



Holy Mary Metro Station Marks Interfaith Unity in Tehran

Tehran’s new metro station officially opens, with the mayor, priests, and leaders of Iran’s Christian community in attendance



Scan this QR code to see photos.

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Intl. community has responsibility to stop Israel’s crimes, Araghchi tells EU’s Kallas

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has criticized the ongoing violations of international law arising from Israel’s actions in the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon, saying that the international community has a responsibility to help stop these “crimes.” Araghchi made the remarks in a phone conversation with the European Union’s foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, on Friday evening. ► Page 2

Key upgrades to domestic air-defense systems now being implemented, Iran says

TEHRAN – Iran has begun implementing major upgrades to its domestic air-defense systems following the recent 12-day conflict with Israel, a senior military official announced, saying the improvements are aimed at strengthening the country’s readiness and closing operational gaps identified during the fighting. Reza Khajeh, Deputy for Operations of the Army Air Defense Force, said in an interview with IRIB on Friday that work is already underway to enhance system performance, resolve technical vulnerabilities, and integrate upgraded platforms into Iran’s combat structure. “Many of the weaknesses in our systems are being addressed, and once the process is complete, the upgraded systems will join the Army Air Defense’s order of battle,” he said. ► Page 3

Will south Syria replicate south Lebanon’s experience?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The dramatic events that shook Beit Jinn Friday at dawn have revived a question long whispered in regional security circles: Is south Syria on the cusp of developing its own south Lebanon-style Resistance model? The unprecedented escalation unleashed by the Israeli enemy—after a direct clash with a local armed cell—revealed patterns that echo the early days of Lebanon’s anti-occupation awakening. The confrontation began when an Israeli occupation patrol crossed into Syrian territory to arrest three local civilians. However, a small group of people ambushed the patrol, injured and nearly captured the soldiers after disabling their vehicle. Their fleeing triggered a sweeping and punitive response: hours of air and artillery strikes flattened around twenty civilian homes, forcing families to flee under the weight of bombardment.

Israel’s brutality on display: From Jenin to UN torture warnings

By staff writer

TEHRAN – The execution-style killing of two unarmed Palestinian men in Jenin — shot at point-blank range after they surrendered with their hands raised — has triggered international outrage and renewed scrutiny of Israel’s entrenched culture of impunity. For Palestinians, however, the atrocity is tragically familiar, another chapter in a long narrative of unchecked state violence. The victims, Al-Muntasir Billah Abdullah and Youssef Asasa, followed every command. They raised their arms, lifted their shirts to show they carried no weapons, and crawled back toward the building as instructed. None of this saved them. Israeli soldiers shot both men at close range. The moment, captured clearly on video, spread across the world and forced Israeli officials to announce an investigation.

“Ceasefire” masks ongoing Israeli aggression

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Despite the October 11 truce, the occupying Israeli regime continues expanding its military presence and attacks across Gaza, worsening Palestinian suffering. Israeli occupation forces (IOF) have carried out intense land, sea, and air strikes across large parts of the Gaza Strip. Eastern Gaza City, Beit Lahiya, the eastern areas of the al-Bureij refugee camp, Rafah, and the towns of al-Qarara and Bani Suheila east of Khan Younis were all hit. Also in Gaza City, warplanes bombed the Shujayya and al-Tuffah neighborhoods, while IOF armored units fired shells and live rounds into the eastern edges of Zeitoun. At sea, the Israeli regime’s warships launched heavy gunfire and artillery toward Gaza City’s coast. More than 350 Palestinians have been killed since the October truce was declared while nearly a thousand others have sustained injuries. This shows clearly that the truce has not stopped the Israeli regime’s genocidal campaign.

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Pomegranate Festival begins in Saveh

TEHRAN—Saveh’s Fourth National Pomegranate Festival, hosted by the historic Jameh Mosque of Saveh, began on Saturday with the presence of national and provincial officials, agricultural activists, and gardeners from across the country. Announcing this, Head of Markazi Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department Hossein Mahmoudi explained that the event was inaugurated with the presence of Markazi Governor-General, the representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, MPs representing Zarand, Kouhbanan, Saveh, Zarandieh, Tafresh, Ashtian and Farahan in the Iranian Parliament, and Head of the Agriculture, Water, Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Iranian Parliament, Miras Aria (CHTN) reported. Referring to the rich history of horticulture in Saveh, he said that in addition to introducing the capabilities of gardeners, Saveh National Pomegranate Festival is a valuable opportunity to attract the tourists, boost the market for products, and create interaction between those involved in agriculture sector and processing industries. ► Page 6

Iran and the strategic reconfiguration of West Asia

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The offensive of October 7, 2023, was far more than just another episode in the long-standing Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It was a seismic event that shattered the foundations of the existing regional order, triggering a chain of developments that have redefined alliances, security doctrines, and the balance of power. By mid-October, few in Tehran could have anticipated that the echoes of the gunfire in Gaza would reverberate so powerfully in Iranian geopolitics. As several analysts have noted, “the Middle East as it existed before October 7 no longer exists.” Since that day, the region has moved from an order seeking normalization under the U.S. umbrella toward a more multipolar, volatile landscape defined by competition among local actors. ► Page 2



Chief Commander of Iran’s Army, Major General Amir Hatami, speaks during a ceremony marking the addition of the destroyer Sahand and the Kordestan vessels to the Navy’s fleet

Floating base, destroyer join Iranian Navy

TEHRAN – The Kordestan floating base and Sahand destroyer have joined the Naval Force of the Iranian Army [Artesh] in a ceremony attended by Army Commander Brigadier General Amir Hatami and Commander of the Naval Force Rear Admiral Shahram Irani. Numerous products and systems were also unveiled at the event, namely the Sahand destroyer, missile-launching frigates, multipurpose unmanned aerial vehicles, smart unmanned submarines as well as shore-based electronic warfare, missile and intelligence systems. The move is aimed at upgrading the country’s marine combat capability, showing off domestic technical knowhow, expanding weapons programs proportionate to threats, extending the Navy’s strategic reach and securing wider access to the high seas, among other things. ► Page 2

Rayan 2025 AI, programming contest announces winners

TEHRAN – The winners of the Rayan 2025 international artificial intelligence and programming competition, known as World Finals, were announced here on Friday. Iranian students showcased a great performance in both AI and programming sections. In the programming section, Ali Safari was placed first. China secured second and third place, followed by India, Vietnam, Armenia, Serbia, and Pakistan, respectively, ISNA reported. In the AI section, Iranian teams, namely, no Trust issues here, Pileh, AI Guardians of Trust, AIUoK, red-serotonin, Persistence, and GGWP were placed first to seventh. The final round of the Rayan international artificial intelligence and programming contest was held on Friday at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, with participants from 25 countries. ► Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Fresh claim about negotiations

In an analysis, Hamshahri addressed a claim that Iran has sent a message to the U.S. government through the Saudi crown prince, who recently made a visit to Washington. The paper said: Although in recent days senior officials of the Islamic Republic have repeatedly denied sending any message to Washington via the Saudi crown prince, Western and opposition narratives continue to construct scenarios portraying Iran as weak, attempting to depict the country as “eager to negotiate with America.” The end point of the media hype and speculation about negotiations came with the televised address of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on Thursday night to the Iranian people, in which he stated that the alleged message was a lie. Nevertheless, the claims did not end there. The anti-Iran channel “Iran International” reported that the U.S., in response to a message allegedly sent by President Pezeshkian via Riyadh, reiterated its three preconditions. Such assertions, intended to portray Iran as weak, arise even as Tehran has repeatedly emphasized in recent days that “zero enrichment and limiting Iran's missile range” are red lines, and that the Islamic Republic will not participate in any talks based on such preconditions.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Cognitive warfare key to cementing the enemy's defeat

In a commentary, Siasat-e-Rooz highlighted remarks by Daniel Hagari, former spokesperson for the Israeli military, acknowledging that Israel has lost in the court of public opinion. The paper wrote: Daniel Hagari, one of the key figures in the propaganda apparatus of the Zionist regime, publicly declared in Washington that “Israel has lost the battle on social media.” This statement is not merely a media confession; it is a strategic document that, for the first time, openly reveals the collapse of the regime's propaganda machine. To capitalize on this opportunity, a set of coordinated and multilayered actions must be taken. First, popular capacities for content production should be strengthened. Alongside this, media and cultural institutions must produce strategic content through precise planning. This unprecedented moment should be turned into a launchpad for consolidating superiority in the cognitive warfare. If action is taken today, the enemy's defeat can be transformed into a sustainable trend. But if there is a delay, the enemy will rebuild its propaganda machine and regain the initiative. Therefore, it is our historic duty to act with vigilance, cohesion, and speed, turning this opportunity into a strategic victory and reshaping the future course of battles to the benefit of regional nations and resistance movements.

