

The Protected Criminal Syndicate

How long can Israel evade international scrutiny with Western support?



Benjamin Netanyahu (2-R) meeting with Trump's special envoy for the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, (2-L), the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner (L), and Minister Ron Dermer (R), attending the Israeli cabinet meeting in Jerusalem (al-Quds), 9 October 2025.

Iranian Navy to unveil new equipment in coming days

TEHRAN – The commander of the Naval Force of the Iranian Army says new equipment will be unveiled and join the Army's naval fleet in the coming days.

Speaking at a press conference ahead of Iran's Navy Day, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani underlined that Iranian naval forces need to possess the required equipment to be able to perpetuate their operations in the high seas.

"Accordingly, ... vessels will join [the naval fleet] in the coming days, so that we will be able to ensure economic security as well as the security of shipping lanes across the oceans," the top commander explained. ▶ Page 3

Serbia's MFA rejects 'fabricated narratives' of 'human safaris' in Sarajevo siege

Serbia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on November 20, rejecting recent foreign media reports alleging President Aleksandar Vučić's involvement in wartime events in Bosnia. The ministry described the claims, including references to "human safaris" during the Sarajevo siege, as unfounded and stressed that no tribunal has ever linked Vučić to war crimes. The following is the full statement as published by the ministry: ▶ Page 5

Press TV launches Hebrew-language service

TEHRAN – Iran's Press TV has officially launched its Hebrew-language service to reach a wider audience worldwide.

The service is now accessible through an active X account (@PresstvHebrew) and a dedicated Telegram channel (@PresstvHebrew), with a full website scheduled for launch in the near future.

The Hebrew service will deliver news, in-depth analyses and commentaries on regional and international developments.

According to Ahmad Norouzi, the director of the World Service of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting Organization (IRIB), the channel's primary mission is to reveal facts that Israeli authorities seek to suppress, particularly highlighting the strict censorship imposed on Hebrew-language media in Israel during recent conflicts. ▶ Page 2

Hezbollah's shadow war: Reshaping the battlefield before the fight

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON—Hezbollah has never fought from a position of conventional parity. It has always confronted an enemy with overwhelming technological capacity, vast intelligence resources, and near-limitless Western backing. Yet history established a stubborn truth: despite asymmetry, the Zionist enemy failed repeatedly to convert its intelligence superiority into decisive victory or reoccupation.

In the previous war, its "comprehensive intelligence advantage" collapsed before the Resistance's decentralized structure, its concealment tactics, and its ability to adapt faster than any foreign planner expected.

Meanwhile, the struggle enters a new and more perilous chapter—one defined not by deterrence, but by a mutual race to shape the conditions of the next inevitable confrontation. Both the Resistance and the Zionist enemy are engaged in a strategic sprint. ▶ Page 5

Israel's non-adherence to CWC threatens regional stability: FM Araghchi

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday condemned Israel for remaining outside chemical weapons disarmament treaties, calling it the main obstacle to regional stability.

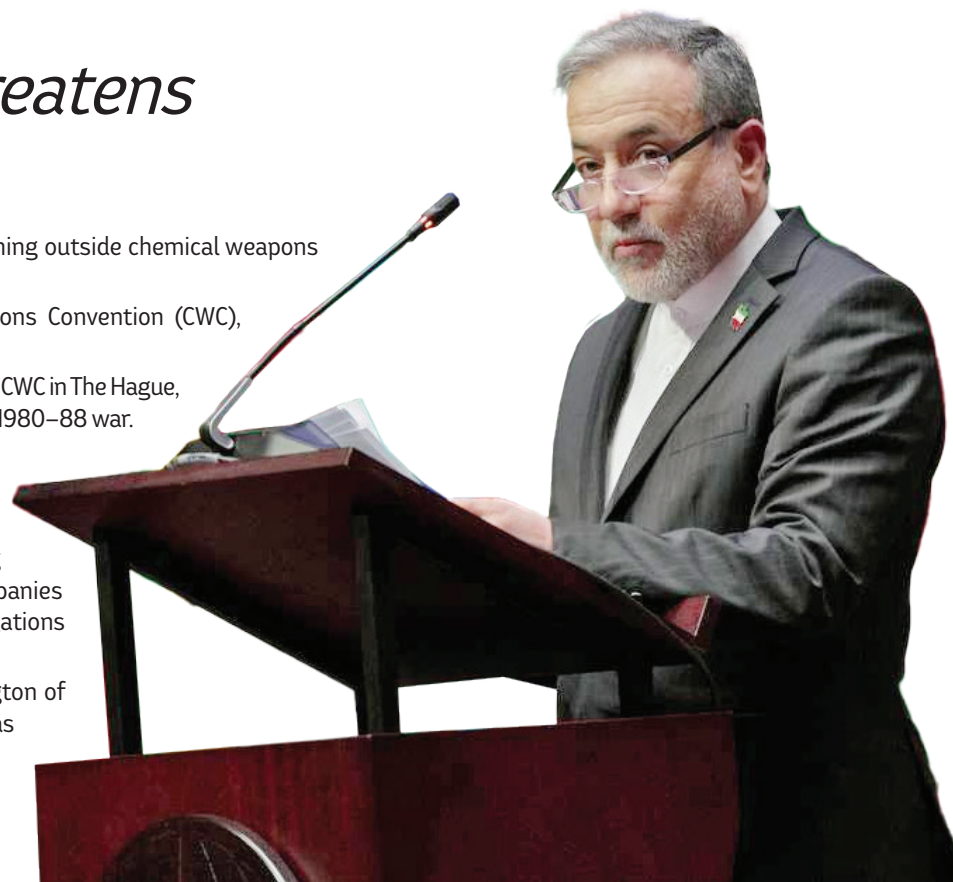
He also criticized the United States for failing to fully comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), highlighting Washington's selective enforcement and double standards.

Araghchi delivered the remarks during the 30th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CWC in The Hague, where he emphasized the lasting impact of Saddam Hussein's chemical attacks on Iran during the 1980–88 war.

He noted the presence of Kamal Hosseinpour, a parliamentary representative from Sardasht, one of the cities targeted by chemical weapons, calling Sardasht an "iconic name" in the global campaign to eliminate chemical arms. He stressed that many victims continue to suffer decades later.

The foreign minister urged that "truth should prevail and justice must be served," insisting that chemical war crimes have no statute of limitations. He called on countries whose companies assisted Iraq's chemical weapons program to conduct independent and transparent investigations into their nationals' and companies' roles.

Turning to current regional issues, Araghchi sharply criticized U.S. policy, accusing Washington of promoting a "force-based international order" that, coupled with European "appeasement," has enabled Israeli military actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and other areas. He described the past two years in the occupied Palestinian territories as a period of "all-out genocide" and condemned ongoing Israeli occupation in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon. ▶ Page 3



Iranian minister leaves Tehran for Istanbul to attend ECO ministerial meeting

TEHRAN- Iran's minister of industry, mining, and trade traveled to Turkey to participate in the meeting of ministers from member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which is being held at the ministerial level for the first time in 20 years.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, Seyed Mohammad Atabak went to Istanbul on Tuesday to attend the ECO ministerial meeting and to meet with Iranian businessmen and traders active in Turkey.

Based on this report, discussing the ECO member states' trade agreement and reducing tariffs on commercial goods among members to increase the volume of intra-ECO trade are among the key topics of this meeting. ▶ Page 4



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani (L) speaks during a meeting with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad, Pakistan, November 25, 2025.

Pakistan pledges diplomatic backing for Iran during top security official's visit to Islamabad

TEHRAN – Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari, in a meeting with Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, reaffirmed his country's solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran against the aggression of the Israeli regime.

He emphasized support for the Iranian people's resistance and stated that Islamabad is committed to providing continuous diplomatic and political backing to Tehran.

According to the Pakistani Presidency's Public Relations Office, Zardari met with Larijani and his delegation in Islamabad on Tuesday. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

It is essential that Iran and US reset diplomacy

Arman-e-Melli analyzed the uncertain state of talks between Iran and the United States. According to the paper, in recent years, a dialogue has unfolded against a backdrop of deep-rooted mistrust; mistrust that not only draws on the historical experiences of both sides but also grows with each round of fruitless negotiations. In such an atmosphere, neither party is willing to retreat from its red lines. Washington continues to insist on its demands and to levy pressure, while Tehran refuses to accept negotiations in a pre-determined framework. This clash of positions has turned the process into a repetitive and exhausting cycle, one that leads neither to a lasting agreement nor to a reduction of tensions. The persistence of this situation demonstrates that previous mechanisms no longer have the necessary effectiveness. Moving forward requires a new framework, a different atmosphere, and a creative approach. Without establishing this new space, built on relative trust, a shared understanding of interests, and mechanisms that guarantee commitments, there can be no expectation of breaking the current deadlock. Thus, overcoming the present impasse is only possible if both sides recognize and accept the necessity of changing the environment and the method of negotiation.

Jam-e-Jam: SCO, BRICS, and EAEU provide opportunities for Iran's economic growth

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed the opportunities that Iran can grab to strengthen its economy. It wrote: Iran is currently in one of its most sensitive geopolitical and socioeconomic periods. The West has long tried to isolate Iran and separate it from global value chains, but now a historic window towards the East, specifically towards the Asian continent, has been opened for Tehran. Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS, and the signing of a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) can be considered the three main pillars of the Islamic Republic's "Look East" policy. They can change the path of Iran's economic development for decades to come. In such an environment, if a "balanced foreign policy towards Asia" is accompanied by domestic economic reforms, a sustainable growth perspective for at least the next two decades can be outlined for Iran. Otherwise, this historic window, like many previous opportunities, will be lost.

Stop Israel's 'borderless crime': Iran Parliament speaker

TEHRAN – Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf on Tuesday denounced the Israeli regime's "aggressive hand" in the region, calling for decisive action to halt Tel Aviv's ongoing policy of "borderless crime."

Addressing lawmakers, Qalibaf accused the Israeli regime, under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, of targeting cities and populations across the West Asia indiscriminately. "For them, there is no distinction between Tehran, Beirut, Doha, Islamabad, Khartoum, or Istanbul," he said.

His remarks followed a series of Israeli strikes in Lebanon, including an airstrike on residential apartments in the Beirut's southern suburbs that killed Haytham Ali Tabatabai, a senior commander of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, along with four other members of the group.

Qalibaf emphasized that Hezbollah remains "strong and unwavering," advancing its mission despite repeated Israeli attempts to destabilize the region. He described Israel as an enemy "devoid of human values," operating outside the constraints of international law and ignoring agreements.

"Only courage and strength can deter this adversary," Qalibaf said, underlining that preventing Israel from continuing its campaign of aggression is essential to restoring stability in the

Khorasan: The West views a disintegrated Iran as a way to contain

In a commentary, Khorasan examined the U.S. plan to confront China. The newspaper argues: Two blocs have been created in the world. On one side are the U.S. and the European troika, and on the other are China and Russia. In U.S. national security documents, China, Russia, and Iran are considered immediate threats. The U.S. recognizes that China is strategically advancing within the international system. Washington perceives Iran's collapse and submission as a pathway to containing China. Capitulating or disintegrating Iran's geography endangers China's economic interests in the region, something that is considered a great benefit to the Americans. However, Russia and China understand that the way to overcome the Americans' design is to maintain and strengthen the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran's geographical integrity. Today, Iran has developed its power and authority in terms of discourse at the regional level due to its position at the center of gravity of the anti-arrogance bloc. A disintegrated Islamic Republic is a nightmare and terrifying for the national interests of Russia, China, Pakistan, and even the southern Persian Gulf states.

