensive medical tourism system has been designed in collaboration with

member agencies, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor, the Social Security Organization, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all relevant agencies, which will be unveiled in the near future."

Deputy minister says Shirvan seeking national designation for Dotar making

TEHRAN – Iran's deputy minister for handicrafts said on Tuesday that authorities are working to register the northeastern city of Shirvan as the country's national hub for Dotar making during a visit to local artisans in the city located in North Khorasan province.

Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi noted that one of the main aims of her trip was to review progress on the national registration file for Dotar craftsmanship. She said initial steps had been completed and that officials were working to finalize the dossier so Shirvan could be designated the national city of Dotar making.

The official said such a designation could strengthen local capacities and promote Shirvan's craft at national and international levels, according to the report.

Elsewhere in her remarks, Jalali-Dehkordi underlined that structural problems facing artisans included the prevalence of individual rather than collective activity. She called for the formation of unions, cooperatives and professional associations to improve access to bank loans, insurance, training and government support.

The official also emphasized that handicrafts could not survive without a stable market. She said producers needed to strengthen marketing, build international links and expand domestic and foreign sales channels.

She also referred to a ministry plan that aims to link Iranian provinces with neighboring countries to create cultural exchanges. She said the initiative could open opportunities for exports, new markets and broader promotion of Iranian handicrafts.

The United Nations cultural agency UNESCO inscribed the traditional skills of crafting and playing the Dotar on its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list in 2019. UNESCO says the instrument is central to folkloric music in Dotar regions, where farmers and community members craft and play it using local woods and transmit related knowledge through the master-student tradition.

The stringed instrument is traditionally played at weddings, celebrations and ceremonies, recounting epic, historical and lyrical narratives that reflect community identity. UNESCO says the practice supports coexistence, respect and understanding among communities and neighboring countries.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Chartres Cathedral

Notre-Dame de Chartres Cathedral, located in the Centre-Val-de-Loire region, is one of the most authentic and complete works of religious architecture of the early 13th century.

It was the destination of a pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin Mary, among the most popular in all medieval Western Christianity. Because of the unity of its architecture and decoration, the result of research of the first Gothic era, its immense influence on the art of Middle Age Christi-

anity, Chartres Cathedral appears as an essential landmark in the history of medieval architecture.

The outstanding stained-glass ensemble, monumental statuary of the 12th and 13th centuries and the painted decorations miraculously preserved from the ravages of humankind and time, make Chartres one of the most admirable and the best-preserved examples of Gothic art.

The west façade built around the middle of

the 12th century, with its three portals whose splay are decorated with statue columns (Royal Portal), its two towers, its southern spire and its three large incomparable stained-glass windows, comprise an authentic and complete example that remains with us of this art created at St Denis, and which marked the advent of an original mode of plastic expression, known as the Gothic style.

(Source: UNESCO)

Second Announcement



KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY

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 OPENING 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, ITU to expand co-op on AI, communication infrastructure

From page 1 ► The official went on to propose expanding ties through holding specialized training courses for human resource development in Iran, conducting collaborative digital transformation projects in rural and less privileged areas, and exchanging knowledge and experiences in digital policymaking, 5G communications, the Internet of Things (IoT), and AI.

The ICT minister said Iran looks forward to enhancing cooperation with ITU in a structured, forward-looking framework; the joint efforts will contribute to strengthening communication networks, promoting digital resilience, and developing a smart economy in the region and the world.

Referring to cyberattacks against Iran's communication infrastructures during the 12-day war, imposed by Israel, the official called on the Union to place the protection of communication infrastructures in wartime at the top of its agenda. He also invited Bogdan-Martin to pay a visit to Iran.

Bogdan-Martin, for her part, lauded Iran's active participation in the meeting, committees, and programs of ITU, saying that Iran is one of the influential members in policymaking and technical dis-



cussions.

Iranian experts' regular presence and the quality of their participation in meetings play a crucial role in pursuing the goals of ITU, she noted.

She voiced the Union's readiness for the expansion of ties in technical skills development, human resource empowerment, and knowledge exchange in emerging technologies through joint efforts.

Referring to Iran's high capacities in AI, communication infrastructures, and digital service

development, Bogdan-Martin said Iran can play a more prominent role in developing new standards and international programs.

Moreover, she welcomed the invitation of the ICT minister to visit Iran, underlining that cooperation between Iran and the Union can set a role model for the sustainable development of communications in the region and the expansion of digital inclusion in countries; it will enhance networks' resilience and smart economy.

An Iranian delegation led by

Hashemi is participating in the WTDC-25, being held under the theme 'Universal, meaningful, and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future'.