Intl. community has responsibility to stop Israel's crimes, Araghchi tells EU's Kallas



From page 1 ▶ eports from health authorities in Gaza estimate that since October 7, 2023, more than 69,700 people have been killed and over 170,000 injured during Israel's military campaign. As Israeli operations expand and the blockade deepens, essential services continue to erode, leaving civilians in the enclave with increasingly limited access to basic necessities.

Amnesty International stated on Thursday

that Israel is “still committing genocide” against Palestinians in Gaza, despite a ceasefire reached last month. Amnesty's Secretary General, Agnès Callamard, warned that the truce risks creating “a dangerous illusion” of returning normalcy, arguing that reductions in attacks and limited aid deliveries do not change the overall humanitarian conditions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Floating base, destroyer join Iranian Navy

From page 1 ▶ The newly unveiled equipment will also enhance the operational potential and presence of Iran's naval forces in remote waters.

Sahand, an Iranian-built stealth destroyer, was first launched in December 2018. It is equipped with a helicopter deck, torpedo launchers, anti-aircraft and anti-ship guns, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, and electronic-warfare systems.

The vessel unexpectedly sank due to an accident last year, triggering a wave of concern for the public opinion and the Navy. However, naval experts at the Army successfully brought the destroyer back to the surface after two weeks of non-stop technical and relief work.

Also, the Kordestan floating base is, in fact, a port city which can provide significant logistical support for combat vessels.

Rear Admiral Irani said the Kordestan floating base can meet different operational needs in the domains of logistics, medical services, communications, helicopters, submarine operations, rapid relief operations and sending food items, fuel and medicines.

He then underscored Iran's policy of “peace and friendship”, adding the country's Navy “stands ready to aid vessels belonging to friendly and neighboring countries.”



Iranian-built and optimally overhauled Sahand stealth destroyer (up) and domestically-developed Kordestan forward base ship

General Hatami also underlined that the Iranian Army has what it takes to give any necessary crushing response at any point in order to safeguard national interests.

“The Naval Force of the Army has been moving on the path to self-sufficiency by drawing on domestically developed expertise and equipment and has made breakthroughs in the field of maritime weaponry,” he stated.

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.

Recently, Rear Admiral Irani underscored Iran's strong presence in the high seas and the country's rapid response capability to offer help.

“Today, we are 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 explained.

Iran and the strategic reconfiguration of West Asia

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The offensive of October 7, 2023, was far more than just another episode in the long-standing Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It was a seismic event that shattered the foundations of the existing regional order, triggering a chain of developments that have redefined alliances, security doctrines, and the balance of power.

By mid-October, few in Tehran could have anticipated that the echoes of the gunfire in Gaza would reverberate so powerfully in Iranian geopolitics. As several analysts have noted, “the Middle East as it existed before October 7 no longer exists.” Since that day, the region has moved from an order seeking normalization under the U.S. umbrella toward a more multipolar, volatile landscape defined by competition among local actors.

At the heart of this new geopolitical board sits the Islamic Republic of Iran, a state that, following the significant recalibration of its ‘forward defense’ strategy, is undergoing a complex process of readjustment to safeguard its influence and national security in a radically transformed environment.

The collapse of the previous paradigm: Beyond normalization

Before October 7, the dominant trajectory in the region—driven by Washington and embraced by several Arab capitals—was toward gradual normalization with Israel. The Abraham Accords sought to sideline the Palestinian issue and structure a Sunni-Israeli axis against Axis of Resistance led by Tehran. However, Operation “Al-Aqsa Storm” and the subsequent devastating Israeli campaign in Gaza shattered that narrative.

The Arab-Israeli normalization process has now stalled. U.S. efforts to revive it through ceasefires in Gaza clash with reality: Israeli actions post-October 7—from occupations in Syria to the 12-day war with Iran and attacks on Qatar—have generated deep mistrust of Tel Aviv among Arab capitals.

The Palestinian issue reemerged with unprecedented global intensity. Images of devastation in Gaza decisively undermined Israel's international legitimacy, shifting its perception from that of a historical victim to an occupying power wielding disproportionate force. While the two-state solution remains imperfect and far from fully realized, it continues to be invoked internationally as a framework for addressing Palestinian self-determination and ending occupation. Solidarity with the Palestinian cause has transcended the Muslim world, resonating across Western societies where civil, academic, and youth movements increasingly frame it as a matter of global justice and ethical responsibility.

Meanwhile, the response of Western governments, perceived as complicity or passivity, exposed a double standard that undermined the moral authority of

Washington and Brussels, accelerating the search for alternatives among Arab states. Consequently, the perception of threats in the Arab world has been reshaped: Iran is no longer seen as the primary source of instability, while Israel has emerged as the most immediate and existential threat to the Palestinian cause and Arab dignity.

The new doctrines of Iran and Israel

In response to this environment, Israel has adopted a significant doctrinal shift. Its traditional deterrence strategy, based on conventional superiority and punitive strikes, has evolved into what could be termed a doctrine of “Strategic Confinement.”

This approach seeks to impose constant pressure on the entire Resistance infrastructure: it targets not only senior leaders but also mid-level cadres, ideologues, engineers, and financiers, forcing the pillars of the system to focus their energy on mere survival. The war of attrition moves from the battlefield to the mind of the organization, aiming for strategic paralysis through exhaustion.

For Iran, October 7 and Israel's new doctrine represent a major strategic challenge. The cornerstone of its security policy has long been the “forward defense” strategy, based on allies such as Hezbollah, Hamas, Yemen's forces, and Iraqi militias. This model allowed Tehran to project power and maintain credible deterrence without engaging in direct conflicts on its own soil.

Recent events, however, have tested this framework to its limits. Iran has been drawn into direct confrontations with Israel, a scenario it had long sought to avoid. Operations such as “True Promise,” involving coordinated drone and ballistic missile strikes, marked a point of no return, demonstrating capability and willingness for deterrence without escalating into full-scale war.

At the same time, the advanced defense network has revealed operational tensions and vulnerabilities. Hezbollah has suffered setbacks in leadership, and political transformations in Syria have partially reduced Tehran's strategic depth. Yet, these challenges have not stopped key allies. Hezbollah, in particular, shows resilience and gradual reconstruction, reinforcing its military capabilities and maintaining a central role in regional deterrence.

These dynamics underscore the complexity of Iran's challenges and the need for a comprehensive approach. The strategy combines maintaining credible deterrence across all options with efforts to strengthen economic stability and expand international integration. Simultaneously, Tehran continues recalibrating tactics, reinforcing allies, and preserving its power projection, balancing risks and opportunities in a highly volatile environment.

Despite Israeli attacks and external pressures, the Axis of Resistance has neither disappeared nor will it. Its strength lies not only in military capabilities but in the anti-colonial narrative it embodies, which continues to resonate in the region and consolidate its political and strategic legitimacy. The Resistance, far from being weakened, adapts, rebuilds, and retains its role as a central actor in the regional balance.

Diplomatic readjustment and regional strategy

The Islamic Republic of Iran faces a strategic crossroads of the highest order. The shadow of recurring conflict looms over its national security, while economic pressure seeks to constrain its room for maneuver. This situation compels Tehran to deploy more creative and adaptive strategies to safeguard its influence and security in a highly complex environment.

Within this context of overlapping pressures, Iran's strategic recalibration unfolds along multiple directions. Diplomatically, Tehran has intensified engagement with Persian Gulf monarchies, culminating in joint naval exercises with Saudi Arabia that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. There is a tacit acknowledgment that, beyond ideological differences, geography imposes the need for coexistence and stability. This approach also reflects Riyadh's recognition that, in its pursuit of Vision 2030, regional stability is a priority and that any attempt at normalization with Israel must first account for a stable relationship with Tehran.

Historically, Tel Aviv has sought a weakened and constrained Iran, an actor incapable of projecting regional influence. However, West Asian capitals have come to understand that Iran remains a key strategic counterbalance. The absence of Tehran as a regional power would remove an essential check on Israel's hegemonic ambitions, dangerously destabilizing the regional balance of power.

A new regional order is inevitable

West Asia after October 7 appears radically different: fragmented, multipolar, and marked by competition among increasingly capable local actors. U.S. hegemony and the Arab-Israeli normalization process have lost centrality, while Iran maintains its role as a key deterrent actor in the region.

The strategic tension between maintaining advanced deterrence options and promoting economic and diplomatic stability reflects the challenges defining Iran's position in this new phase. The future configuration of regional security will depend on Tehran's ability to balance influence, deterrence, and diplomacy.