Iran: Regional diplomacy at Muscat

In the new round of his diplomatic tours, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi attended the Muscat Forum in Oman. This trip took place as the continuation of Israel's war plans against Lebanon, halt in nuclear negotiations, and chain of instability in West Asia have caused the regional political scene to change. In this context, Araghchi's visit to Muscat underscores Tehran's attempt to simultaneously navigate several sensitive dossiers, ranging from regional negotiations to pressing humanitarian and security challenges. It also highlights Oman's enduring role as a traditional mediator in complex dialogues. His meeting with Badr Al-Busaidi, Oman's Foreign Minister, to discuss regional developments; his engagement with officials from the Humanitarian Dialogue Center on threats to the international order; and his consultation with the UN Special Representative on Yemen collectively illustrate the Iranian foreign policy apparatus's active use of diplomatic instruments. These efforts are further connected to Araghchi's subsequent trip from Muscat to The Hague, where his participation in the conference on banning chemical weapons extends the scope of Iran's diplomacy from regional concerns to the broader multilateral arena.



A crowd gathers below a damaged residential building following an Israeli military strike in southern Beirut's Haret Hreik neighborhood on November 23, 2025.

region. He expressed confidence that resistance movements across the region would respond in a "coordinated and prudent" manner to Tel Aviv's provocations.

"This situation cannot continue. Patience has its limits," he warned, adding that while the resistance "calculates carefully, it acts decisively... it does not seek war, but it fights effectively."

Qalibaf also criticized global powers and international organizations for bearing witness to Israel's "brutality" without taking meaningful action to stop it.

Pakistan pledges diplomatic backing for Iran during top security official's visit to Islamabad

From page 1 ► The meeting was attended by Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Deputy Foreign Minister Amina Baloch, and Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, former Senate Chairman and Secretary-General of the Pakistan People's Party.

Zardari welcomed Larijani and his delegation and congratulated him on assuming his role as Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. Recalling his recent meeting with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian in Islamabad, he noted that ongoing exchanges between Islamabad and Tehran reflect positive developments in bilateral relations.

The Pakistani president expressed gratitude to Iranian officials for their solidarity following Pakistan's recent floods, including humanitarian aid provided by the Iranian Red Crescent. He stressed that cooperation between neighboring countries is both essential and mutually beneficial.

Zardari highlighted the deep historical, cultural, and religious ties between Iran and Pakistan.



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani (L-C) speaks during a meeting with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad, Pakistan, November 25, 2025.

He also thanked Iran for its continued support of diplomatic efforts during the recent Pakistan-India conflict and reiterated Pakistan's political and diplomatic support for Iran in response to Israeli aggression.

Praising Iran's resilience during the 12-day conflict, Zardari said, "The leadership demonstrated by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution is admirable." He also commended Iran's principled support for the people of Palestine.

Zardari expressed Pakistan's readiness to strengthen bilateral trade with Iran. He emphasized



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani (R) shakes hand with Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari in Islamabad, Pakistan, November 25, 2025.

that improving rail connectivity between the two countries should be a priority to support commerce and tourism, noting that enhanced links would make trade easier for businesses and travelers, particularly pilgrims, and deepen economic cooperation.

Addressing the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, he highlighted Pa-

support during the 12-day Israeli-imposed conflict. He also praised the courage and effectiveness of Pakistan's armed forces, saying, "Pakistan's victory is our victory."

Zardari noted that following the Iranian president's visit to Pakistan, several directives have been issued for preferential access to Pakistani products in Iran, paving the way toward achieving the \$10 billion bilateral trade goal. The meeting also covered regional and international developments, as well as security cooperation and counter-terrorism efforts.

Strategic relations, economic discussed during talks

Larijani also met with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, to discuss elevating bilateral relations to a strategic level. Upon arrival, Larijani and his delegation were warmly received by Ishaq Dar.

Larijani emphasized that Iran-Pakistan ties should be strengthened to their full potential, with economic cooperation capable of far exceeding current levels. He called for removing barriers and facilitating trade, noting that the \$10 billion bilateral trade target is achievable.

The Pakistani foreign minister congratulated Larijani on his appointment and highlighted the importance of "brotherly relations" between the two countries, referencing his recent meetings with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and other high-level discussions.

IRGC forces bust terror group in southeast Iran

TEHRAN – Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says it has dismantled a terrorist team in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

In a statement, the Quds Base of the IRGC's Ground Force announced that several members of a terror cell affiliated with the Ansar al-Shaitan terrorist group were identified and apprehended following intelligence operations.

Two suicides vests were also seized from the terrorists, the statement added.

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Sistan and Baluchestan province, bordering Pakistan, has faced frequent terrorist attacks targeting both civilians and security forces in recent years.

Terrorist groups carrying out attacks on Iranian interests in the southeastern and southwestern parts of the country are thought to have ties to foreign intelligence agencies.

On October 26 last year, a terrorist attack in the Gohar Kuh district of Taftan County claimed the lives of 10 members of Iran's

law enforcement forces.

The so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group took responsibility for the attack, which is marked as one of the deadliest incidents in the province in recent months.

The group has conducted numerous terrorist attacks across Iran, primarily focusing on the Sistan and Baluchestan province. Its methods include abducting border guards and launching assaults on civilians and police stations, aiming to incite chaos and unrest.

Gen. Heidari named second in command of Khatam al-Anbiya HQ

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari has been appointed acting commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, replacing Major General Hossein Hassani.

Heidari previously served as commander of the Iranian Army Ground Force before taking up his new post.

Brigadier General Ali Jahanshahi has been named the new commander of the Army Ground Forces, succeeding Heidari. Jahanshahi formerly led the 77th Thamen al-A'emmeh Division and has held several key positions, including coordinating deputy of the Ground Force and deputy for assessment at the Khatam al-

Both sides stressed the need for practical initiatives, broad coordination, and coherent cooperation within the Islamic world to manage regional crises, particularly in countering threats from Israel. Palestine was identified as a central focus of cooperation, with both countries emphasizing unity and joint efforts to support the Palestinian people.

Speaking to reporters, Larijani said, "We discussed bilateral relations, progress in the economic field, and ways to strengthen cooperation, alongside regional issues. Our Pakistani counterparts also shared their perspective on international developments."

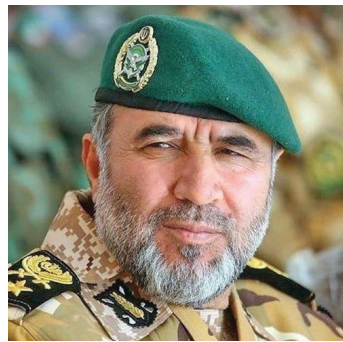
On his arrival in Islamabad, Larijani described Pakistan as "an important regional country with a privileged position in terms of regional security influence." He highlighted the "deep and historical" ties between the two nations, noting that cooperation across various fields can contribute to regional peace and stability.

During his two-day visit, Larijani is scheduled to meet with senior political and military officials to deepen bilateral cooperation, focusing on regional security, border management, counter-terrorism, trade, and broader issues affecting the Islamic world.

Before traveling to Pakistan, Larijani posted on X that he was visiting "our friendly and brotherly country in the region," acknowledging Pakistan's support during the June US-Israeli aggression against Iran. He recalled, "During the 12-day war by the Zionist regime and the United States against Iran, the Pakistani nation stood by the Iranian people."

Larijani emphasized the geopolitical significance of both countries in regional affairs and stressed the need for tangible, coordinated, and comprehensive action among Muslim nations. He also highlighted the importance of enhancing security, defense, political, and especially economic cooperation.

Both countries have committed to raising bilateral trade from over \$3 billion to \$10 billion by removing barriers and implementing targeted plans.



Anbiya Central Headquarters.

Major General Ali Abdollahi remains the overall commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, which serves as one of the principal bodies of Iran's Armed Forces and is tasked with operational planning and inter-service coordination.

Israel's non-adherence to CWC threatens regional stability: FM Araghchi

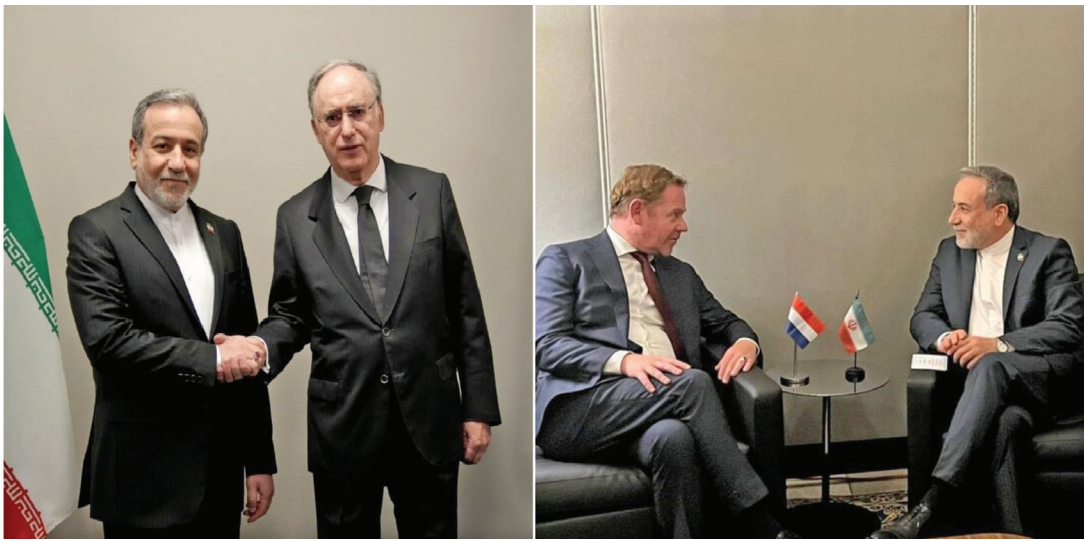
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He noted the presence of Karmal Hosseinpour, a parliamentary representative from Sardasht, one of the cities targeted by chemical weapons, calling Sardasht an "iconic name" in the global campaign to eliminate chemical arms. He stressed that many victims continue to suffer decades later.

The foreign minister urged that "truth should prevail and justice



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (first from L) meets OPCW Director-General Fernando Arias and Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel on the sidelines of the 30th Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention at OPCW headquarters in The Hague, November 25, 2025.

territories as a period of "all-out genocide" and condemned ongoing Israeli occupation in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon.

He also condemned Israel's June attack on Iranian territory, coupled with U.S. military involvement, calling it a "blatant violation" of the UN Charter and a threat to both the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the

transparency regarding chemical activities, including non-lethal agents. Araghchi criticized unilateral sanctions imposed by the U.S. and some European countries, describing them as a "double injustice" that prevents Iran's chemical-weapons survivors from accessing medical supplies.

He concluded by thanking the Asia-Pacific Group for supporting Iran's election to the OPCW Executive Council for 2026–2028, pledging Tehran's "full cooperation and support" to the conference president and member states.

'Iran is the largest victim of chemical weapons since World War II'

On Tuesday morning in The Hague, Foreign Minister Araghchi held talks with OPCW Director-General Fernando Arias on the sidelines of the CWC conference.

Araghchi reiterated that Iran is the largest victim of chemical weapons since World War II and underscored Tehran's determination to defend the rights of survivors. He said the international community—especially states that directly or indirectly helped arm Saddam Hussein—must be held accountable for past atrocities.

He condemned U.S.-led sanctions restricting Iran's access to medicines and medical supplies for chemical-weapons victims, describing the restrictions as a "double injustice" and a "crime against humanity." He stressed that those responsible for imposing and enforcing such sanctions must be held legally accountable.