On the sidelines of the conference, Hashemi is scheduled to hold meetings with his counterparts and many other high-level delegates to share expertise and foster technological collaborations in different fields like fiber optic networks, G5 technologies, and AI.

Iran to attend CITES COP20

TEHRAN – Iran will participate in the twentieth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP20), which is scheduled to be held from November 24 to December 5 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The COP is held every two or three years to define, approve, and implement administrative, technical, and financial issues, as well as communication, measures, and programs.

It will review progress in the conservation of species included in the appendices of the convention, examine proposals to upgrade or downgrade a species from appendices I and II, or add a species to the list, elaborate on documents and reports from the permanent committees, the animals and plants committees, the secretariat, and working groups.

Pursuing the funding for the convention, proposing measures to improve the effectiveness of the convention, and the function of the secretariat are among other issues to be discussed in the meeting.

The COP will be attended by high-ranking officials from the departments of environment of different countries, or even their presidents, delegations representing CITES parties, and observers who are not party to CITES, of United Nations agencies, and other international conventions. However, they cannot vote or participate in the discussions.

This year, 51 proposals were submitted, 14 focused on mammals, 4 on birds, 8 on reptiles, one on amphibians, seven on sharks and rays, two on sea cucumbers, and 12 on plants. There is one proposal on freshwater eels, one on arachnids, and one on gastropods.

CITES is a multilateral treaty to protect en-

dangered plants and animals from the threats of international trade. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The convention was opened for signature in 1973, and CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975.

Working group to combat wildlife trafficking

The Department of Environment (DOE) has established a working group to monitor wildlife cybercrimes and combat illegal wildlife trade, an official with the DOE said in September.

Wildlife trafficking is the third most profitable crime, following drug and weapon trafficking.

Studies indicate that 25 percent of species advertised for sale are listed as prohibited in international trade by the CITES.

From lion cubs to pythons, salamanders, Persian squirrels, rhesus monkeys, birds such as falcons, bustards, saker falcons, different types of hawks, invertebrates, reptiles such as native and non-native turtles, snakes, and iguanas are among the most common wild species that are illegally bought, sold, and kept.

The DOE, in cooperation with experts of the Wildlife Organization, is also developing another plan to combat wildlife trafficking, which will be implemented nationwide once it is approved, ISNA quoted Hamid Zoharbi as saying.

The main goal is to attract more attention to wildlife trafficking and deal with wildlife traffickers more decisively.

Strategic plan to preserve endangered species

President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued an order, obligating the DOE to develop a strategic plan to preserve endangered species in the country.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Rainfalls brings life back to Gomishan wetland

Gomishan international wetland, northern province of Golestan, is once again partially filled with water with recent rainfalls, the provincial chief of the department of environment has said.

Over the past few days more than 60 percent of the wetland was filled due to the recent rainfalls and now 20,000 hectares of the wetland are covered with water, Amir Abdous said on Tuesday.

Due to the decrease in the water level at the Caspian Sea the wetland has been dried specially during hot seasons, Abdous said, adding that in winter a small part of the wetland was covered with water.

بارندگی های اخیر زندگی دوباره به تالاب گمیشان بخشید

مدیرکل حفاظت محیط زیست گلستان از آبرگیری بخشی از تالاب بین المللی گمیشان در این استان خبر داد
به گزارش خبرگزاری ایرنا امیر عبدوس روز سه شنبه گفت: بارندگی های اخیر زندگی دوباره به این زیستگاه مهم بخشید و بیش از ۶۰ درصد تالاب بین المللی گمیشان آبرگیری شد.
وی افزود: به علت پایین رفتن سطح آب دریای خزر تغذیه این تالاب از سوی دریا به حداقل ممکن رسیده بود و تقریباً تمام سطح تالاب بین المللی گمیشان در فصول گرم سال کاملاً خشک و در زمستان نیز بخش بسیار اندکی زیر آب قرار داشت.

IRCS, ICRC hold webinar on early rehabilitation



TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) have hosted a webinar on 'Early Rehabilitation in Conflicts and Disasters'.

Co-organized by the experts from ICRC, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the IRCS, the event held on Tuesday brought together participants from 40 countries, the IRCS website reported.

The webinar was a continuation of a conference on rehabilitation held last year. It focused on accurately identifying operational barriers, strengthening structural preparedness, and presenting emergency operational plans. In particular, it elaborated on the ways the IRCs integrate rehabilitation services into the rapid responses.

The main objective of the webinar was to improve the quality and the effectiveness of rehabilitation services provided by the national societies in times of disasters and conflicts.