The regional board has been redesigned: the era of normalization under U.S. hegemony has given way to competitive multipolarity, where resistance, deterrence, and calculated diplomacy will shape the trajectory of West Asia.

Key upgrades to domestic air-defense systems now being implemented, Iran says

From Page 1 ▶ On June 13, 2025, the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked attack on Iranian territory, triggering a 12-day war that claimed the lives of well over 1,000 Iranians, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The United States also got involved in the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites. The stated justification for the aggression was to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, a claim for which neither Israel nor the U.S. provided any evidence.

Khajeh emphasized that Iran faced a wide coalition during the conflict, not merely the Israeli military. “We were not only fighting the Zionist regime; we were facing NATO and the West,” he said, citing claims that more than 33 countries provided support to Israel.

He added that despite intense pressure, the country's integrated air-defense network “did not stop working for even a moment.” Several Iranian systems were hit and personnel from both the Army and the IRGC were killed, but Khajeh insisted the network remained fully operational throughout.

According to Khajeh, Iranian air defenses downed more than 196 hostile aircraft and unmanned systems during the 12-day conflict. Most were advanced Israeli UAVs — including Heron and Hermes models — used for command-and-control, target acquisi-



tion, and battle management.

He rejected claims made by foreign commentators that Iran had been caught off guard by the initial strikes. “All commanders and system operators were at their posts hours before the attacks began,” he said, adding that every system assigned to western Iran was in full operational mode.

Khajeh described the conflict as a “hybrid war,” involving cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, stand-off weapons, loitering munitions, and stealth platforms. He said many retired air-defense personnel voluntarily contacted the force to rejoin operations, underscoring a “nationwide sense of duty.”

Khajeh noted that long-standing military sanctions left Iran operating older platforms — “second-generation equipment against fourth- and fifth-generation enemy aircraft.” Many air-defense units were struck by stand-off munitions, yet operators “did not abandon their systems even when they knew a missile was seconds away.”

Khajeh said 35 air-defense service members were killed during the 12-day war. He described them as “martyrs who defended the skies of Iran,” adding that their sacrifice accelerated efforts to modernize air-defense infrastructure.

Khajeh said Iran's long-term goal is to develop the capacity to detect and destroy advanced enemy fighter jets, calling it “the ultimate aim” of current modernization efforts. “Given the capabilities in our country, we will achieve it,” he said, comparing the effort to prior leaps in missile technology.

He added that the 12-day conflict demonstrated the potential of Iranian-built air-defense systems and highlighted the complexity of modern air warfare. “Air defense is a sophisticated and evolving field,” he said. “With ongoing upgrades, we will defend our skies with even greater strength.”

Iran, Poland explore new areas of cooperation before 100th anniversary of relations

TEHRAN – As Iran and Poland approach the 100th anniversary of their diplomatic ties, officials from both countries met in Warsaw to discuss expanding cooperation across political, economic, cultural, and parliamentary fields, underscoring a shared interest in revitalizing a historic relationship shaped by decades of mutual goodwill.

Mahmoud Heidari, Iran's Director-General for Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean and Assistant to the Foreign Minister, met with Pawel Kowal, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Polish House of Representatives, during a visit to the Polish Parliament.

Iran's ambassador to Warsaw, Isa Kamali, was also present at the talks.

The meeting covered a broad agenda, including political, economic, cultural, and international issues, as well as prospects for

strengthening parliamentary cooperation between Tehran and Warsaw. Both sides underscored the value of sustained dialogue as relations evolve.

Heidari highlighted the long-standing historical ties between Iran and Poland—relations that date back generations and have contributed to a largely positive view of Poland among Iranians. He stressed the importance of direct engagement to build mutual understanding and reiterated Iran's readiness to expand cooperation with Poland at all levels, with particular emphasis on parliamentary exchanges.

Kowal, for his part, pointed to the enduring goodwill felt by many Poles toward Iran, shaped in part by Iran's hospitality toward thousands of Polish refugees during World War II. He welcomed further engagement and expressed openness to continued consultations with



Mahmoud Heidari, Iran's Director-General for Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean (L), met with Pawel Kowal, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Polish House of Representatives (C), during a visit to the Polish Parliament

Iranian officials.

The two sides also noted that next year marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between

Iran and Poland. They agreed that the centennial provides a significant opportunity to deepen ties and broaden cooperation across multiple fields.

Iran flatly condemns Israel's latest aggression against Syria

TEHRAN – Iran has categorically condemned the Israeli regime's recent acts of aggression, from the air and from the ground, against areas in southern Syria in which a number of Syrian citizens were killed.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei reiterated regional nations' inherent right to defend their territorial integrity and national sovereignty against Israeli aggression, saying “Syrians' resistance against Israeli forces is a natural response to aggression.”

On Friday, Israel attacked the town of Beit Jinn in the Damascus suburbs by helicopters and drones after the regime's forces entered the town, killing at least 13 Syrians and injuring two dozen others.

Having been engaged in a two-hour fierce exchange of fire, the Israeli soldiers were forced to withdraw from Beit Jinn and reposition on the hill of Butt al-Warda on the outskirts of the town.

Israeli media acknowledged that six of the regime's forces were wounded in the armed



A wounded man receives medical treatment inside a hospital, following an Israeli raid in the Beit Jinn area of southern Syria, November 28, 2025

clashes, including three seriously, saying the occupation army was subjected to a “sudden ambush” that confused the soldiers and led to the intervention of additional reserve units along with warplanes in an attempt to open a safe passage.

According to an unsourced report from the regime's Channel 13, the Israeli forces could transition to conducting fewer abductions near the border and instead increase airstrikes to eliminate

alleged targets.

Israel is reportedly preparing for potential attacks from Syria, which has condemned the Israeli aggression as a “war crime.”

Syria's interim Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the country “denounces... the criminal aggression” of the Israeli regime, adding that such acts aim to “ignite the region” in conflict.

The violent raid came a day after Israeli forces carried out a

new ground incursion into Umm al-Luqas village in the countryside of the southwestern city of Quneitra.

The official SANA news agency said that an Israeli unit of four vehicles entered the village, raided houses, and then withdrew.

Israel has conducted repeated acts of aggression across the Syrian territory following the collapse of Assad's government last year. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered his forces to push deeper into Syrian territory and seize several strategic locations.

Instead of resistance against the ongoing Israeli military operations, analysts believe the HTS-led regime's lack of action and its normalization overtures to Tel Aviv appear to have given Israel greater leeway to expand its occupation and increase the intensity of its airstrikes.

Foreign-backed militants, led by HTS — a group that was previously affiliated with the al-Qaeda — took control of Damascus and declared an end to Assad's rule last December.

Tractor defeat Chadormalou in 2025/26 PGPL

TEHRAN – Tractor football team defeated Chadormalou 3-1 in the 2025/26 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Saturday.

Domagoj Drozdek netted a brace for the hosts in the 47th and 51st minutes but Hadi Habibinejad pulled a goal back from the penalty spot in the 57th minute.

Tomislav Strkalj made the scoreboard 3-1 from the penalty spot in the stoppage time.

Tractor moved up to third place with 16 points, two points adrift of leaders Persepolis with one game at hands.

Elsewhere, Aluminum and Fajr Sepasi shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Arak.

On Sunday, Esteghlal will host Foolad and Sepahan play Mes in Rafsanjan.

“Meeting with Boy of Iran Takhti” exhibition to be held in Tehran

TEHRAN – The exhibition “Meeting with the world champion Takhti” will officially open in Tehran with the presence of officials, champions, veterans, and members of the media.

The opening is scheduled for Sunday, and visitors will be able to view the exhibition from Monday onward.

Farhad Tolookian, acting head of the National Museum of Sport, Olympic and Paralympic, announced that the world championships medals and armbands of wrestling legend Takhti will be displayed in Tehran for the first time.

“Following the meetings held and the memorandum of understanding between the National Olympic Committee and the Malek National Library and Museum, documents, images, and objects related to the late wrestler will be presented in a space of more than 300 square meters with a creative design at the Malek Museum,” he added.

“Since the medals and armbands of Takhti were previously donated to the Astan Quds Razavi Museum, and given that the Malek Library and National Museum is also affiliated with Astan, arrangements have been made for the first time to place these valuable mementos in Tehran for public viewing,” Tolookian said.

Alireza Mansourian named Al-Talaba head coach

TEHRAN – Former Esteghlal head coach Alireza Mansourian was named as new head coach of Al-Talaba of Iraqi.

The Iranian coach replaced Talal Al-Bloushi in the Iraqi side.