Araghchi also briefed Arias on recent Israeli aggression against Iran, including attacks on industrial facilities under OPCW monitoring. He called on the organi-

zation to give the issue serious attention, warning that Israel—while committing major international violations—remains outside the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Director-General Arias reaffirmed the OPCW's commitment to preventing the recurrence of past chemical weapons tragedies and expressed readiness to continue cooperation with Iran within the organization's mandate.

Araghchi, Dutch FM discuss bilateral ties and chemical weapons accountability

Later in the day, Araghchi met with Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments.

Both sides welcomed the agreement to resume political and consular consultations, describing it as an important step toward strengthening cooperation—a move facilitated by a recent high-level Dutch diplomatic visit to Tehran.

Araghchi highlighted the rapidly evolving global environment and the spread of "militant unilateralism." He stressed that all governments share responsibility for upholding the rule of law and rejecting unlawful or coercive behavior in international relations.

With Sardasht MP Kamal Hosseinpour also present, Araghchi underscored the suffering of Iranian victims of Saddam's chemical attacks. He reiterated that European states played direct or indirect roles in enabling Iraq's chemical weapons program. He called for their serious cooperation in establishing independent judicial investigations into the companies and individuals involved in Saddam Hussein's chemical war crimes.



Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi of Iran addresses the 30th Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention at OPCW headquarters in The Hague, November 25, 2025.

must be served," insisting that chemical war crimes have no statute of limitations. He called on countries whose companies assisted Iraq's chemical weapons program to conduct independent and transparent investigations into their nationals' and companies' roles.

Turning to current regional issues, Araghchi sharply criticized U.S. policy, accusing Washington of promoting a "force-based international order" that, coupled with European "appeasement," has enabled Israeli military actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and other areas. He described the past two years in the occupied Palestinian

CWC. Referring to President Donald Trump's acknowledgment of U.S. participation, Araghchi said it provided "unequivocal evidence" of Washington's responsibility.

Araghchi stressed that the OPCW must maintain its technical and impartial mandate, free from political pressures. He reiterated that Israel's refusal to join the CWC makes it the primary barrier to a West Asia free of weapons of mass destruction and urged the organization to compel Israel to accept inspections.

He also raised concerns over U.S. compliance with the CWC, citing delays in destroying declared stockpiles and lack of

Iranian Navy to unveil new equipment in coming days

From Page 1 ▶ "Today, we have been able to make contact instantly and exchange information with all naval security centers on the Indian Ocean Rim, and, should they need help, immediately deploy [our forces] to the region," he added.

Last year, the Iranian Navy deployed its 100th flotilla to the Gulf of Aden to enhance security for maritime trade in the region.

The move was in response to the presence of pirates in the region and aimed to ensure the security of shipping routes for both exporting and importing, not only for Iran but also for the world.

In line with international efforts to combat piracy, the Iranian Navy has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since November 2008 to safeguard the vessels involved in maritime trade, including the ships and oil tankers owned or leased by Iran.

In recent years, Iran's Navy has increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers.



The commander of the Naval Force of the Iranian Army, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, speaks at a press conference ahead of Iran's Navy Day on November 25, 2025.

Addressing the reinstatement of UN sanctions under the snapback mechanism, Irani argued the measures have failed to impede Iran's maritime operations.

"Despite sanctions, Iranian vessels continue to sail to and from ports around the world," he said.

He cited the case of Iran's 86th

flotilla, which was sanctioned during its voyage in the Pacific Ocean and was told it would not be allowed to transit the Panama Canal. Although the flotilla had no plans to use the canal, Irani noted that it successfully docked in foreign ports and received positive reception from host nations.

For the first time in Iran's naval

history, Iran's 86th flotilla, featuring the domestically manufactured Dena Destroyer and Makran forward base ship, returned on May 17, 2023 after completing the inaugural round-the-world mission.

The fleet successfully circumnavigated the globe, traversing the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans, marking a historic achievement for Iran's naval forces.

Departing from Bandar Abbas on September 20, 2022, the flotilla concluded its 236-day journey by anchoring at Oman's Salalah harbor. Covering a total distance of 63,000 kilometers, the fleet crossed the equator four times during its remarkable expedition.

Dena is a Mowj-class destroyer that joined the Iranian Navy in June 2021. The military vessel is equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes and naval cannons.

Makran is a forward base ship weighing 121,000 tons. The warship can carry five helicopters and is employed for providing logistical support for combat warships.

Iran determined to rebound against Panama

TEHRAN – Iran were dealt a tough opening defeat as they fell 4-1 to Brazil in the 2025 FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup, and they want to beat Panama to keep their hopes alive.

Brazil's precision and flair overwhelmed the Iranian side, who showed grit but were ultimately unable to quell the South American powerhouse. Brazil pressed high, converting early chances through swift combination play and clinical finishing, setting a brisk tempo that Iran struggled to match. The Brazilians' fluid movement and aggressive press forced turnovers and created a flurry of opportunities, with two goals coming from well-worked team moves that highlighted their strength in tight spaces.

Iran responded with moments of resilience, crafting counter-attacks and rallying behind solid goalkeeping. However, Brazil's clinical accuracy continued to widen the gap, leaving Iran chasing the game for large stretches. Despite the setback, Team Melli displayed heart and discipline, maintaining defensive organization and seeking ways to exploit gaps as the match wore on.

With Panama up next on Wednesday, Iran will be aiming to regroup quickly. Coach and players will likely emphasize composure in possession, improved ball distribution, and tighter transition defense to confront a Panama side eager for a positive result in this tournament. The competition rolls on, and Iran will be determined to rebound.

Women's futsal head coach Mozafar proud of Iran

TEHRAN – Shahrzad Mozafar, Iran's women's futsal team head coach, is proud of her team in the 2025 FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup.

Team Melli opened the campaign with a 4-1 loss against world No. 1 Brazil on Sunday.

Iran will face Panama on Wednesday in Group D, followed by a marquee clash between Brazil and Italy.

"My girls did their best against Brazil, but they are the world's best team. They have not lost in 24 years and have aimed to win the title here. I think the match against Brazil was a good opportunity for us to realize our strengths and weaknesses," Mozafar said.

"We fought until the end against Brazil and played as a united team. Every match gives us experience, and it's like a lesson for us," she added.

"It's a start for Iranian women, and I am sure we can achieve more in the future. The Iranian women's futsal team need more matches to get prepared," Mozafar concluded.

Two Russian wrestlers join Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Russian wrestlers Shamil Mamedov and Ibragim Kadiev joined Esteghlal wrestling team.

The Russian wrestlers arrived in Tehran on Tuesday to finalize their deals with the Iranian team.

Mamedov is a Russian freestyle wrestler competing in the 65 kg weight category.

Kadiev also wrestles in 86kg weight category.

Esteghlal, headed by Komeil Ghasemi, has previously hired Olympic gold medalist Hassan Yazdani.

The Iranian Premier Wrestling League is a professional wrestling league in Iran.

It is the highest level of wrestling competition in the country and has been held annually since 2003.

Esteghlal to face Al Wasl at ACL Two 2025-2025

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team will host Al Wasl of the UAE at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium

on Wednesday at Group A of the AFC Champions League Two 2025-26.

Al Wasl FC only have to avoid defeat against Esteghlal to confirm their Round of 16 ticket.

The UAE side are on 10 points, three ahead of Bahrain's Al Muharraq SC with Iran's Esteghlal a further three adrift.

Al Muharraq have already played their Matchday Five tie against Al Wehdat, with the Jordanian side winning the fixture 2-1 on October 30.

Dragan Skocic pleased with win over Nasaf

TEHRAN – Tractor football team head coach Dragan Skocic was pleased to see his team edge closer to the next stage after a gritty 1-0 defeat of PFC Nasaf in the AFC Champions League Elite 2025-26 tie on Monday.

The victory – the third of the campaign for Iran side – saw them move up to 11 points in the West Zone with Skocic hailing the resilience shown by unbeaten Tractor under difficult conditions at Markazi Stadium.

"I think we had control in the first half," said Skocic. "Both sides could have scored. Chances were created, it was an interesting match."

"But in the second half, our game was a little different, the advantage went more to the opponent. If we had scored the second goal, we would have been more calm," he added.

"But in the end, victory with a narrow margin is also pleasing." Regi Lushkja's 17th minute strike separated the two sides, leaving Nasaf licking its wounds after a fifth straight defeat.

Iran come ninth at 2025 Deaflympics

TEHRAN – Iran's delegation finished in ninth place at the 25th Summer Deaflympics (XXV Summer Deaflympics).

The Games were held in Tokyo, Japan from Nov. 15 to 25.

The 'Lovers of Iran' won 35 medals overall, including seven gold, 10 silver and 18 bronze medals.

Ukraine has retained its reputation as a deaf sports powerhouse at this year's Deaflympics. Ukraine topped both the gold and overall medal rankings (29-36-25) at the previous games in Brazil.

Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) and the U.S. come second and third.

Juliano Valim named Persepolis fitness coach

TEHRAN – Brazilian Juliano Valim has been named as fitness coach of Persepolis football club.

The 40-year-old coach has penned a one-year deal with the Iranian side.

Valim worked as assistant coach of Osmar Loss Thailand's Buriram last year, where the team won the title.

He started his coaching career in Santos U-20 in 2018 and has also worked in Santos B, Khor Fakkan, and São Bernardo.

Persepolis, headed by Osmar Loss, are scheduled to meet Shams Azar on Friday in Iran football league.

Iran beat Tajikistan at 2025 CAFA U18- Women's C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Tajikistan 2-0 on Tuesday at the 2025 CAFA U-18 Women's Championship.

The Persian girls, who had lost to Kyrgyzstan in its opening match, will play Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan on Thursday and Saturday.

The tournament is taking place from November 22 to 29 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, at the new UFA National Football Center.

It will follow a single round-robin format.

Iranian minister leaves Tehran for Istanbul to attend ECO ministerial meeting

TEHRAN- Iran's minister of industry, mining, and trade traveled to Turkey to participate in the meeting of ministers from member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which is being held at the ministerial level for the first time in 20 years.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, Seyed Mohammad Atabak went to Istanbul on Tuesday to attend the ECO ministerial meeting and to meet with Iranian businessmen and traders active in Turkey.

Based on this report, discussing the ECO member states' trade agreement and reducing tariffs on commercial goods among members to increase the volume of intra-ECO trade are among the key topics of this meeting.

The second edition of the Iran-ECO Conference was held in Tehran in mid-September. Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, attended the event alongside several other Iranian diplomats and officials who joined Pakistani, Turkish, Afghan, Azeri, as well as Tajik, Kazakh and Kyrgyz dignitaries at the Tehran venue.

At the opening ceremony, Araghchi urged member countries to prioritize the scope and execution of their cooperation agreements.

"The current level of cooperation does not match the enormous capacities of the ECO region whatsoever," the top Iranian diplomat said. "The ECO can become a successful model of multilateral economic collaboration among neighboring countries."

"Iran believes ECO can and should play a leading and effective role in shaping the new economic architecture of the region," he added.

Araghchi also highlighted the strategic importance of cooperation with Central, South, and West Asian states, emphasizing that such partnerships would bring undeniable added value to all ECO member countries.

Iranians have endured economic hardships due to Western sanctions for years. Since 2022, the country has increasingly lost confidence in the possibility of mending ties with the West and having the embargoes lifted. The final blow came in June of this year, when American and Israeli forces attacked Iranian nuclear, civilian, and military infrastructure amid a diplomatic process aimed at limiting



the country's nuclear program in exchange for the removal of sanctions.

The push for closer and more comprehensive economic ties with China, Russia, neighboring countries, as well as some nations in Asia, Africa, and South America, began during the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi, who tragically died in a helicopter crash last summer. His successor, Masoud Pezeshkian, shares a similar outlook on international relations.