Addressing the event, Vincent Cassard, the representative of the ICRC, announced

the inauguration of the 'International Secretariat on Disability and Rehabilitation' at the initiative of the IRCS.

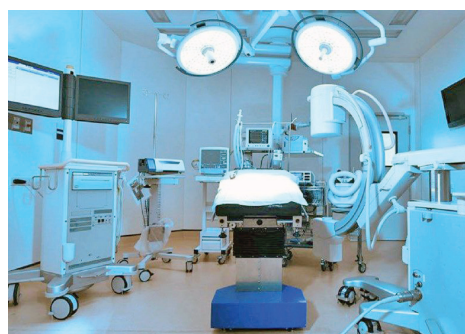
Emphasizing the collective role of humanitarian organizations and international institutions, he lauded the extensive cooperation between the IRCS, the WHO, and representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent member states.

The official went on to say that the webinar aims to turn humanitarian commitments into actions, and to make sure that no one, particularly no person with disability, is excluded from human services and support.

Referring to the experiences gained in recent workshops by the national societies, he said the studies have shed light on integrating rehabilitation into crisis responses and shown how to utilize national capacities, like the IRCS, to provide a role model in the region.

The official went on to highlight that this collaborative effort is not merely a conference, but an ongoing path to realizing human dignity and alleviating human suffering.

Tehran, Havana ink pharmaceutical MOU



TEHRAN – Iran and Cuba have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand international cooperation in the health sector and increase access to health products.

Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Cuba's Center for State Control of Medicines and Medical Devices (CECMED) signed a mutual recognition agreement relating to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and products on Tuesday, Mehr news agency reported.

According to the MOU, licensed companies and manufacturing centers will be recognized in the other country. Also, pharmaceutical products and medical equipment manufactured by each party will be registered and approved in the other country.

The official registration certificates for existing and new products will be issued within a maximum of a month, without the need for re-evaluation, upon submission of the required documents. This will facilitate access to the markets of both countries.

Holding joint educational courses in regulatory affairs, as well as sharing technical, engineering, and biological knowledge and experiences to construct and equip factories, are among other parts of the signed MOU.

The strategic agreement is an important step towards expanding scientific, technological, and economic ties between the two countries in the health sector, laying the basis for active participation in educational, research projects, particularly vaccines, biological products, and laboratory diagnostic techniques.

Joint efforts

In September, Ali Jafarian, the senior advisor to the health minister, and Tania

Medical ties between Iran and Cuba date back more than three decades, and the first cooperation between the two countries began with the transfer of technology for manufacturing hepatitis B vaccine from Cuba's CIGB to the Pasteur Institute of Iran.

In recent years, the two countries successfully developed a Covid-19 vaccine (PastoCovac), and the process of transferring technology for the pneumococcal vaccine is currently underway.

According to Jafarian, Cuba is one of the countries in Latin America with the highest level of cooperation with Iran in different fields, including the health sector.

"Thanks to advanced technologies in Cuba, the two countries have benefited from collaborative partnerships in the health sector, such as developing vaccines," IRNA quoted Jafarian as saying.

TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who engages in various tasks, cannot do any of them properly, and brings himself into troubles.
Imam Ali (AS)

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

Tehran cultural center screens “Gifted”

TEHRAN- “Gifted”, a 2017 drama film by American filmmaker Marc Webb, went on screen at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday.

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

“Gifted” explores themes of family, talent, and moral dilemmas surrounding the upbringing of a gifted child.

The story follows Mary Adler, a seven-year-old girl with extraordinary mathematical abilities, living in St. Petersburg, Florida, with her uncle Frank. Frank, a former philosophy professor turned boat mechanic, has raised Mary since her mother Diane’s tragic death when she was just six months old. Diane was herself a talented mathematician working on the complex Navier–Stokes problem before her death. Mary’s best friend is her neighbor, Roberta, and her world revolves around her exceptional intelligence and her desire for a normal childhood.

From a young age, Mary demonstrates remarkable talent in math, impressing her teachers and classmates. Though she initially feels bored and disdainful of typical schoolwork, her personality begins to change as she forms friendships. For example, she brings her pet, Fred, to show-and-tell and defends a classmate from a bully, showing her caring side.

Recognizing her gift, her teacher and the school principal consider enrolling her in a private school for gifted children, offering her a scholarship. Frank, wary of the isolating environment, declines, wanting Mary to enjoy a typical childhood.

The plot thickens when Evelyn, Mary’s maternal grandmother and a former mathematician, enters

the scene. Evelyn believes Mary’s talents should be used for societal good and advocates for her to receive specialized tutoring.