Mansourian started his coaching career as assistant coach in Esteghlal in 2008 and has also worked as a head coach in Pas Hamedan, Iran U-23 football team, Naft Tehran, Foolad, Aluminum and Esteghlal.

Al-Talaba sits 10th in Iraq Stars League's 20-team.

Chess players win medals at Asian Youth Championships 2025

TEHRAN – Iran claimed two gold and four bronze medals at the Asian Youth Chess Championships 2025.

Kiasha Mahboobi won a gold medal at the Boys' U8 standard division.

Barad Ahmadi also snatched a gold medal at the Boys' U14 standard.

Four Iranian players, namely Mahdiar Janbarari (Boys' U8), Aihan Rahbar (Boys U12), Mahdis Asadi Kalam (Girls' U8) and Asma Hassanpour Moghaddam (Girls' U10) won bronze medals.

The 2025 Asian Youth Chess Championships took place in Bangkok from Nov. 20 to 29.

Iran fail to reach 2025 Futsal Women's World Cup last eight

TEHRAN – Italy came from behind to beat Iran and secure a FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup quarter-final against Portugal.

Goalkeeper Farzaneh Tavasoli fired Iran ahead, promoting Italy to lay siege to their opponents' goal, fifa.com reported.

Tavasoli kept them at bay time and time again, but two goals in quick succession catapulted the Azzurre into the lead. Adrieli Berte got the first with a delightful dink, and Bruno Borges scrambled home the second. Gaby Vanelli then punished Iran's use of the fly goalkeeper by striking home from distance to seal victory.

Francesca Salvatore's side will now play Portugal on Tuesday for the right to face the Argentina-Colombia winners in the semi-finals.

Women's football fall short to Uzbekistan

TEHRAN – Iranian women's national football team lost to Uzbekistan in a friendly match in Tashkent on Saturday.

The two sides will square off once again three days later.

The games serve as preparation for next year's AFC Women's Asia Cup, starting March 1 in Australia.

Iran have been drawn in Group A along with Australia, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Uzbekistan beat Iran in 2025 CAFA U18 Women's Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Uzbekistan 3-2 at the 2025 CAFA U18 Women's Championship on Saturday.

The Persian girls lost to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and defeated Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in the tournament.

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

It was a single round-robin format.

Football shutdown in Tehran extended

TEHRAN – The shutdown of football matches has been extended for two more days.

Due to the continued severe air pollution in Tehran Province and in accordance with the decisions of the Air Pollution Emergency Task Force, all football matches at the provincial level have been canceled.

This decision, taken to protect the health of players, coaches, referees, and match officials, has been approved by the Medical Committee of the Tehran Football Committee.

According to this decree, all formal and informal football competitions that were scheduled to take place in Tehran on those dates have been canceled, and their execution has been postponed to future dates.

It is also emphasized that, under the current conditions, any athletic activity, including group training and even individual training by players, is prohibited and must be stopped completely.

The Tehran Province Football Board states that any violations by clubs, teams, or players will be met with disciplinary and legal action without leniency.

Let's pledge that no water or food is wasted: agriculture minister

TEHRAN- The Iranian minister of agriculture, at the International Conference on Combating Water and Food Waste in Turkey, highlighted the water challenge and emphasized the importance of proper water resource management and reducing food waste as a solution to preserve this vital resource.

Gholamreza Nouri, at the International Zero Waste Forum attended by senior officials from various countries, ministers, researchers, and representatives of international organizations in Turkey, thanked Ms. "Amina Erdogan" and Mr. "Ibrahim Yumalki" for their initiative in organizing this meeting.

He stressed the global importance of protecting vital water and food resources, adding: "Water and food resources, in addition to their decisive role in economic, social, and environmental stability, also hold a special place in religious teachings."

Stating that Iran is a land with a historical background in water management, he said: "Thousands of years ago, the Iranian nation, by inventing the qanat, taught the world the art of living in the heart of the desert."

The minister of agriculture, referring to the effects of climate change, repeated droughts, and water stress on the country, added: "The world today faces three challenges: 'decreasing renewable water resources,' 'growing food demand,' and 'increasing agricultural product waste.'"

According to Nouri, based on the latest official estimates by international organizations, more than 700 million people in the world are hungry, and over one billion meals are wasted daily worldwide. In other words, humans turn about one-third of the world's produced food into waste.

By describing the consequences of food and water waste, including soil degradation, reduction of groundwater, greenhouse gas emissions, and intensification of climate change, he emphasized: "Reducing food waste is, in fact, reducing water waste and is considered one of the least costly and most effective solutions for increasing global food supply."

The minister of agriculture, referring to Iran's programs to reduce agricultural product losses from 30 to 15 percent, stated that the measures taken include developing the



value chain, providing guidelines for reducing losses, creating systems for registering and tracking horticultural products, developing the cold chain, and significantly reducing losses in important products such as wheat, potatoes, apples, citrus fruits, grapes, and dates.

Nouri added: "For example, potato waste has decreased by 50 percent over the past 15 years."

He also announced that a significant portion of the waste from the production and processing of agricultural products is now entering the cycle of animal feed production and the extraction of compounds with added value, saying: "This waste, which previously caused pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, has now, thanks to technology, become part of the production cycle."

The minister of agriculture dedicated another part of his speech to the topic of improving water productivity in agriculture and stated that the implementation of programs such as efficient water governance, comprehensive watershed management, balancing groundwater aquifers, developing watershed and aquifer management, expanding modern irrigation systems, developing greenhouses, and supporting seedling cultivation are among Iran's measures for saving water resources.

Nouri, emphasizing the necessity of multilateral cooperation to address water resource limitations and reduce food waste, added: "The future of global food security depends on the extent of our responsibility and cooperation today. If we can reduce water and food waste, we have contributed to increasing production capacity, peace, stability, health, and global sustainability."

The minister of agriculture finally said: "Let us pledge together that not a single drop of water and not a single grain of food is wasted."

Uzbekistan, Iran's Mazandaran province strengthen trade, economic ties

TEHRAN- Fariduddin Nasriev, the ambassador of Uzbekistan to Iran, visited Sari, the capital of Iran's northern Mazandaran Province.

During the visit, the ambassador held meetings with Mazandaran's Governor-General, Mehdi Younesi; and also, Ali Taghipour, Head of the Mazandaran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture; as well as with local merchants and business figures.

In the meeting with the governor-general, the two sides discussed the rapidly developing friendly relations between the two countries, particularly in trade, economic, investment, tourism, and cultural fields. Mutual talks and initiatives aimed at further enhancing bilateral interactions were also reviewed.

A B2B business forum was also organized with representatives from Mazandaran's business community. The event featured negotiations with a delegation of over 30 commercial figures and social activists.

As reported on November 11, a comprehensive document on Iran-Uzbekistan cooperation has been prepared for the signing by the two countries' officials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan expand railway co-op in North-South Corridor with MOU

TEHRAN- During the 83rd meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Transport Council in Baku, the heads of the railways of Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening long-term cooperation and developing the western route of the International North-South Transport Corridor.

The memorandum was signed on the sidelines of the aforementioned meeting, which was attended by high-level delegations from 15 CIS member countries.

According to the terms of the agreement, the three countries emphasized the establishment of a stable pricing system for cargo transportation along the western route of the North-South Corridor, the setting of competitive through rates, and the expansion of joint logistical services.

By signing this document, the heads of the railway companies of Iran, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Russian Federation underscored their commitment to developing sustainable cooperation and increasing the share of international transit through the regional railway route.

This agreement represents a significant step towards activating the western route of the North-South Corridor and transforming it into one of the main transit routes for goods between Central Asia, Russia, the Caucasus, and the Persian Gulf.

The 83rd meeting of the Council for Railway Transport of the CIS Member States took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 25-26, 2025.

The meeting was attended by Council members – authorized representatives of the railway administrations of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and associate Council members from the International Confederation of Railway Workers' Unions, the CIS Executive Committee, and the Directorate of the Council for Railway Transport of the CIS Member States, as well as representatives of railway administrations from these countries: Afghanistan; Georgia; the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Republic of Latvia; the Republic of Estonia; the Organization for Cooperation of Railways, and Republic of Po-



land.

Deputy Secretary-General of the CIS Ilkhom Nematov delivered a welcoming address on behalf of the CIS Executive Committee.

Ilkhom Nematov emphasized the special role of the railway sector in the transport and economic development of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

He noted that the CIS Railway Transport Council is one of the most effective and authoritative structures within the Commonwealth. Over the years, it has maintained its reputation as a reliable and influential mechanism for sectoral cooperation, capable of effectively responding to new challenges and needs of countries in the economic and transport spheres.