When the Tehran Times interviewed ECO Secretary-General Asad Majid Khan last year, he stated that the bloc possesses vast untapped potential, despite its 40-year history. But he also said that member countries now have a greater incentive to utilize ECO's capabilities. This incentive has grown significantly in recent months, particularly during the Trump administration, according to Economic expert Majid Shakeri.

"The United States used to be what we call the 'demander of last resort', but in international trade," the expert said. The demander of last resort is an economic actor that steps in to sustain demand when the private sector is unable or unwilling to do so, helping to stabilize the economy during downturns. The U.S. played this role for other countries, meaning they could always rely on Washington as a dependable trade and economic partner.

"The economic order established after WWII, and particularly after the fall of the Soviet Union, was largely centered on the United States. However, this order has gradually eroded over the years. Today, the U.S. not only shows little interest in purchasing foreign products, but it also punishes those who don't import American goods with aggressive tariff policies," Shakeri explained.

Kerman leading province in launching solar power plants.

TEHRAN- The governor-general of Kerman province stated that the province holds the first rank in the implementation of solar projects in the country, adding: "Currently, more than 8,000 megawatts of solar power plants have been implemented in the province."

Mohammad Ali Talebi, in an interview with IRNA, added that the necessary permits for the construction of these power plants have been issued, land has been allocated, and work is in various stages of implementation.

He continued: "We have not been very successful in the administrative sector of the province, and we are behind due to legal requirements, which stems from the budgetary weakness of government agencies."

The governor-general of Kerman noted: "The current expenses of these equipment in the province are high compared to other provinces, considering the existing deprivations and limitations."

Talebi, however, assessed the province's conditions for the development of solar power plants as good.

In mid-October, the Executive Secretary of Iran's 7th Solar Power Plants Conference stated that the development of solar power plants has accelerated and this trend will continue for the coming years. He predicted that the trend of interest in developing solar power plants will continue to accelerate over the next four years.

In an interview with IRNA's economic reporter, Mehdi Goodarzi noted that, in addition to major investors, the number of applicants for installing solar and renewable power plants is also increasing.



He added that the development of these types of power plants gained more momentum last year due to the electricity imbalance and has continued this year in line with adopted policies.

He further stated that, given the country's approach to renewable development and the policies of the Seventh National Development Plan in this area, it was essential to examine the technical and economic dimensions of these power plants in the country. Therefore, the 7th Solar Power Plants Conference is being held, considering the role of renewable development in addressing the imbalance.

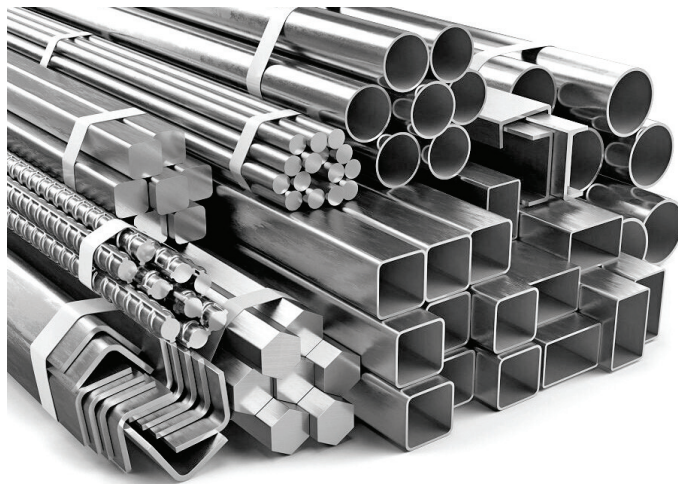
The Executive Secretary of Iran's 7th Solar Power Plants Conference recalled that since last year, with the advent of the 14th administration and the emergence of energy imbalance in the country, the development of renewables has received more attention than before with the aim of compensating for part of this imbalance. According to the latest statistics, the capacity of the country's renewable power plants has unprecedentedly increased to 2,550 megawatts.

Iran produces 12.7m tons of steel products in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran produced 12.708 million tons of steel products in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (September 23-October 22), Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) announced.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

According to the report released by the World Steel Association (WSA) in late June, Iran moved up to ninth place among the world's top steel producers, surpassing Brazil.



Data from the Iranian Steel Producers Association, citing figures from the World Steel Association, showed that Iran produced 14 million tons of steel

in the first five months of 2025, including 3.4 million tons in May alone.

While Iran's steel output from January to May fell by 5.3 percent

compared to the same period last year, production in May rose by 4.5 percent year-on-year.

The World Steel Association has also announced that Iran's steel producers ended 2024 with modest growth, as the country's production of this key metal reached 31 million tons.

According to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the report from the World Steel Association shows that Iran's steel production grew by 0.8 percent last year. This was despite an 8.2 percent decline in production during December, when energy shortages, particularly of gas and electricity, impacted output, reducing it to 2.6 million tons.

Free zones; an important advantage for attracting investors: ICCIMA head

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) considered free zones as the best platform for an investment leap and emphasized that these zones are an important advantage for attracting investors.

In a recent joint meeting of the board of presidents of the Iran Chamber with the Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones, Samad Hassanzadeh stated: "Despite having suitable infrastructure and legal advantages, free zones have unparalleled capacity for production, exports, technology acquisition, and foreign partnership. However, there are concerns about the cancellation of some exemptions and changes in laws, which must be transparently clarified so that investors can act with confidence."

The head of the Iran Chamber, while appreciating the management and development-oriented approach of the free trade zones, emphasized the necessity of utilizing the national capacities of Iran to attract domestic and foreign investment.

He further referred to the country's economic conditions and stated: "Although Iran has faced international restrictions in recent years, its economic capabilities, committed human resources, and achievements in the fields of production and trade have created unique capacities that are not replicable in many countries."

Pointing to the increased attention of neighboring and Islamic countries to the Iranian market, he added: "During trips, exhibitions, and joint meetings, we see delegations from various countries. This interest indicates that Iran remains an attractive destination for joint investment, provided that some ambiguities in regulations and investment guarantees are resolved."

Hassanzadeh, referring to the country's infrastructural limitations in the energy sector, added: Good measures have been initiated to develop infrastructure; however, incentive policies for free zones still need to be strengthened so that investors have sufficient motivation to operate in areas far from urban centers.

In late October, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, said the government's top economic priority for the Iranian year 1404 (2025-26) is to attract investment to boost production, with free trade zones positioned as key drivers of national growth.

Speaking at the inauguration of five airport projects in Kish Island, Madanizadeh said the Ministry of Economy is focusing on investment-led growth to create a long-term outlook for Iran's economy.

Madanizadeh emphasized that free zones must become pilot areas for implementing economic reforms and shaping a five-year national development vision. He said each zone will prepare a specialized development plan, with at least 20 large-scale investment projects designed with international consultants, and the goal of attracting a minimum of \$10 billion in investment per zone by 2028.

The minister described the current Iranian year as the "Year of Investment for Production," underscoring the importance of channeling both domestic and foreign capital into projects that stimulate industrial, technological, and tourism-related growth. He said all efforts of the Ministry of Economy are directed toward ensuring a sustainable increase in production capacity and job creation.

The minister said the free trade zones are ideal testing grounds for innovative models of governance and investment. "These regions can lead Iran's economic transformation if provided with the autonomy and the right regulatory framework to attract investors," he noted.

He added that free zones such as Kish, Chabahar, and Anzali have the potential to serve as regional gateways, connecting Iran's markets to Central Asia, South Asia, and the Persian Gulf through trade, logistics, and technology transfer.

Madanizadeh said free zones should act as laboratories for new governance models based on meritocracy, transparency, and competitiveness.

He identified three main structural problems in Iran's economic management—overlapping and inefficient decision-making bodies, weak human resource systems, and outdated policymaking frameworks.

"These zones can pioneer a new model of economic governance," he said, adding that local authorities must adopt a single decision-making structure, recruit skilled professionals based on merit, and operate under free-market principles.

He also stressed the gradual removal of energy subsidies and state-imposed price controls within free zones.

"Free zones must be the first areas to experience real economic freedom—where energy and credit are priced competitively and reflect market realities," he said.

In late July, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian launched a national smart transformation initiative for the country's free trade and special economic zones, unveiling three digital platforms aimed at boosting transparency, efficiency, and tourism.

The project, announced on the sidelines of a meeting of the Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones High Council, includes a digital tourist card system to facilitate purchases by foreign visitors, an online platform offering hotel and restaurant discounts, and a cargo management system for real-time truck scheduling and shipment tracking.

Developed in collaboration with domestic tech firms and knowledge-based companies, the project is part of a broader strategy to transform Iran's free zones into next-generation digital economic hubs.

Officials say the initiative is expected to streamline service delivery, enhance governance, and reduce the impact of sanctions through increased digital resilience.

Over time, the system will integrate additional service chains, potentially reshaping the role of free zones in Iran's economic governance model.

The government says the project also supports improved transparency, better resource management, and a more agile administrative framework aligned with the strategic goals of the Free Zones Council.

The secretary of Free and Special Economic Zones High Council has recently said that during the 12 days of the imposed war, 118,000 tons of basic commodities were cleared from seven free zones, which was aimed at meeting the country's needs.

Reza Masrou said the important measures taken in the country's free zones in recent months and said: "One of the main priorities in these zones was to accelerate the clearance of essential goods, which was

successfully carried out."

In line with this goal, detailed planning was carried out in all free zones, and as a result, during the 12 days of the imposed war, approximately 118,000 tons of basic goods were cleared from the country's seven free zones, the official reiterated, adding that of course, if demand increases from new zones, this figure will increase significantly.

The secretary of the Free and Special Economic Zones High Council has said that Iran is set to implement a major restructuring of its free trade zones in a bid to revive their role in regional commerce and national economic development.

Masrou said that although the zones were designed to drive trade, investment, and transit, they have fallen short of expectations in recent years.

He announced the beginning of a reengineering process, backed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, to redefine the function and governance of these areas.

The transformation plan focuses on deep legal, institutional, and infrastructural reforms, alongside new policies to turn the zones into export-oriented hubs.

Each zone will align its activities with its own strengths, such as transit logistics, tourism, downstream industries, or advanced technologies, he added.

Authorities also aim to transition the zones into what officials describe as "seventh-generation" areas—drawing on modern international development models.

Three key documents are being drafted to guide this transition: a strategic roadmap for reform, a digital economy blueprint, and a national productivity program.

The strategic roadmap is designed to identify systemic challenges, reassess the direction of the zones, and develop macro and sector-specific policies.

The digital economy document links the potential of tech-driven innovation with the commercial ecosystems of the free zones. The productivity program is aimed at defining and applying performance benchmarks to improve efficiency across all regions.

Masrou said these plans are being developed in collaboration with Iran's top economic policy experts and research centers, using global models and tailored analyses of domestic and international conditions.

He added that the content reflects a broader strategy to redesign governance, strengthen the zones' missions based on competitive advantages, reform outdated laws and institutions, and harness Iran's geopolitical and geoeconomic position—including international trade corridors, regional markets, energy routes, and technology capabilities.

He expressed confidence that with support from the minister of economic affairs, the plans would mark the beginning of a more focused, dynamic, and effective era for Iran's free trade zones.

During a meeting with President Masoud Pezeshkian in last December, Masrou said that Iran's free trade zones collectively offer a bulk capacity of 61 million tons and 1.4 million TEUs, with the ability to handle 12 million passengers annually.

During the session, the official presented a review of the maritime economy and port capacities of key free zones, including Anzali, Kish, Qeshm, Chabahar, Arvand, Bushehr, and Mazandaran.

The Protected Criminal Syndicate

How long can Israel evade international scrutiny with Western support?