She sues Frank for full custody, arguing that Mary’s potential should be maximized. During court proceedings, it’s revealed Evelyn had kept her daughter Diane socially isolated to focus on her work, and that Diane had attempted suicide after fleeing her controlling mother. Frank’s financial struggles are also exposed when he admits to working a low-paying job without health insurance.

Mary is eventually placed in foster care near Frank, with plans for her to attend a prestigious private school. The development devastates Mary, who refuses to see Frank after his visit. However, Frank remains deeply committed to her. He rescues her beloved cat, Fred, from the pound and uncovers Evelyn’s oversight of Mary’s education. Frank confronts Evelyn, revealing that Diane had completed the Navier–Stokes problem but left instructions for its publication only after Evelyn’s death, showing Diane’s deep resentment toward her mother.

In a heartfelt conclusion, Frank offers Evelyn the chance to publish Diane’s groundbreaking work if she drops her custody case. Reluctantly, Evelyn agrees, and Mary returns to Frank’s care. She begins living a more typical childhood in public school while continuing her advanced studies independently, balancing her exceptional talents with her desire for normalcy.

Critics praised “Gifted” for its heartfelt storytelling and strong performances, especially by Chris Evans and McKenna Grace. Grace’s portrayal earned her nominations at the Critics’ Choice Awards and wins at the Phoenix Film Critics Society Awards.

Cartoon of Day

Gaza Flood

Cartoonist: Hassan Bleibel from Lebanon

Leader’s commendation for “Lady Moon” unveiled in Shiraz

TEHRAN- On Wednesday, in tandem with Iran’s Book Week, the unveiling ceremony of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei’s commendation for the book “Lady Moon” was held at Vahdat Hall in Shiraz.

The event coincided with the 21st anniversary of the literature on jihad and resistance and took place during the martyrdom anniversary of Lady Fatemeh Zahra (SA), IRNA reported.

The book “Lady Moon” recounts the life of Khanom-Naz Alinejad, wife of Martyr Shir Ali Soltani, a Shiraz native.

In his commendation, Ayatollah Khamenei described the work as “entirely about love and faith.”

“The author, with eloquent language and a vibrant style, has illuminated these themes,” the Leader wrote in his praise.

“The sorrows of this noble woman deeply grief me, much like the stories and pains of other wives and mothers of our dear martyrs. I have witnessed the spiritual and divine states of the martyr and his mourners through tears, just as I have in the biographies of other martyrs,” he stated.

Authored by Sajedah Taqizadeh, “Lady Moon” is a compelling account of Khanom-Naz Alinejad’s

life, published by Behnashr Publications in Tehran. It is a story of a woman’s choices, sacrifices, and resilience in the face of adversity. The book unfolds in three chapters, depicting her life and decisions, including her opposition to deviant groups before the Islamic Revolution and her role in trans-

forming her family and society.

The memoir also interweaves the story of another woman from Paris, creating a connected narrative that progresses through short stories until the two stories converge. It vividly documents the life of Martyr Soltani, known as the Headless Commander, who

preemptively prepared his own burial site. He had measured his grave multiple times, refusing to leave a headrest. Ultimately, in 1982, during the Battle of Operation Fath al-Mubin, he was martyred by a mortar shell, leaving his headless body behind on the battlefield.

Iranian short film “Taji” competing in 38th Foyle Film Festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film “Taji” written, directed, and produced by Mahdi Borjian is competing in the 38th Foyle Film Festival in Londonderry, Northern Island, which kicked off on Wednesday and will run until November 30.

The 19-minute drama is about Taji, the head worker, and her husband Morteza, who both work at a factory where a gold bracelet has been stolen. While searching for the thief, Taji realizes that Morteza is the one who stole the bracelet to pay off his gambling debt. Now, Taji faces a dilemma: should she take revenge for all the abuse and mistreatment she has suffered from Morteza by exposing him, or should she forgive him?

Produced in 2025, the short flick has Fatemeh Neyshabouri, Morteza Khanjani, Shamila Tabesh, Fatemeh Hasani, Ali Bagheri, and Gholamreza Ramezani are in the

cast among others, Honaronline reported.

Foyle Film Festival delivers a year-round program of feature films, workshops, short films,

competition screenings, outreach, and special events.

Over the last 38 years, the festival has become renowned for attracting top industry professionals to Londonderry. Past guests have included Richard E Grant, Ray Winstone, Thelma Schoonmaker, Brendan Gleeson, Julie Christie, Neil Jordan, Jim Sheridan, Wim Wenders, Stephen Frears to name but a few.

It is one of only a handful of international festivals with Oscar® affiliation, BAFTA and BIFA recognition. The festival offers filmmakers, animators, and artists a unique platform to screen their films, network with industry professionals, and gain access to the international market.