CIS Deputy Secretary-General informed the heads of railway administrations about the high assessment of their work by the authorized representatives of the CIS Member States in the Commission on Economic Issues under the CIS Economic Council. He also reported that the issue of the Council's Report has been included in the agenda of the 108th meeting of the CIS Economic Council, scheduled for December 5 in Moscow.

In conclusion, Ilkhom Nematov noted the active participation of Council and Directorate representatives in the work on preparing the Strategy for Digitalization of Key Multimodal Transport Corridors of the CIS Member States and the Action Plan for implementing the second stage of the CIS Economic Development Strategy until 2030.

The meeting addressed 11 agenda items, including:

- Tariff Policy of Railways for International Freight Transport for the 2026 Freight Year;

- Results of Developing the Plan for Forming Freight Trains

Implementation of barter trade between Iran, Pakistan through consortium formation

TEHRAN- The Commercial and Investment Attaché of Pakistan in Iran, during a meeting with the Vice President for International Affairs and Trade Development of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), and the Commercial Attaché of Iran in Pakistan, exchanged views on new cooperation avenues and emphasized expediting the implementation of the barter mechanism and removing trade barriers between the two countries.

In this meeting, the Commercial Attaché of Iran in Pakistan provided a report on the latest developments in trade exchanges and the process of advancing the barter mechanism between the two countries.

At the beginning of the meeting, Hosamuddin Hallaj, Vice President for International Affairs and Trade Development of the Tehran Chamber, referred to the history of cooperation between the Chambers of Tehran, Karachi, and Lahore, as well as the exchange of delegations between the private sectors of the two countries over the past years.

He stated: "The trade value between the two countries has reached \$3.3 billion for the first time in history, which is promising. To achieve the target of \$10 billion in trade between Iran and Pakistan, the Tehran Chamber can arrange various programs, including the exchange of business figures between the

two countries, participation in each other's events, and holding business matchmaking sessions for Iranian and Pakistani merchants to foster familiarity, data exchange, and exploration of cooperation areas."

He also spoke about the possibility of forming consortiums comprising Iranian and Pakistani companies to implement projects and conduct barter between the two countries, adding: "Iran and Pakistan have placed the compilation of a list of goods suitable for barter between the two countries on their agenda, and expediting the finalization of this list can accelerate the increase of trade exchanges between the two countries."

Furthermore, Hallaj, referring to the upcoming "Iran Mod" exhibition in December this year, requested the Commercial and Investment Attaché of the Pakistani Embassy in Iran to arrange for the dispatch of delegations comprising Pakistani apparel and textile sector activists to visit this exhibition.

Possibility of joint investment in apparel sector

During the meeting, Amina Javid, Commercial and Investment Attaché of the Pakistani Embassy in Iran, emphasized the removal of trade restrictions between the two countries, stating: "The Iranian side has not yet announced the list of goods suitable

and the Plan for Forming Container Wagons in International Traffic for 2025-2026;

– The Status of Mutual Settlements Between Railway Administrations for the First Eight Months of 2025, etc.

The Council meeting was productive, with decisions on all discussed issues adopted unanimously.

The next meeting of the CIS Railway Transport Council will be held in the second quarter of 2026 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

It is also worth mentioning that, on November 21, Iran, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey signed a multilateral agreement in Istanbul aimed at expanding rail freight movement along the southern branch of the Eurasian transit corridor, reinforcing Iran's position as a core gateway for container traffic between China and Europe.

The participating countries agreed to implement coordinated measures to streamline rail transit along the route.

The commitments include applying unified and competitive tariffs, shortening travel times for container trains, cutting auxiliary and customs-related costs, and upgrading rail infrastructure across the corridor.

The objective is to significantly raise the southern route's share of international container transport between East Asia and Europe.

The agreement comes against the backdrop of substantial China-Europe rail trade, which last year approached 60 million tons carried by roughly 20,000 container trains.

Officials expect that full implementation of the Istanbul commitments will redirect a larger portion of this strategic volume through the Islamic Republic of Iran, generating meaningful economic and commercial gains.

On November 17, Iran's transport minister said progress on the strategic Marand-Cheshmeh-Soraya railway is accelerating, paving the way for a continuous China-Europe rail route that would place Iran at the heart of a major new transit corridor.

During her visit to China for the second China-Europe Rail Connectivity Forum, Minister Farzaneh Sadegh outlined Iran's long-term strategy to become a key connector between Asian and European markets.

She said efficient rail transport is essential for sustainable development, regional integration and trade expansion, noting that rail systems remove physical bottlenecks, simplify procedures and reduce logistics costs for businesses across the region.

Sadegh added that strengthening Iran's east-west transit capacity aligns with the Belt and Road Initiative and remains a firm priority for the ministry. Efforts include upgrading infrastructure, eliminating chokepoints, modernizing border logistics and coordinating with neighboring countries through bilateral and multilateral agreements.

The minister highlighted the Marand-Cheshmeh-Soraya line as a core component of Iran's transit strategy. The route will connect Iran's rail network to Turkey, creating a continuous corridor linking China to Europe through Iranian territory. Once completed, she said, the southern branch of the historic Silk Road will become a modern, end-to-end rail system enabling faster, low-cost freight movement with minimal stops.

Sadegh emphasized that Iran's geography, infrastructure and human capacity make it uniquely positioned to serve as the principal gateway between East and West. By connecting Asian supply hubs to European markets, she said, the corridor will support trade expansion, increase regional competitiveness and contribute to economic development across participating countries.

Sadegh stated that Iran is ready to share all available logistical capabilities with regional partners to advance the joint objective of developing China-Europe rail transit. Coordinated regional actions, she added, can generate substantial benefits for trade, industry and regional connectivity, building a more resilient and efficient transport network across Eurasia.

for barter between the two countries, and it is expected that this list will be finalized as soon as possible so that business actors can be informed of the facilities intended to govern trade relations between the two countries."

The Commercial and Investment Attaché of the Pakistani Embassy in Iran also pointed out that Iran's protective policies regarding domestic production make the process of forming preferential and free trade between the two countries difficult.

She continued by mentioning that she had proposed the formation of a joint committee in the field of transportation and expressed the readiness of the Pakistani side to form a corresponding consortium in Karachi, adding: "The purpose of forming these consortiums is that at least two selected and trustworthy consortiums begin work to implement barter before a public call is issued."

The Commercial and Investment Attaché of the Pakistani Embassy in Iran also referred to the regular meetings of Pakistani customs and executive bodies for the operationalization of the barter mechanism and expressed hope that with the finalization of the barter mechanism by Iran, the flow of trade exchanges between the two countries would accelerate, and the remaining issues would be resolved through joint committees.

Will south Syria replicate south Lebanon’s experience?

From page 1 ► By midday, thirteen civilians had been killed, with more expected as bodies remained beneath the rubble.

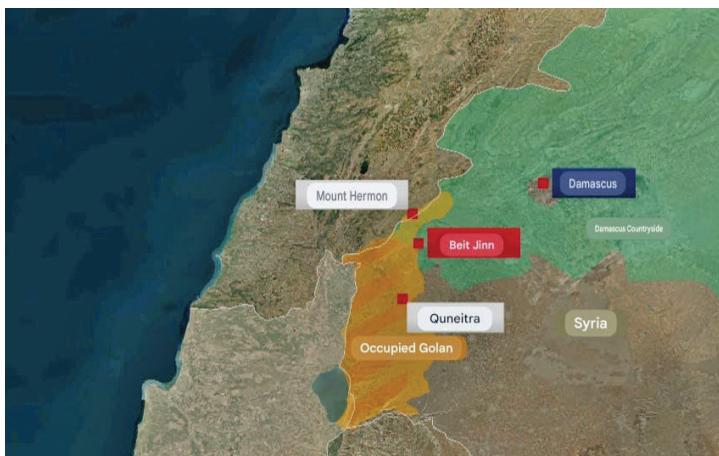
Israeli media quickly confirmed the gravity of the incident. Wounded soldiers were airlifted to Sheba Medical Center—five in total, three in critical condition.

Hebrew-language outlets reported frustration inside the Northern Command, criticizing poor planning that left the patrol “exposed and blind.” One paper admitted bluntly: “South Syria remains an area where anyone with a weapon targets us immediately.”

This admission matters. It mirrors precisely how the Israeli enemy once described south Lebanon during the occupation years: a landscape impossible to control, a population unwilling to submit, and a frontier that refuses to be pacified.

More importantly, the events in Beit Jinn shattered a critical illusion. For years, the Israeli enemy has attempted to normalize its incursions—small, steady, deliberately unchallenged acts meant to train the population into coerced silence.