By staff writer

TEHRAN – The Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CSP30), which opened on February 24, is meant to symbolize international cooperation against the scourge of chemical weapons. Delegates gather to reaffirm collective responsibility, transparency, and the shared determination to prevent the horrors of WMD use.

Yet even as states speak of progress, one contradiction overshadows the proceedings. Israel has acceded to no disarmament treaty whatsoever — not the Chemical Weapons Convention, not the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty (NPT) not any binding framework designed to restrict weapons of mass destruction. This refusal makes Israel the single greatest obstacle to the establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear and chemical weapons, a vision long endorsed by the United Nations but blocked in practice by Tel Aviv's defiance.

German endorsement

Western complicity was laid bare when German Chancellor Friedrich Merz described Israel's June 2025 strikes on Iran as “the dirty work Israel is doing for all of us.” By using this phrase, Merz admitted that Israel acts as an instrument of the West, carrying out attacks that others prefer not to undertake openly. The remark is damning: it acknowledges the illegality and immorality of the strikes while simultaneously endorsing them. Germany's statement exposes the hypocrisy of Western governments that claim to uphold international law but celebrate violations when committed by their allies.

Nuclear rhetoric

The danger posed by Israel is



not hypothetical. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly used the UN General Assembly stage to threaten Iran with nuclear imagery. In 2012, he brandished a cartoon bomb illustration to dramatize his warnings. In 2023, he was accused of explicitly invoking a “credible nuclear threat” against Iran — a statement condemned by Tehran as reckless and destabilizing.

More chillingly, in November 2023 Israel's Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu suggested that “nuking Gaza” was an option. Though Netanyahu suspended him from cabinet meetings and disavowed the remark, the fact that such rhetoric emerged from a sitting minister illustrates how nuclear blackmail and genocidal threats have become normal in Israeli political discourse. These statements are not isolated slips; they reflect a political culture where the use of weapons of mass destruction against civilian populations is openly contemplated, even if later walked back.

Regional aggression

Israel's record of military campaigns in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran demonstrates its willingness

to act outside international law. Reports from Western media have documented the use of banned weapons such as white phosphorus in densely populated areas, leaving civilians to bear the brunt of indiscriminate attacks. Since October 7, 2023, close to 70,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza as a result of its brutal war. In Lebanon, Israeli strikes over the past two years have killed around 4,000 people, underscoring the regional scale of destruction.

What makes this record even more alarming is Israel's reliance on Westernsupplied weaponry in carrying out these assaults. U.S. made fighter jets, precision missiles, and Europeanmanufactured artillery have all been deployed in strikes that devastated civilian populations in Gaza and Lebanon. Human rights organizations and media investigations have traced the origins of these weapons, showing how Western governments enable Israel's campaigns by providing the very tools used in mass killings.

The combination of banned munitions, Western arms, and staggering civilian casualties underscores a double impunity: Israel

operates above the law, immune from accountability, while its allies evade responsibility for arming it and endorsing its actions.

Western interests

Israel's impunity is not accidental; it is cultivated. The West wants Israel to evade international law because its unchecked militarism serves Western strategic interests in West Asia. Shielded by the United States at the UN and armed with Western technology, Israel destabilizes the region in ways that benefit its allies. Responsibility for Israel's behavior lies not only in Tel Aviv but also in Washington, Berlin, and other capitals that enable and encourage its defiance.

Iran's warning

At CSP30, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi criticized Israel's refusal to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and warned of its destabilizing role. His comments, though diplomatic, underscored the broader truth: Israel's nuclear shadow threatens not only Iran but the entire international order. By blocking the creation of a Middle East WMDfree zone, Israel ensures that peace and stability remain elusive.

On the occasion of CSP30, the international community must confront the hypocrisy of tolerating Israel's arsenal and aggression. According to the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) Nuclear Notebook, Israel is estimated to possess around 90 nuclear warheads, with other independent analysts suggesting the number could be closer to 200. Its refusal to accede to any disarmament treaty makes it the central obstacle to peace in West Asia and the world. If disarmament regimes are to retain credibility, they must hold Israel accountable, or risk rendering the lofty commitments of CSP30 meaningless.

Hezbollah's shadow war: Reshaping the battlefield before the fight



From page 1 ► Meanwhile, the struggle enters a new and more perilous chapter—one defined not by deterrence, but by a mutual race to shape the conditions of the next inevitable confrontation. Both the Resistance and the Zionist enemy are engaged in a strategic sprint.

For the enemy, the assassination operations serve one clear objective: to weaken the Resistance before the outbreak of a broader confrontation. This is not simply tactical aggression; it is an attempt to alter the balance of the next war before it begins.

Eliminating key commanders, disrupting coordination networks, and targeting seasoned military veterans reflect an effort to secure a more favorable battlefield. But the Resistance is neither idle nor reactive. Its approach is the opposite of impulsive escalation—it is a strategy of deliberate patience, rebuilding capability brick by brick, adapting its structures.

Every month that passes gives the Resistance new layers of preparedness: hardened command networks, new-generation fighters, deeper missile stocks, improved air-defense components, and evolving battlefield algorithms.

This timeline is precisely why the enemy is “eager” for war. It seeks to cut short the Resistance's rebuilding process and act before U.S. midterm elections in April—a moment that may produce shifts in Washington's political landscape.

If a portion of Congress sees political value in revisiting unconditional support for Tel Aviv, even symbolically, this would represent a historic shift in the American consensus. The Zionist establishment cannot risk entering a war while its strategic patron is distracted, divided, or less coherent in its support.

The Resistance is paying a heavy price—martyrs, commanders, infrastructure, and nonstop political pressure. But this sacrifice is not aimless. It is part of a calculated exchange intended to impose a far greater cost on the enemy in the future. The Resistance seeks two intertwined goals:

- 1) To reshape the battlefield so the eventual confrontation yields the best possible outcome;
- 2) To ensure the enemy pays for each phase of aggression—not symbolically but strategically.

This is not a phase of mere balance-building. It is the preparation for a decisive curb of Zionist expansion, which has pushed deeper and faster in recent years than at any other moment since 1982.

Obviously, West Asia is now in what can only be described as a historic turning point—one where deterrence alone is insufficient. The Resistance is preparing for a confrontation that may not remain

limited to Lebanon's southern frontier.

Should the enemy miscalculate, the war could escalate into a regional, existential confrontation involving multiple fronts.

Add to this the evolving security environment: the old era of infiltration and slow intelligence gathering is over. The battlefield is now digitized.

Artificial intelligence engines analyze real-time indicators, and a single misstep—a heat signature, a communication anomaly, a supply pattern—can expose a target within minutes. In this new era, both sides operate under the constant threat of algorithmic detection.

One of the enemy's greatest misconceptions has always been the assumption that assassinating leaders would cripple the Resistance!

This belief guided the enemy in the previous war when it targeted a group of seasoned commanders, believing the organization would collapse into chaos. But the Resistance not only survived—it adapted.

Learning from that experience, it has now prepared its leadership dozens of layers deep. For every commander, there is a fully trained replacement. For every operational unit, there is a parallel structure capable of assuming command with no delay.

What the enemy once saw as a fatal blow is now merely a tactical disturbance. Assassination temporarily disrupts, but it does not dismantle. This is why the enemy now finds itself confronting a new generation of commanders— younger, hardened, more technologically professional, and battle-proven.

During the last battle, the enemy quietly assessed some of these emerging leaders and realized that killing one generation had simply paved the way for another that is sharper, more adaptive, and more difficult to predict. The cycle of replacement is faster than the cycle of targeting.

Today, Lebanon is living through the “war before the war”—a phase in which every assassination, every intelligence leak, every political maneuver, and every month gained or lost shapes the battlefield of the coming confrontation.

The Resistance knows what is coming. So does the Zionist enemy. One side seeks to buy time; the other seeks to steal it. And when the moment finally arrives, it will not be a limited skirmish. It will be a decisive, history-shaping war—one whose outcome will determine whether Western hegemony continues its long grip on the region, or whether a new balance emerges, anchored not in foreign power but in the will of its people.

Serbia's MFA rejects 'fabricated narratives' of 'human safaris' in Sarajevo siege

From page 1 ► The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia strongly condemns, and notes with serious concern, the dissemination of sensationalist and unfounded allegations in certain foreign media regarding the purported role of the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, during the wartime events in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s, including fabricated narratives about so-called “human safaris” during the siege of Sarajevo.

The Ministry unequivocally rejects such fabrications, assessing them as yet another example of a coordinated spread of disinformation aimed at undermining the reputation of the Republic of Serbia and its highest institutions.

The Ministry recalls that no relevant domestic, international, or specialized judicial, investigative, or oversight institution has ever linked President Aleksandar Vučić to any form of military activity, war crimes, or actions which by their nature or consequences could be classified as violations of international law.

It is particularly troubling that topics from the most tragic period of the Balkans' recent history are once again being instrumentalized for political manipulation, deliberately fueling tensions and contributing to destabilization in our region. The malicious construction of sensationalist narratives, including wholly unfounded claims about alleged “human safaris”, represents a grave affront

Gaza strangled despite “truce deal”

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Despite Trump's much-touted Gaza truce announced on October 10, Israel continues to restrict essential lifelines for Palestinians in Gaza.

The occupying Israeli regime's continued airstrikes, bombardment, and tightening blockade are deepening a humanitarian collapse across the Gaza Strip, where survival is becoming increasingly untenable despite the declared truce.

Reports from southern Gaza indicate that Israeli occupation forces (IOF) killed a Palestinian man in Bani Suhaila, inside the “yellow line” east of Khan Younis, as the regime's warplanes launched yet another strike in the same area. On Monday, the IOF killed at least four Palestinians and injured several others.

Intense artillery fire simultaneously pounded wide sections of the city's eastern flank, defying the ceasefire terms announced on October 10.

In central Gaza, Civil Defense teams recovered the remains of 14 Palestinians from beneath the rubble of a residential home in the Maghazi refugee camp. The victims were still inside when the house was struck during what rescue crews describe as a

broadening campaign of mass killing.

The Gaza Civil Defense has warned that its entire fleet may soon stop operating as fuel reserves have been completely exhausted.

Without fuel, urgent humanitarian interventions will become impossible, leaving thousands at risk as the regime's attacks escalate. The warning comes amid a deepening blockade that has already choked off electricity, transport, and basic services.

The occupying regime is continuing its systematic bulldozing of residential neighborhoods in eastern Gaza City and near Rafah in the south, destroying homes and essential services. At the same time, the so-called “yellow line”, where the IOF maintains its occupation of the Gaza Strip and fires at anyone who comes close, remains a major obstacle to moving forward with the second phase of the truce plan.

These actions directly violate the declared ceasefire. When the IOF blocks movement and destroys infrastructure at the same time, it creates a situation where daily life cannot continue in any normal or safe way.

The regime's measures make life in Gaza unin-

habitable because they take away the basic conditions people need to survive. Constant attacks mean no neighborhood is safe, and the destruction of homes leaves families without shelter just as harsh winter conditions approach.

At the same time, Israeli naval vessels have opened fire off the coast of Gaza, this time near Rafah, expanding the land-air-sea campaign across much of the strip.

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, hospitals received 17 Palestinians in the past 24 hours, including three newly killed and 16 injured. Fourteen bodies recovered from beneath rubble were also brought in. Since Trump's ceasefire announcement on October 10, the Palestinian death toll in Gaza has reached 345, with 889 wounded and 588 bodies recovered.

The cumulative death toll resulting from the Israeli genocide in Gaza since October 7, 2023, has risen to 69,775. Another 170,965 have also been injured.