Elly Griffiths’ “The Postscript Murders” published in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book “The Postscript Murders” written by Elly Griffiths has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Noura Navapur has translated the book and Kamak Publication has brought it out in 402 pages, ISNA reported.

Originally written in 2020, this novel by internationally best-selling author Elly Griffiths is a literary mystery perfect for fans of Anthony Horowitz and Agatha Christie.

“The Postscript Murders” sees DS Harbinder Kaur and her colleagues investigating the death of a 90-year-old lady called Peggy Smith who loved reading murder mysteries and detec-

tive fiction. Peggy had a heart condition so, at first glance, there seems to be nothing unusual about her demise.

When Peggy’s carer Natalka and ex-monk friend Benedict are held up at gunpoint in Peggy’s apartment – and when the gunman steals an obscure golden age crime novel, it does begin to look as if there may have been more to Peggy’s death than meets the eye.

When it becomes apparent that Peggy acted as a murder consultant for various well-known crime novelists, and when one of those novelists ends up with a bullet to the head, Harbinder realizes she’s got a rapidly evolving and complex case on her hands.

And then things escalate: from an Aberdeen literary festival to the streets of Edinburgh, writers are being targeted. DS Kaur embarks on a road trip across Europe and reckons with how exactly authors can think up such realistic crimes.

“The Postscript Murders” is a multi-layered murder mystery that celebrates and has more than a few knowing nods to the Golden Age of detective fiction.

Elly Griffiths, 62, is a British crime novelist. She has written three series, one featuring Ruth Galloway, one featuring Detective Inspector Edgar Stephens and Max Mephisto, and the Harbinder Kaur series.

Doha Film Festival will kick off with “The Voice of Hind Rajab”

The inaugural Doha Film Festival will launch Thursday with the official Middle East premiere of Tunisian director Kaouthar Ben Hania’s politically charged drama “The Voice of Hind Rajab” and a slew of regional premieres, including Steven Soderbergh’s black comedy “The Christophers” and the director and its star Michaela Coel on hand.

It is significant that Ben Hania’s moving drama – which tells the true story of a 5-year-old Palestinian girl who was stranded in a car that was attacked by Israeli forces in Gaza and later found dead – is launching into the region from Qatar, which has been a key mediator in cease-fire negotiations involving Israel and Hamas, Variery reported.

Equally relevant is the fact that “The Voice of Hind Rajab” previously opened the first edition of the Gaza International Festival for Women’s Cinema held from Oc-

tober 26 to 31 amid the rubble in Deir Al-Balah — a Palestinian city roughly nine miles outside Gaza City in the heart of the Gaza strip, marking the film’s de facto Middle East premiere.

But the film’s real launch in the Arab world will be taking place in Doha. “I’m very happy that the movie is launching from Doha, who wanted the [regional] premiere,” Ben Hania told Variety, noting that when she told Doha organizers that the “pop up” Gaza fest wanted to show it first, “they immediately said: yes, sure.”

“The Voice of Hind Rajab” is Tunisia’s official submission for international feature at the Academy Awards. “I hope that American audiences will watch it, and also do something about it. Because it’s not a movie where one can say, ‘Enjoy it, and go home!’ So we’ll see [what happens] through the Oscar run and the release, which will be

on December 17 in the U.S.,” Ben Hania said.

“Palestinian voices aren’t heard much. They are often silenced. This is starting to change a little bit. But it’s still very, very difficult. So, the first thing is to hear another voice. I made this movie in those dark times because I was asking myself a lot of questions about, what does it mean to do films nowadays? And can film be an element of change? So, this is my hope — that it’s not only about the cathartic moment where the audience cries and then they go home and forget about it. But they do something actually about it, because they are also citizens and they can change things,” she added.

Other films featuring Palestine at the new Doha fest – which will run from November 20 to 28 – are competition entries “Once Upon a Time in Gaza,” directed by Palestinian directorial duo Tarzan and Arab

Nasser, which world premiered in Cannes, and Kamal Aljafari’s documentary “With Hasan in Gaza.”

The new Doha Film Festival is run by the Doha Film Institute. It transforms the DFI’s existing Ajyal Film Festival, dedicated to youth and family-friendly cinema, into a more ambitious international event for a broader audience.

The Doha Film Festival is being endowed with a total prize pot of over \$300,000 that places it on a monetary par with Saudi Arabia’s more glitzy Red Sea Film festival in Jeddah.

Just as the tiny Arab state, rich in oil and gas, diversifies from the energy sector into cultural and media and entertainment, the DFI has steadily grown into a crucial cornerstone of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region film industry.