Friday’s ambush, however, produced the opposite effect: a psychological rupture. It showed that, despite exhaustion, displacement, and the erosion of state authority,



local communities can still generate fighters, operate independently, and challenge the Israeli enemy without waiting for political endorsement.

This is exactly what happened in south Lebanon in the 1980s. The Lebanese Resistance was not born through official decision-making; it emerged because the state was absent, the occupier was brutal, and the people—ordinary farmers, students, laborers—decided to protect their dignity when no one else could.

South Syria today holds many of the same ingredients: a weakened central authority; rural communities repeatedly exposed to cross-border violence; and deeply rooted social networks capable of producing local defense formations.

The Israeli enemy’s greatest fear is that Beit Jinn becomes a template. One village resisting encourages another, especially those with their own history of killed civilians, missing relatives, or repeated incursions.

Israeli analysts have already warned that allowing even a small group to operate freely on the Syrian frontier would constitute a “fatal strategic error”—a phrase once used, almost verbatim, to describe the early Hezbollah cells in South Lebanon.

Whether south Syria fully replicates the south Lebanon model depends on one decisive element: the will of the people when the state cannot shield them. And the signs emerging from Beit Jinn suggest that this will is awakening, quietly but unmistakably.

At this crossroads, the words of the Islamic Revolution Supreme Leader, Sayyed Ali Khamenei, on December 22, 2024, resonate with striking relevance: “The Syrian youth have nothing to lose. Their universities, schools, homes and lives aren’t safe. What can they do? They must stand with firm determination against those who have orchestrated and brought about this insecurity, and God willing, they will prevail over them.”

This statement captures the strategic core of the moment. When a generation is stripped of safety, opportunity, and normalcy, it does not retreat—it transforms.

The pressures that might break a society instead forge its most resilient defenders. In this sense, the Syrian youth stand exactly where the young men of South Lebanon once stood: confronted with danger, yet animated by a fierce clarity that defending one’s land is no longer a choice but an obligation.

If Beit Jinn is a preview, then the message is unmistakable: Syrian youth will prevail—not because they seek war, but because war has been forced upon their homes, their streets, and their very existence. And like the youth of South Lebanon before them, they may soon decide that history does not wait for permission. It is made by those who refuse to live without dignity.

Voices for Palestine: Silence is an unforgivable crime



TEHRAN – The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, observed worldwide on November 29, has once again brought diverse voices together in defense of Palestinian rights and dignity.

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas issued a statement emphasizing that international solidarity remains crucial in backing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people as they continue their struggle for freedom, dignity, and independence. The resistance group urged Muslims, activists, and “freedomseekers” across the globe to raise their voices against Israel’s violations of the ceasefire in Gaza and “terrorist actions” in the occupied West Bank and al-Quds. Hamas also stressed that increased public pressure could strengthen calls to open border crossings, facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and pave the way for reconstruction efforts in the besieged territory.

At the United Nations, Secretary General António Guterres delivered a message highlighting the immense suffering endured in Gaza and the West Bank. He noted that survivors are mourning tens of thousands of deaths — nearly a third of them children — while hunger, disease, and trauma run rampant. He stated: “The killing of so many civilians, the repeated displacement

of an entire population and the obstruction of humanitarian aid should never be acceptable under any circumstances.” He also pointed to ongoing challenges in the occupied West Bank, including settlement expansion, settler violence, evictions, demolitions, and threats of annexation. Guterres repeated his call for an end to the unlawful occupation and for irreversible progress toward a twostate solution, affirming the Palestinian people’s right to dignity, justice, and self-determination.

Adding to these calls, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Qomi, head of Iran’s Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, issued a powerful message on his X account, saying: “People of the world... stand with Gaza. Silence is an unforgivable crime.”

Qomi’s words resonate deeply on this day of solidarity, reminding the international community that silence in the face of injustice is itself a moral failing. His stance reflects a broader commitment to amplifying the Palestinian cause and ensuring that the struggle for dignity and independence remains at the forefront of global consciousness.

The phase between two wars

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – Both the Islamic resistance of Lebanon and the Israeli occupation entity are preparing for the next war, but it will not be like the current war. At this stage, the resistance plans to end the war and not opening a new one. This regional phase is about closing this war, not opening a new one. The resistance is adhering to the decision to remove weapons south of the Litani River out of commitment to the state and the agreement signed on November 27th, not because it believes the other side is right.

Since the other side has not adhered to this ceasefire agreement at all, the resistance has the right not to adhere to it either. The agreement is considered void because the other side has not respected it. When it becomes completely clear that the occupation entity does not restrain itself and continues all forms of violation, then response becomes necessary. It commits these violations even without being responded to, justifying them with various excuses, such as claiming that the resistance is growing.

Here another equation emerges: If the erosion inflicted by the enemy on the resistance is less than the rate of the resistance’s growth and restoration of its capabilities, then strategic patience ensures a general policy of continued growth. This is despite the enemy’s expansionist ambitions.

However, if the pace of strikes increases to the point where the losses and erosion exceed the growth, then the equation may change, and the resistance may decide to respond in whatever manner it deems appropriate. At that point, there could be an open war.

Lebanon is a special case compared to other resistance fronts. Each front has its own conditions, circumstances, and methods of resistance. In Lebanon, the resistance represents a portion of the population, and many parties are not part of the resistance. A large segment does not believe in the resistance option or even conspires against it.

The resistance takes this into account and seeks to maintain a degree of majority support, since achieving consensus in this domain is very difficult. However, when the needs of the resis-



People pass a damaged car at the site where an Israeli strike hit an apartment building in Dahiye in the southern suburb of Beirut. Sunday, November 23, 2025 [Bilal Hussein/AP Photo]

tance become a national necessity because of the enemy’s violations, the internal atmosphere becomes ideal for coordinating resistance action and creating deterrence. That is, forming a comprehensive national deterrent balance.

Until now, there are still voices within Lebanon, mostly from Christian parties, calling for disarmament. When popular demands express themselves in the streets, calling for the necessity of responding, then the response becomes a popular demand rather than a unilateral decision by one party dragging the country into war, which the resistance aims to avoid.

The Lebanese state can say yes or no to the Americans who come with the demands of the Israeli entity. The decision to submit or to comply with American demands is in the hands of the state. If the state satisfies American demands at the expense of sovereignty and independence, then that is submission.

As for the resistance, it has never initiated a war. Its actions have always been a response to wars imposed on it. These are defensive wars, and defensive wars are fully justified. Sometimes when the enemy’s strikes cause damage and destruction, the resistance may choose to delay, postpone, or withdraw, not out of weakness, but in preparation for a phase in which it can establish a deterrent equation within what is called strategic balance. Should there be reliance on the supposed “good intentions” of the enemy, or do we absolve it of all its crimes?

Israel’s brutality on display: From Jenin to UN torture warnings

From page 1 ► Yet far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir made the government’s stance unmistakably clear. The soldiers, he declared, had acted “exactly as expected.” In his view, and increasingly in Israel’s security doctrine, any Palestinian — armed or unarmed — is treated as a legitimate target.

Human rights defenders inside Israel warned that such killings are not anomalies. The deputy director of Physicians for Human Rights–Israel noted that the violence stems from decades of occupation, segregation, and the systematic erasure of Palestinians from the Israeli public’s moral horizon.

The Jenin killings fit a long and painful pattern. In Gaza, two unarmed men attempting to surrender were shot in March 2024, another incident caught on camera. In 2018, Israeli soldiers in Tulkarem fatally shot Mohammed Habali, a mentally disabled man, as he walked away. In 2020, Eyad al-Halqa, an autistic Palestinian man on his way to his special-needs school, was killed in Jerusalem (al-Quds). Even three Israeli captives in Gaza were shot dead by soldiers in December 2023 as they attempted to surrender, one waving a white flag.

Israel routinely announces investigations, yet meaningful accountability is virtually nonexistent. Between 2018 and 2022, its army received hundreds of complaints about violence against Palestinians. Only a small fraction resulted in criminal investigations, and indictments were even rarer. Out of more than two hundred fatal cases brought to the army’s attention, only one led to an indictment. These numbers reflect a system in which Palestinian life is treated as disposable.

The latest incident comes as another major alarm sounds at the international level. A United Nations panel recently reported evidence of what it described as a “de facto State policy of organized and widespread torture and ill-treatment” of Palestinians, a warning that has taken on heightened urgency since 7 October 2023. The report, based in part on submissions from Israeli human rights groups, documented Palestinians being shackled and blindfolded even during medical treatment, subjected to deliberate starvation, and in some cases forced to wear diapers because they were denied access to toilets. Israel denied all allegations, but international concern continues to grow.