As IOF operations widen and the blockade tightens, essential services are collapsing, leaving Palestinians in the besieged enclave with diminishing means to survive.



Palestinians at an aid distribution point set up by the GHF, near the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip on June 25.Photo: AFP

fire on the journey.

For the United States, GHF was never simply about feeding people. Trump administration officials repeatedly cited it as evidence that “Hamas steals aid,” using the narrative to justify continued military support to Israel while preserving a thin veneer of humanitarian concern.

On the same day the foundation was officially shut down for good – the U.S.-led Civil-Military Coordination Cen-

ter announced it would “build on the GHF model” for the future. That single statement proved the whole project had never been about feeding Gaza: it had been a six-month pilot to fuse humanitarian aid with military occupation.

The GHF was never a neutral charity. It was a calculated, lethal experiment that weaponized hunger, turned the basic human need for bread into bait, and delivered death by bullet.

Baited with bread, butchered by bullets

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a controversial U.S. and Israeli-backed aid scheme that sidelined the UN and used armed American contractors, was permanently shut down on November 24.

Washington and Tel Aviv immediately celebrated the closure as a triumph. GHF's final statement declared it had succeeded in its mission and delivered a record 187 million meals without a single box falling into Hamas hands. American officials described the project as conclusive proof that the UN system was irredeemably corrupt and that only a militarized model could prevent aid from being “stolen by terrorists.”

But facts on the ground tell a different story. From its launch in late May until its abrupt end, GHF operated a system that deliberately lured starving Palestinian civilians into open killing zones. Every one of its four distribution points was deliberately placed inside active Israeli military corridors: three in the far south near Rafah, one near Nuseirat in the center of the Strip. The sites were ringed by Israeli forces and guarded by armed American contractors.

Announcements of food distributions were broadcast by loudspeaker

and sent by text message, drawing thousands of desperate people across miles of rubble and destroyed roads. Once the crowds had gathered in the open, gunfire routinely erupted, often without warning. Independent monitors, including the UN Human Rights Office, Airwars, Forensic Architecture, and Gaza's Health Ministry, documented about 1,000 Palestinians killed and several thousand wounded at or near those sites. Human Rights Watch, after analyzing satellite imagery, videos, and survivor testimony, concluded that multiple incidents appear to amount to war crimes.

The United Nations refused to have anything to do with GHF from the very beginning. Secretary-General António Guterres called the model “an abomination.” Humanitarian organizations, among them Oxfam, Save the Children, Médecins Sans Frontières, and Amnesty International, demanded its immediate closure, warning that forcing famished civilians into militarized corridors was a recipe for massacre.

Warnings were ignored

The food boxes themselves weighed up to 20 kilograms, a deliberate design choice that excluded the elderly, the injured, and small children. Those who could reach the sites often paid extortionate transport fees or risked sniper

Iranian ambassador emphasizes promoting medical tourism with Tajikistan



TEHRAN--Iranian ambassador to Tajikistan Alireza Haqiqian emphasized the need to design a sustainable framework for joint cooperation and the development of medical tourism with Tajikistan.

According to ISNA, Head of the Iranian Health Insurance Organization Mohammad-Mehdi Nasehi, along with a group of senior managers of this organization, met and discussed with Iranian Ambassador to Tajikistan.

In this meeting, they exchanged views on ways to develop cooperation and create the necessary platforms, especially electronic infrastructure, in the field of health and medical insurance in Tajikistan.

Haqiqian emphasized the need to design a sustainable framework for joint cooperation and

the development of health tourism.

In a move to enhance bilateral relations between Iran and Tajikistan, a visa-waiver program was implemented between the two nations and began in August 2024.

Based on a recent Memorandum of Understanding inked by the governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, passport holders from both countries can visit each other's territories without a visa for up to 90 days from the date of first entry, with a maximum stay of 30 days per visit, as reported by Khovar.

Initially, the visa-free initiative is available exclusively for travelers on Dushanbe-Tehran and Tehran-Dushanbe air services.

Ardabil to present over 100 tourism investment opportunities at intl. forum

TEHRAN - Ardabil province is set to present 112 investment opportunities in tourism, handicrafts and related services at an international on Thursday, a provincial official said.

Jalil Jabari, director-general of Ardabil's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, said the opportunities will be introduced during the Ardabil International Investment Conference, which is scheduled for November 26.

Jabari said the province is working to facilitate conditions for major tourism investment holdings.

According to organizers, the conference will be held on the sidelines of the Ardabil

Expo 2025, which runs from November 26 to 28.

Last week, Jabari publicized that between 350 trillion and 400 trillion rials (\$350 million to \$400 million) have already been invested in tourism projects in Ardabil, with progress in some cases ranging from 20% to 70%. He said 90 projects are currently underway, providing an estimated 4,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Ardabil, located on a high plateau in north-west Iran, is known for its natural landscape, hospitality and long-standing silk and carpet trade. It is home to the UNESCO-listed Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble and attracts large numbers of visitors, particularly in summer.

Sistan-Baluchestan to host conference dedicated to desert hiking

TEHRAN - Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province is set to hold a special conference on desert attractions for hikers on Nov. 27-28.

Organizers said tourists and nature enthusiasts are invited to attend the event, which will focus on sightseeing activities in the region's desert landscapes.

Announcing this, Hossein Eslami, director of the Lut Desert World Heritage Base in Sistan-Baluchestan province, told Miras Aria (CHTN) that stargazing, local games, illumination, traditional music performances, and safaris are among the programs that have been prepared for this event.

The Lut Desert, located across the provinces of Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, and

South Khorasan, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2016. It is known for its extreme temperatures, unique wind-shaped landforms, and seasonal desert ecosystems.

The region contains yardangs, sand dunes up to 475 meters high, stony plains, and areas that have recorded some of the Earth's highest surface temperatures, reaching 70.7°C.

The Lut Desert, with its unique natural and geological features, is known as one of the world's prominent geological regions, especially due to the presence of kaluts and salt domes. These natural phenomena, along with historical and cultural monuments such as Nay-Band and Deh Salm villages have created a unique atmosphere for the tourists.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Portobelo-San Lorenzo

The Fortifications on the Caribbean side of Panama: Portobelo and San Lorenzo are located along the coast of the Province of Colón. There are diverse fortification sites around the Bay of Portobelo, denominated San Fernando fortifications: Lower Battery, Upper Battery and Hilltop Stronghold; San Jerónimo Battery Fort; Santiago fortifications: Castle of Santiago de la Gloria, Battery and Hilltop Stronghold; the old Santiago Fortress; ruins of Fort Farnese; the La Trinchera site; the Buenaventura Battery; and the San

Cristóbal site. Forty-three kilometers away, at the mouth the Chagres River stands the San Lorenzo Castle (originally "San Lorenzo el Real del Chagre") with its Upper Battery as a separate structure.

The component parts of the property represent characteristic examples of military architecture developed by the Spanish Empire in its New World territories largely between the 17th and the 18th centuries. The first plans for fortifying the entrance

UNESCO-listed Susa completes protection work on 253 Apadana Palace remains

TEHRAN - Conservation teams in the UNESCO-registered Susa have completed a project to safeguard and protect 253 architectural remains from the Achaemenid-era Apadana Palace, the head of the Susa World Heritage base said on Tuesday.

Ali Bouyeri said protective and rescue measures on the stone remains of the Apadana Palace have been an ongoing process for several decades.

"Funded by the Khuzestan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, the project covered stone elements, including column capitals, column shafts and column bases."

He said a French archaeological team led by Jean Perrot in the 1970s consolidated dispersed stone elements in the southern section of the palace's eastern portico to prevent further damage and facilitate study.

Bouyeri said additional measures were taken in the 2010s to counter environmental deterioration, especially moisture. Two metal platforms with wooden surfaces were installed to hold stone fragments, he added. One temporary protective structure built during that period required redesign due to limited effectiveness during heavy rainfall.

He underlined the metal structure and pitched roof were inadequate for directing surface water and needed technical improvement for long-term conservation.

Bouyeri said a new project was launched to standardize and ensure sustained protection of the remains while preserving



the visual integrity of the Apadana Palace site. The upgraded shelter, designed to match the historical environment, has now been implemented.

Situated in the lower Zagros Mountains, Susa--identified as Shushan in the Book of Esther and other Biblical texts--is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

Visitors entering the archaeological zone can follow marked paths past date palms toward the remains of the Palace of Darius I, built around 521 BC during the Achaemenid period. To the east lies the Royal City, an area featuring deep excavations through 15 cultural layers. South of the site stands an eroded earthen tower overlooking nearby open land.

To the west is the early-20th-century Shush Castle, constructed by French archaeologists on the remains of an ancient Elamite platform. Although the structure is closed to the public, paths around its base provide views across the archae-

ological complex, including the Tomb of Daniel on the southern side.

Susa is referenced repeatedly in Biblical tradition. The Book of Esther describes events said to have taken place in the city during the reign of a Persian king identified as Ahasuerus. The narrative forms the basis of the Jewish festival of Purim. The city is also mentioned in the books of Nehemiah and Daniel, which relate to the 6th-century BC period known as the Babylonian captivity. A shrine known as Shush-Daniel is traditionally associated with the prophet Daniel and is distinguished by its conical dome.

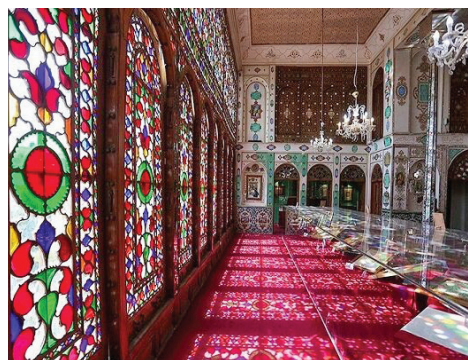
Archaeological evidence shows that Susa has been inhabited since at least 4200 BC, with indications of earlier settlement dating to around 7000 BC and pottery remains from approximately 5000 BC. Objects uncovered at the site include carved cylinder seals, jewelry, clay artifacts, and cuneiform tablets containing administrative, commercial, and mathematical records.

In 330 BC, Susa was captured by Alexander of Macedon, after which the city became part of the Seleucid Empire and was known as Seleucia on the Eulaeus. A Greek-style palace was constructed near the earlier Achaemenid complex, and inscriptions from the period have been found primarily in the southern part of the city. During the Parthian era, Susa served as a minting center.

In the Sasanian period, the city had a significant Christian community. It was damaged during the reign of Shapur II, who relocated part of the population, though Susa later recovered sufficiently to resist Arab forces in the 7th century before eventually being incorporated into the early Islamic realm. The settlement remained an important regional center until the 13th century CE.

According to UNESCO, Susa contains the remains of administrative, residential, and palatial structures, with archaeological layers spanning from the 5th millennium BC to the 13th century CE.

National Museum to host conference on human living spaces



TEHRAN - The National Museum of Iran is scheduled to hold a national conference on human living spaces on Feb. 15, 2026.

The event, titled "Six-Dimensional Space:

Human Living Space," is organized by a scientific association of Iranian architecture in cooperation with several researchers and experts.

According to organizers, the conference will cover various themes that include include Iranian homes and society, Iranian architecture, the relationship between homes and nature, contemporary lifestyles, the history of restoration in Iran, archaeology and historical studies related to domestic spaces, and building and urban regulations.

Mohammad-Mansour Falamaki, a senior architect and former head of the architecture department at the University of Tehran, said in a note published for the conference

that the formation of a residential home is shaped by environmental conditions and spatial directions.

He said these directions include the ground below, the sky above, and the four cardinal points, all of which influence how homes are conceived and built in relation to their surroundings.

Falamaki said a home must be evaluated within the opportunities and constraints of its environment, noting that both direct and indirect environmental factors affect individual and social life.

Organizers underlined that the conference aims to examine the historical and contemporary dimensions of domestic space in Iran.

Media tour explores historic sites across Semnan province

TEHRAN - A media tour in Semnan province on Wednesday took journalists to five historic and cultural sites, offering an overview of the city's architectural heritage and preservation efforts, IRNA reported.

The tour began at the 1,000-year-old minaret of Semnan's Jameh Mosque, considered one of the oldest and best-preserved minarets in Iran.

The structure is said to date back to the Al-e Ziar dynasty, predating the Seljuk era by at least 110 years. He said restoration work in recent months included cleaning the upper section, re-opening a basement closed for five decades to create a gallery, washing 90-year-old rugs, and preparing lighting and cultural programs for a December 2024

commemoration ceremony.

The second stop was the Adab Historical House in the Kohneh Dej district, a Qajar-era structure notable for its brickwork and traditional plaster carvings. Officials said the complex is being restored for administrative and cultural use and may serve as a model for revitalizing surrounding historic homes.

Journalists then visited the Arg Gate, a remnant of Semnan's Qajar-era fortifications, before travelling to the Mahallat area in the west of the city. There, the group viewed the Zavqan Mosque, which sustained heavy flood damage in 1961 but remains partially standing. Nearby, they toured the Zavqan Icehouse, a Qajar-period structure restored this year and listed on Iran's Na-



tional Heritage List.

The tour concluded in Khairabad village, where a renovated historic bathhouse now operates as Semnan's first handicraft house. The center offers training in eight fields, including jajim weaving, pottery, leather embroidery, carpet weaving, ceramics and gem cutting. Organizers said

the facility purchases and markets students' products as part of efforts to support local artisans.

Semnan has 156 nationally registered heritage sites, ranging from bazaar complexes to religious monuments, underscoring the depth of the province's cultural landscape.

Fernando, and also at San Lorenzo.

On the regional scale, these military compounds belonged to a larger defensive system, including Veracruz (Mexico), Cartagena (Colombia), and Havana (Cuba), to protect the route of commercial trade between the Americas and Spain. Portobelo, where the famous fairs were held, was one of the principal Caribbean ports and played a leading role controlling the imperial trade in the Americas.

(Source: UNESCO)

Tehran, Jakarta to foster scientific cooperation

TEHRAN – The head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology's center for international scientific cooperation, Farhad Yazdandoost, and the Indonesian Ambassador to Iran, Roliansyah Sumirat, have discussed ways to enhance research, educational, and cultural collaborations between Iran and Indonesia.

During a Monday meeting, the officials explored the potential for enhancing ties, particularly in the higher education sector, IRNA reported.

The two sides concurred to sign and implement new memoranda of understanding, conduct collaborative research projects, exchange professors and students, organize specialized meetings, dispatch academic delegations to reciprocal countries, and participate in regional programs.

The officials also conferred on the development of a joint industrial and technological fund to support universities and technological companies in implementing scientific research projects.

The establishment of a center for teaching Persian language in Indonesian universities to ex-



pand cultural relations between the two nations was among other issues discussed.

To promote the role of universities in regional and international science diplomacy, the officials highlighted the need for active participation in scientific meetings and networks, particularly in programs focusing on technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as D8 scientific initiatives.

Boosting sci-tech relations

On October 31, Sumirat emphasized the need to promote scientific, technological, and educational collaborations between Indonesia and Iran.

“Relations between Tehran and Jakarta need to be upgraded from political to technological cooperation,” IRNA quoted Sumirat as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting held at the University of Tehran on Wednesday to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

“To reduce scientific dependence on developed countries, it is essential to establish a joint network in key areas such as information technology, artificial intelligence (AI), clean energy, and marine sciences between Iran and Indonesia,” he noted.

Referring to the membership

of the two countries in institutions such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement, and BRICS, Sumirat emphasized the need for fostering synergy and cooperation between the two nations to address the problems of the Islamic world, the region, and the world.

The official also called for the expansion of ties in the fields of maritime governance, energy security, climate change, and the blue economy so that the sea becomes a factor for unity and creates a model of sustainable development.

The Indonesian ambassador also stated that Indonesia is opposed to any unilateral sanctions, and emphasized the necessity of resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through diplomacy; “Indonesia defends the right of all countries to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.”

For his part, Seyed Hamzeh Safavi Homami, a faculty member at the University of Tehran, underlined the importance of expanding relations between the two countries, particularly academic cooperation by signing memorandums of understanding.

25 countries attending Rayan intl. AI, programming contest

TEHRAN – Some 100 participants from 25 countries are participating in the final stage of the Rayan international artificial intelligence (AI) and programming contest, titled World Finals, which is being held on-site in Tehran from November 25 to 29.

Supported by the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, Sharif University of Technology is hosting the event, according to Mehr news agency.

The scientific contest aims to enhance specialized knowledge, foster international networking, and establish scientific authority in AI and programming.

The event plays a key role in identifying and nurturing talented youths. It serves as a platform to foster creativity and innovation, and an opportunity for experts and those interested in programming to share knowledge and experiences.

Moreover, the event helps participants improve their technical skills and solve complex problems via algorithmic thinking. It helps them to strengthen problem-solving skills, which is one of the most important skills needed nowadays.

The participants are from different countries, including the U.S., Russia, China, India, Italy, Chile, Australia, Iran, Armenia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Taiwan, Romania, Singapore, Poland, Slovakia, Vietnam, Serbia, Argentina, Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Ethiopia.

In the first phase of the contest, held last year, around 30,000 individuals from 137 countries took part, and over 90 percent of them were from foreign countries.

The number of participants in the event

highlights the global standing of the competition and its key role in developing scientific interactions among different countries.

International Combinatorics Olympiad (ICO), the Iranian Geometry Olympiad, and international technology Olympics are among other competitions held annually in Iran at the country's initiative.

The fifth ICO took place in Tehran on October 30 and 31, bringing together approximately 5,000 competitors from over 70 countries both in person and online.

Combinatorics is an area of mathematics primarily concerned with counting, both as a means and an end in obtaining results, and certain properties of finite structures.

ICO is an annual competition focusing on high-quality problems related to combinatorics. The primary objective is to help students become familiar with combinatorics as a creative, broad, and enjoyable topic in a fun and engaging manner, and provide them with the opportunity to compete with students from other countries.

ICO is the first competition in the field of combinatorics, which includes online scoring and ranking. Participation is open to anyone interested in mathematics or computer science, from high school students to any other educational level.

The 12th Iranian Geometry Olympiad was held on October 17, in person and online, attracting 10,000 students from 50 countries.

The Iranian Geometry Olympiad is an annual international competition that assesses students' skills in solving geometry problems. It enhances logical thinking, imagination, and analytical thinking by using creative and innovative issues in geometry

Over 1,100 participants from 65 countries, including Pakistan, Oman, Vietnam, Tunisia, India, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and Romania, attended the second international technology Olympics, held from October 27 to 30, at Pardis Technology Park, Tehran.

The first international technology Olympics was held last year, attracting over 6,300 participants from Iran and other countries. This year, the number of elite Iranian students participating in the event has risen to over 11,000, ISNA quoted Hossein Afshin, the vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy, as saying.

The participants competed in five different fields, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, programming, robotics, drones, and Internet of Things (IOT). Each of these competitions consists of several leagues, covering different specialized areas within the field.

The programming section includes Front-end, Python/Django, Algorithms, and Golang leagues; the AI section covers text processing, data processing, and image processing leagues.

The IOT section focuses on challenges such as smart system design, crisis management, and energy consumption optimization.

The robotics section involves lightweight, heavyweight, and student leagues, and the drone section has various competitions in different fields such as autonomous missions, group flying, and flight intelligence.

The event aims to identify talented individuals, train them, and help them get employed at the national and international levels, Afshin said.

MP underscores conservation of native, endemic plant species



TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian parliament's environment fraction, Somayeh Rafiei, has underlined paying special attention to endemic and native plant species and implementing plant diversity conservation projects in the country.

Zagros [forests in the western part of the country] is one of the top 20 global biodiversity hotspots, and nine out of 11 ecosystems in the world have been identified in the country, which is why Iran has a rich diversity of flora and fauna, ISNA quoted Rafiei as saying on Tuesday.

The country is home to over 8,500 plant species, most of which are found in Zagros, while there are only 5000 plant species known in Europe, she added.

Emphasizing the significance of developing a gene bank and genome map for plant genetic resources in the country, especially those that are disappearing, the official called for supporting research projects on plants.

She also underlined prioritizing endemic and native species, focusing on those that have medicinal values and those that are drought-resistant and play a key role in ensuring food security.

Protect plants, protect lives

Plants are unique organisms. They can produce sugars just from sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water. This ability to directly synthesize their own food has enabled plants to successfully colonize, adapt to, and diversify within almost every niche on the planet, and biologists estimate the total number of plant species to be about 250,000.

These abilities make plants the primary producers of biomass, providing animals and humankind with food, medicine, and an enjoyable landscape.

Plants are not just a backdrop to human and animal life – they are central to the health of our entire planet. They contribute to climate change mitigation. Plants, especially forests, grasslands, and peatlands, act as carbon sinks. Forests absorb approximately 2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, helping to fight climate change and improve air quality. Maintaining plant health is critical to mitigating and adapting to climate threats.

Plants help ensure clean water. Over 80 percent of wastewater is discharged untreated into the environment. Healthy vegetation acts as a natural filter, improving water quality, reducing contamination, and reducing the risk of water-borne diseases.

Plants regulate Earth's critical environmental systems by stabilizing soils, filtering air and water, regulating the water cycle, and supporting biodiversity. They prevent soil erosion, protect beneficial insects like bees and microbes, and help reduce chemical use. Loss of biodiversity diminishes ecosystem resilience, making both the environment and human communities more vulnerable to climate extremes, pests, and disease outbreaks.

They support livelihoods, boost economies, and global trade. Investing in plant health strengthens rural economies and helps build resilience to economic shocks.

Although plants are important for the survival of humans and animals, they have been neglected in recent decades, so many of them are on the verge of extinction.

The diversity of plants in Iran is unique in West Asia to the extent that the country ranks second, following Turkey. In addition to native plants, there are also some other species in the country known as endemic species, which are much more

limited than native species. Some 1,800 plant species are endemic. These species are found only in a certain geographical area.

The production of medicines from plants in the country dates back to 1980. More than 300 medicines are made out of 1,200 medicinal plants in the country.

About 4,400 natural products and over 2,000 traditional products are being supplied by domestic companies to the market.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants. In other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$4 million) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams, and in the United States it is 2.5 kilograms.

However, indiscriminate harvesting of plant species and climate change, particularly drought, have led to the destruction of many of these plants.

Plants, depending on their species, genetic and physiological structure, and the type of geographical region, show different resilience to drought.

Among the effects of drought on plants, the reduction of plants' resistance to environmental stresses such as pests, high temperatures, and biological competitors can be named.

While certain species can tolerate extreme climatic and drought conditions or fluctuations, rare endemic species (native or species that are specific to a geographical area) are more sensitive and vulnerable.

The loss of these plants is one of the biggest damages caused by drought.

Drought also creates the potential for invasive and opportunistic species to grow faster, increase in diversity, and gradually take the place of native species.

Several measures can be taken to mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly drought, on the destruction of plants, such as managing the exploitation of natural resources and preventing the destruction of ecosystems, to prevent severe conditions and lessen pressures on plants.

In addition, all countries need to reduce greenhouse gases by making comprehensive, decisive, and coordinated decisions.

Raising public awareness to protect nature is also a very important step that helps governments to preserve nature.