Following the Jenin killings, the UN Office of

the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned the incident as an “apparent summary execution” and called for a credible, independent investigation. Palestinian authorities described the shootings as a war crime, urging the international community to intervene. Human rights organizations across the world described the video as clear evidence of an extrajudicial execution, part of a long-standing system of systematic violence, apartheid, and state-sanctioned brutality.

The deaths of Abdullah and Asasa in Jenin are not the start of anything new. They are a warning of how far the system has already deteriorated. The world saw their final moments only because a camera happened to be recording. Countless other Palestinians have been killed far from any lens — in late-night raids, on roadsides, in interrogation sites, in prisons, in bombed homes, and in fields patrolled by armed settlers.

What happens next depends on whether the international community finally chooses to confront Israeli impunity as a crisis demanding decisive action. The alternative is clear: more bodies, more videos, more investigations that lead nowhere, and a system that continues to treat Palestinian life as expendable.

“Ceasefire” masks ongoing Israeli aggression

From page 1 ► Instead, it has turned into a slower, grinding assault. The regime continues to militarily control vast Palestinian land inside Gaza and is widening its occupation under the cover of a supposed ceasefire.

One of the core problems linked to the October 10 agreement is simple: it demands that Palestinians disarm while placing no limits on the Israeli regime’s aggression or occupation.

International law recognizes the right of people under foreign occupation to resist occupation; a principle affirmed in several UN reso-

lutions. But the truce is pressuring Palestinians to give up that right, while the IOF is allowed to stay in Gaza and, in reality, push even further in.

This imbalance has turned U.S. President Donald Trump’s ceasefire into a tool of pressure, not peace. The Israeli regime uses it to justify ongoing military operations as “security steps,” even though these operations mean constant indiscriminate bombardment and illegal land grabs.

IOF strikes also force Palestinians in eastern Gaza to move again and again, reshaping the area and

breaking apart families.

For Palestinians, the line between genocidal war and ceasefire has all but vanished. Families already displaced many times by IOF attacks are being pushed out once more as neighborhoods come under repeated fire.

With Gaza’s health system collapsing, each new strike makes the situation even worse. Hospitals run without proper power, medical supplies continue to face a harsh blockade, and doctors still perform surgeries in unsafe and chaotic conditions.

ing the attack ordered a second strike to comply with Hegseth’s instructions to “kill everybody,” according to The Washington Post, citing officials with direct knowledge of the operation.

The two men were then “blown apart in the water,” according to the report.

News of Hegseth’s alleged command follows intense legal scrutiny from international investigators and members of Congress alleging that the Trump administration’s deadly campaign amounts to illegal extrajudicial killings, which law-of-war experts speaking to The Independent have labeled outright murder and a war crime.

Chief Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell told The Washington Post that the newspaper’s “entire narrative is completely false” and that “ongoing operations to dismantle narcoterrorism and to protect the Homeland from deadly drugs have been a resounding success.”

In a statement on Friday evening, Hegseth criticized what he called “fabricated, inflammatory, and derogatory reporting,” but he did not refute the claims.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Execution of survivors under Hegseth’s ‘kill everybody’ order labeled a war crime

U.S. War Secretary Pete Hegseth reportedly gave a verbal order to leave no survivors behind as Donald Trump’s administration launched the first of more than a dozen attacks on alleged drug-running boats that have killed more than 80 people over the last three months, according to The Independent.

On September 2, U.S. military personnel fired a missile, striking a vessel in the Caribbean that carried 11 people accused of trafficking drugs into the United States.

When two survivors emerged from the wreckage, a Special Operations commander oversee-

Deputy minister emphasizes completing Bonab Kebab world registration dossier

TEHRAN--Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi has underscored the importance of completing the Bonab Kebab world registration dossier.

Bonab Kebab is a type of Kebab that is made of ground mutton, onion, and salt. It is named after the city of Bonab in East Azerbaijan province in northwestern Iran, where it is originated from.

Darabi emphasized the unique position of Bonab county in the cultural geography of the northwest of the country, IRIB reported.

Speaking at the working group session of Bonab Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, he pointed to the issue of intangible heritage and said that the global registration of Bonab Kebab is a cultural action and an opportunity for cultural diplomacy. He added that Bonab county should be at the center of national programs for protection, exploration and global introduction.

Darabi emphasized the need to quickly complete the dossier, appoint a manager for the global registration process, and form a team including researchers, historians, documentarians, and experts of food rituals. "Inviting ambassadors from regional countries can be a prelude to strengthening the international dimensions of this file."

Isfahan weaving factory to become Iran’s largest regional museum

TEHRAN--The historic Isfahan weaving factory known as Risbaf, once one of the most important centers of the country's textile industry, will soon become the largest regional museum in Iran. This large cultural project, in addition to preserving the industrial heritage, will play an important role in introducing the history and culture of Isfahan.

The factory, which was established in 1932, is considered one of the symbols of Iran's textile industry during the first Pahlavi era. At its peak, this factory, with an area of ??about 70,000 square meters, was one of the largest and most advanced fabric production centers in the country, ISNA reported.

The main factory building, which includes several large sheds and a collection of industrial machines, is designed in the industrial architectural style of the era and has taken up a large part of Isfahan's urban identity. At its peak, the factory housed more than 1,000 workers and played a vital role in meeting the textile needs and fabric production in Iran.

This factory, which is known as one of the industrial relics of the first Pahlavi era, has currently become a valuable historical monument. Recreating this complex into a regional museum is of great importance not only for preserving and introducing the history of the textile industry, but also for introducing the cultural, social and historical dimensions of this building.

Converting the abandoned factory into a large museum can be an opportunity to display the industrial and cultural history of Isfahan, related research and the development of cultural tourism.

This work was registered under the number 6018 on the National Heritage List in 2002.

Rouhollah Seyyed al-Asgari, the province's cultural heritage deputy, said that Risbaf factory, which is considered one of the important industrial buildings of the first Pahlavi era, has played an unparalleled role in the history of the textile industry of Iran.

The project to convert this factory into a museum is not only a development plan, but also a cultural action that helps preserve and introduce Iran's industrial heritage, he pointed out.

He added: "Our goal in recreating this building into a museum is to preserve its historical and structural authenticity. This museum will become a place where the industrial and cultural history of Isfahan and Iran are narrated side by side. In addition to displaying historical artifacts, this project will also serve as a space for research,

Referring to the unique capacities of Bonab county in the field of heritage and tourism, he described the county as a hub of living history and the future of tourism in the northwest of the country."

Darabi also considered the restoration of a historic mosque known as Ghermez (Red) in Bonab to be an essential plan and called for an accurate estimate and inclusion of this project on the county's restoration agenda.

He announced five immediate measures for Bonab: equipping the Cultural Heritage Base of Savar village, starting the excavations in Mehrabad region, completing Bonab Kebab dossier, organizing the landscape of the historical villages, and developing public participation. He considered these to be necessary conditions for turning Bonab into one of the most important heritage hubs in the northwest of the country.

One of the spiritual and unique attractions of Bonab is the old seminary known as Hazrat Vali Asr (AS), which serves as an educational center for Friday prayer Imams from surrounding cities. The Bonab Seminary operates independently from the Tabriz seminary and is recognized as the largest seminary in the country after that of Qom, playing a vital role in the region's religious education.

education, and cultural interactions."

In another part of his speech, he emphasized the close cooperation between the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the Isfahan Municipality. "The design plans for the museum have been prepared and the project has witnessed a physical progress."

"In joint meetings, various issues such as organizing the surrounding environment, access routes, green spaces, and cultural programs have been examined. Our goal for the textile museum is to not be limited to just displaying the artifacts, but to become a major cultural destination."

Seyyed al-Asgari stated that Isfahan, with its rich history and world-recorded works, needs a museum with world standards in order to introduce its cultural capacities in the best possible way.

The textile museum is designed not only to display the historical works, but also to create an opportunity for research and cultural exchange at the international level. This museum can become one of the important cultural centers in the region and even in the east of the country.

He clarified: "In this project, all our efforts are to preserve the historical and industrial values ??of Risbaf. This building will not be destroyed, but will be restored by preserving its originality and will become a place to narrate the history and culture of Iran."

He continued that converting Risbaf factory into a museum is one of the most important cultural projects in Isfahan that can play a vital role in introducing the history of Iranian industry and culture and turning Isfahan into one of the country's important cultural hubs.

With the start of the implementation phases of the Risbaf museum project, Isfahan is taking great steps towards preserving and introducing its historical and industrial identity. This project can not only help preserve Iran's valuable heritage, but will also provide an opportunity for the tourists, researchers and the history enthusiasts.

With the completion of this museum, Risbaf will become one of the region's important cultural attractions and will shine as a new symbol of the link between the past and the future in the heart of Isfahan.