Low vegetation

Considering that Iran is one of the countries with low vegetation and only seven percent of its total area is covered with forests, the need to increase the country's green space is very important.

One of the very important reasons for increasing the country's vegetation is that Iran is the seventh carbon-producing country in the world, and in terms of carbon absorption, Iran has a very low rank.

Due to the importance of the per capita increase in Iran's green spaces, a campaign titled “Green Iran, Strong Iran” and a national program for planting one billion saplings over the course of four years were launched.

Experts say tree planting is a climate change solution that doesn't require scientists to come up with technological solutions to draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. It is available now. It is the cheapest one possible, and everyone of us can get involved.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Education Minister Mohsen Haji Mirzaei stated.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted, highlighting, all schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

زنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می‌شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است. او افزود: همه مدارس باید شیوه نامه‌های بهداشتی را به طور جدی رعایت کنند تا مشکلی برای دانش آموزان پیش نیاید.



NOVEMBER 26, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Don't ever regret deep reflection and rationalization, for thinking revives the alert heart and is a key to doors of wisdom.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:12 Dawn: 5:23 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:51 (tomorrow)

Iranian short film “Sheep” wins at Asian World Film Festival

TEHRAN – Iranian short film “Sheep,” written, directed, and produced by Hadi Babaeifar, won a prize at the 11th annual Asian World Film Festival (AWFF), which was held in California, the U.S.

The festival announced its jury and audience award winners at a marquee closing night ceremony on Sunday at the Culver Theater in Culver City, California, and in the Short Film competition section, “Sheep” was named first runner-up, ISNA reported.

Babaeifar received a trophy and a scholarship to the New York Film Academy, a \$3,000 set-rental credit from Our Home Studios, and a DCP from The DCP Company.

A production of 2024, the 13-minute narrative film shows a little girl named Rose who lives with her mother in Tehran. Discovering that the sheep in her neighbors' backyard are being sacrificed in a traditional ritual, she decides to save as many sheep as she can. The cast includes Rose Tabatabaie and Gelavij Alam.

Hadi Babaeifar, 42, discovered his interest in cinema at the age of 20 and bought his own camera. He studied film criticism and acting at the Kamameh Institute of Arts and Culture while simultaneously working as a photographer on several feature film sets.

When he was 32, he embarked on a directing degree in Tehran, graduating in 2018. His



debut short film “Deer” premiered in Generation section of Berlin International Film Festival in 2022 and is the first part of his animal trilogy. “Sheep” is the second film in the trilogy.

The Asian World Film Festival (AWFF) Short Film Program is dedicated to supporting and promoting filmmaking in Asia and the work of Asian/Asian-American/Multiracial-Asian filmmakers globally.

Its mission is to showcase the diverse and talented voices of Asian filmmakers and provide a platform for their creative expression. The short film format offers a unique opportunity for filmmakers to tell powerful and impactful stories in a compact and compelling way.

By focusing on short films, it aims to provide a space for new and emerging filmmakers to showcase their work and receive recognition for their talents.

renowned kamancheh player and composer Saeid Farajpouri, performed by the orchestra with Farajpouri himself as the soloist on stage.

In the subsequent two sections, accompanied by traditional Iranian instruments and the orchestra, a selection of timeless songs will be performed with Vahid Taj's vocals, captivating the audience with a blend of classical and contemporary melodies.

Iran National Orchestra to perform in Vahdat Hall

TEHRAN- Iran National Orchestra, conducted by Homayoun Rahimian, will present its latest concert titled “Now It Has Reached Our Ears...” over two nights on December 7 and 8 at Tehran's Vahdat Hall.

Prominent Iranian vocalist Vahid Taj will accompany the orchestra during the concerts, which have been arranged in three sections.

The first part features the “Concerto for Kamancheh and Orchestra,” composed by the

Cartoon of Day



The World Is Still Watching.

Cartoonist: Ahmad Qaddura from Sweden

19th Cinema Vérité reveals line-up for Gaza Competition section

TEHRAN – The 19th Iran International Documentary Film Festival “Cinema Vérité” has announced the line-up for the Gaza Competition section.

According to the announcement, 10 foreign documentaries will be screened in the section in the upcoming edition, set to be held from December 10 to 17 in Tehran, Mehr reported.

The films include “Gaza: A Stolen Childhood” directed by Moamen Ghonem, a 2024 joint production of Palestine and Qatar, “I Will Remember You” by Mohamed Rida Guezni, “WAED” by Houssein Ali Kanso, “Palestine Lentils” by Hamdi Khalil El-husseini and Samar Taher Lulu, “\$17.74” by Justin Mashouf, “Still Playing” by Mohamed Mesbah, “A Man Fell” by Giovanni C. Lorusso, “Hind Under Siege” by Naji Fawwaz Mustafa, “Notes on an Exile” by Gustavo Castro, and “Free Words: A Poet from Gaza” by Abdullah Harun Ilhan.

A 2024 joint production of Palestine and Qatar, “Gaza: A Stolen Childhood” shows Mohammad, Farah, and Sabri... three among thousands of stories of Gaza's children who have been living through the war on the Strip since October 7, 2023. Over approximately one year, the director followed their life paths during the aggression and documented their suffering to answer the question, “what is war like in the eyes of Gaza's young children?”

“I Will Remember You” is a production of Morocco and Qatar in 2025. In it, a young Moroccan director stumbles upon an audio tape that his grandfather has recorded during the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973. He embarks on a journey searching for fragments of his grandfather's footsteps. He then finds himself dealing with a group of ex-soldiers, forgotten by history, rejected by



society and unfairly treated by their country. His journey sheds light on the military and intimate past of the grandfather, and the experience of the Moroccan soldiers in the conflict, thus, it makes the grandson ponder over questions that are answered by the eternal reality of war.

A 2024 Palestine production, “Palestine Lentils” tells the story of a Palestinian chef and his role in using his hobby as a shield against the famine caused by the war on Gaza, preserving the spirit of resilience and hope within his community.

“\$17.74” was made in 2024 in the U.S. It shows how a prisoner's small act of compassion, a \$17.74 donation to Gaza, sparked a movement that reached across the world. This short documentary tells the story of how even the smallest gesture can inspire hope.

A 2025 joint production of France and Palestine, “Still Play-

ing” is inspired by real-life events and their own experiences of young video game creators who seek to make their own voices heard on the bangs of the industry.

Made in 2024, “A Man Fell” (Italy and Lebanon) depicts the Gaza Building, a former PLO hospital, a symbol of Palestinian survival in the refugee camp of Sabra (Beirut) North of Shatila camp.

“Notes on an Exile” (Brazil and Palestine) is a 2025 documentary. Footage of the meeting with a Brazilian-Palestinian family in the West Bank in 2018 is revisited after October 7, 2023. What was supposed to be a film about the possibilities of coexistence in an occupied land turns into a brutal reflection on colonization, apartheid, genocide, and the recent proliferation of images of war, produced by the very victims of a massacre that repeats itself over time.

A production of 2024, “Free

Words: A Poet from Gaza” (Egypt and Turkey) is a documentary detailing the life and experiences of Palestinian poet Mosab Abo Touha and his homeland, Palestine. The film delves into Mosab's journey as he navigates the complexities of living in oppression. This is not just a story of one poet; it is a testament to the universal struggle for freedom of expression and the enduring power of words to inspire change. The film captures the essence of creativity as a lifeline, illuminating the vital role that art plays in shaping narratives and fostering hope in a fractured world.

Iran International Documentary Film Festival “Cinema Vérité” is organized by the Documentary & Experimental Film Center (DEFC). The festival tries to express the relationship between reality and truth through documentary films.

New cultural facilities to open on Iran's strategic islands, enhancing youth engagement

TEHRAN- Two new cultural and artistic centers along with a cinema hall of Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults – Kanoon are set to open simultaneously on November 30, coinciding with the Persian Gulf Trio Islands National Day.

The openings will take place on Bu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Siri islands, marking a significant step toward expanding cultural access in Iran's most distant regions.

“Kanoon's goal is to provide children and teenagers with equal access to cultural and educational facilities in all regions, especially in remote and underserved areas,” Kanoon director Hamed Alamati said. He also emphasized the importance of promoting cultural justice across the country.

Alamati announced that two new cultural centers will be established on Siri and Greater Tunb islands, while a cinema hall of Kanoon will be inaugurated on Bu Musa Island—an area that already hosts an active cultural center.

Highlighting the population capacity of these regions, he explained: “Approximately 600 children and teenagers live on Bu Musa Island, which has a total population of 4,213 residents and 934 households.”

“Around 46 children and teenagers reside on Greater Tunb, which has a population close to 1,000. The opening of this new cultural center will enhance cultural services in the island,” he noted.

Regarding Siri Island, Alamati said: “With a population of about 2,800—mainly workers and their families—36 children and teenagers will benefit from the new Kanoon center.”

He underscored that the opening of these centers is part of the national mission to expand cultural coverage and create equal educational and artistic opportunities for children and teenagers all over the country.

The Persian Gulf Trio Islands National Day marks a significant occasion in Iran's national calendar, celebrating the sovereignty and strategic importance of the three islands—

Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa—located in the Persian Gulf. This day underscores Iran's ongoing efforts to strengthen its presence and development in these vital maritime regions.

This date, November 30, commemorates the anniversary of Iran's military retaking the islands from British forces in 1971, marking a pivotal moment in Iran's assertion of its territorial integrity in the Persian Gulf. The day underscores Iran's firm stance in asserting its historical and territorial claims over these islands, especially in the face of ongoing disputes with the United Arab Emirates, which also claims sovereignty over the territories.

The celebration also serves as a reminder of the islands' cultural, economic, and geopolitical significance, highlighting Iran's commitment to safeguarding its territorial integrity and fostering national unity. The occasion fosters national pride and awareness of Iran's historical ties to these territories, which have been a focal point of regional geopolitics for decades.

Saqqez Kurdish Theater Festival to showcase indigenous culture

TEHRAN- The 20th edition of the Saqqez International Kurdish Theater Festival will be held with a focus on the Kurdish language and indigenous customs, the organizers have announced.

The festival aims at performing works in Kurdish to play a vital role in strengthening the region's cultural heritage and traditional rituals, ISNA quoted Hamidreza Khoshbakht, the secretary of the event, as saying on Monday.

“A total of 39 works from various cities and countries have been submitted to this event, of which 25 are from domestic groups and 14 from Syria, Turkey, and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region,”

he explained.

He further elaborated on the preparation process for the event: “The submission of works began in July, and after an initial review, the festival's judging panel completed the evaluation. From these submissions, 10 performances have been chosen for the final round.”

Khoshbakht underscored that the festival is held to honor the Kurdish language and culture: “All performances in the festival will be conducted in Kurdish, aiming to make a meaningful contribution to the preservation and promotion of the Kurdish language and traditions.”

Regarding the criteria for selecting works, he said: “A fresh perspective, focus on culture and customs, national unity and solidarity, attention to the slogan of the year centered on participation and investment, as well as the strengthening of Kurdish literature and language, were among the most important evaluation indicators.”

He also announced a positive reception from artists for the upcoming edition: “This year we have seen significantly greater participation compared to previous years, and we hope the festival will be more magnificent than ever, with the collaboration of artists, the public, and officials

from the city and province.”

He additionally mentioned plans to elevate the festival's academic level in future editions: “Special attention will be given to scriptwriting, involving experts in Kurdish language and theater, and there are plans to include a children's and youth section. Although this part will not be held this year, we aim to add it in upcoming festivals.”

The 20th Saqqez International Kurdish Theater Festival will commence on Wednesday, with the participation of domestic and international theatre groups, in the western Iranian city of Saqqez, Kordestan province.