A project that will certainly add to the importance of Isfahan as one of the prominent cultural and historical centers of Iran and will keep the relics of the industry and art of this land alive for future generations.

Pomegranate Festival begins in Saveh

From Page 1 ▶ He clarified that the festival, which will last for 10 days, includes programs such as holding specialized training workshops, scientific and promotional meetings, presenting research achievements in the pomegranate field, showcasing the capacities of the related handicrafts, directly offering garden products, and performing native and cultural rituals. Mahmoudi stated that Jameh Mosque of Saveh is one of the oldest and most valuable historical monuments in the country. "The combination of historical and cultural capacities with the introduction of agricultural capabilities has made this festival a unique event at the national level."

Saveh's Fourth National Pomegranate Festival will be open to the enthusiasts, tourists, and agricultural activists from all over the country until December 6, with the aim of supporting the producers, strengthening the agricultural economy, developing sustainable tourism, and better introduction of the Saveh Pomegranate brand.

The Pomegranate is native to



Iran and eastward up to northern India. It is widely cultivated in most provinces of Iran, with different colors, sizes, and flavors. It is impressive to see the variety of pomegranates in the country. The ancient land is well-known for the quality of pomegranates and is the largest exporter of pomegranates in the world.

Every autumn, many pomegranate growers across the ancient country hold festivals to thank God and celebrate the harvest season. Alongside the grape and the fig, the pome-

granate has played an important role throughout the Orient since the earliest times.

When it comes to Persian literature, the pomegranate (Anaar) is there bearing a metaphor or symbol. Some say pomegranates can be used to manifest a range of metaphors in Persian poetry due to their intense red color, round shape, and numerous seeds.

Ancient Iranians believed that the pomegranate was a sign of fertility due to its abundant seeds. It is a high pillar of festivities on Yalda Night. Narra-

16th-century Ardabil carpets lie far from home in London and Los Angeles

TEHRAN - Two monumental 16th-century Ardabil carpets--woven in the Safavid court for the shrine of Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili--now lie thousands of kilometers from their home, housed separately in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

Once a matched pair and among the finest products of Iran's golden age of carpet weaving, the works were removed from the Ardabil shrine in the late 19th century after earthquake damage and sold abroad. Today, they are celebrated centerpieces of Western museums, while Iran displays only a contemporary reproduction in Ardabil.

Commissioned in 1539–40 during the reign of Shah Tahmasp I, both carpets bear identical signatures attributing the work to Maqsud of Kashan, believed to have designed and overseen the project at a royal workshop, likely in Tabriz. They are also inscribed with a verse from Hafez: "I have no refuge in this world other than thy threshold / My head has no resting place other than this doorway."

The pair belongs to a period when court-supported workshops and skilled designers transformed carpet weaving into

one of Safavid Iran's most celebrated arts. Many masterpieces of that era survive today not in Iran but in international museums.

The larger and more renowned example, now owned by London's Victoria and Albert Museum, is described by the museum as "the world's oldest dated carpet and one of the largest, most beautiful and historically important."

The colorful carpet features a unified design built around a vast yellow medallion, flanked by two hanging lamps and surrounded by intricate scrollwork rendered in natural dyes. The dense pile, about 5,300 knots per ten square centimeters, contains an estimated 26 million knots in total.

The V&A notes that the carpet was still inside the shrine when British visitors saw it in 1843. Following the earthquake that damaged the complex roughly three decades later, it was sold to a Manchester firm and eventually put on the market in 1892. The museum acquired it in 1893 for £2,000 after designer William Morris praised its "singular perfection."

In the late 19th century, the London carpet underwent extensive restoration, during which sections of both original Ardabil carpets were used to complete



it--further altering the pair's integrity. Today it lies in a custom-built display case in the V&A's Jameel Gallery, illuminated for brief intervals to preserve its colors.

LACMA holds the second surviving carpet, measuring 718 by 400 centimeters, described as "spectacular" and woven with wool pile on a silk foundation.

Like its mate in London, the LACMA carpet bears the date 946 AH (1539–40) and the signature of Maqsud of Kashan. The museum explains that the pair was likely a royal commission for Shah Tahmasp, intended for the Safavid ancestral shrine at Ardabil.

Industry leaders explore AI’s tourism potential

The widespread use of artificial intelligence allows tourists to seek instant advice and design tailored itineraries effortlessly.

With a few taps, they can converse with AI agents and access diverse recommendations, from local cuisine and cultural experiences to sustainable travel choices, China Daily reported.

This was one of the key topics discussed at the 2025 Xianghu Dialogue of the World Tourism Alliance. It was recently held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, with the theme 'Beyond Boundaries: Exploring Infinite Possibilities of Tourism'.

About 400 representatives from international organizations, tourism authorities, cities, tourism enterprises, and online travel agencies from 30 countries and regions, gathered to discuss key topics, such as the sustainable development of tourism, cross-sector integration and how technology empowers tourism.

"Tourism is a people-centered business. The most valuable parts are the services delivered by people and individual experiences. Therefore, focusing on real experiences and demands, and solving problems are the most

important principles for using AI," Zhuang Zhuoran, CEO of Fliggy, Alibaba's online travel platform, said in his keynote speech.

In April, Fliggy unveiled its AI travel assistant AskMe, which can offer personalized trip planning to cater to visitors' demands, powered by multiple AI agents.

Tourists can take a photo of a cultural artifact or an architectural component, and the AI assistant will provide detailed and professional explanations.

"Today, AI makes it possible to provide low-cost, personalized travel services on a broader scale," Zhuang says.

"The integration of AI into the tourism sector will be a comprehensive, long-term transformation, spanning the entire industry chain," says Sun Hui, secretary-general of the Tencent Culture and Tourism Research Institute.

"We are promoting AI applications in various areas, including scenic spots, cultural and tourism enterprises, and museums. Visitors can use intelligent tour assistant tools and virtual tour guides, and have immersive virtual reality or augmented reality experiences," he says.

tives say the presence of pomegranates symbolizes blessings for a new life. The number of seeds scattered indicates how many children a young woman may give birth to!

By tradition, Zoroastrians offer pomegranates to their daughters and sons when they get married, wishing them fertility. Moreover, they used to burn pomegranate sticks during religious rites.

Around 2000 BC, the Lor ethnic communities living in the west of Iran created amazing crafts which are known as Lorestan bronzes today, and on some of the Lorestan bronze objects, the pomegranate tree is recognizable. Also, the pomegranate is seen in some bas-relief carvings inside the UNESCO-designated Persepolis, which was once the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid kings. Moreover, some Sassanid bas-reliefs depict pomegranates as a symbol of fertility and productivity.

The pomegranate has long been one of the essential ingredients for Persian cuisine to bring a kind of balance, taste, and flavor.

LACMA's account emphasizes the carpets' shared origin and notes that their exceptional scale, quality, and inscriptions point to production at a royal Tabriz workshop. Its composition mirrors the London carpet's medallion-and-lamp design, though the Los Angeles version is displayed with less restoration and remains closer to its original proportions.

Today, Iran preserves only a modern replica in the Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili Museum.

While millions visit them in London and Los Angeles, but far from the shrine for which they were created nearly five centuries ago.

Wang Wei, senior vice-president of leading online travel agency Trip.com Group, believes that the application of AI within the company has greatly improved work efficiency, for example, for call centers and technical development teams.

"The efficiency for users accessing the products on our platform has also improved. If a travel platform's app can be compared to shelves in an offline supermarket, AI has enabled users to accurately locate the items they want," he says.

According to Wang, data algorithms driven by AI can identify current trends, seasonal travel recommendations and new products, providing personalized recommendations tailored to users' specific needs.

For young adults traveling to beaches, AI might recommend water sports like surfing and paddleboarding, while for vacationing families it could highlight resorts with children's clubs and swimming pools.

The World Travel and Tourism Council forecasts that by 2035, the travel and tourism industry will inject \$16.5 trillion into the global economy, accounting for 11.5 percent of global GDP.

Holy Mary Metro Station Marks Interfaith Unity in Tehran

TEHRAN – Tehran Municipality inaugurated on Saturday a new metro station called Maryam-e Moqaddas — Persian for Holy Virgin Mary, showcasing the peaceful coexistence among religions in the country.

The building features Christian-themed art and architecture and is located near Saint Sarkis Armenian Cathedral, the main hub for the city's Armenian Christian community.

The Saint Mary subway station, carved underground with light, arches, and silence, blends the elegance of church architecture with the calming geometry of Iranian design, Tehran's Mayor Alireza Zakani wrote in a post on X.

This station recalls the divine woman who awakened the world through her purity and by nurturing a great prophet. The purpose of such naming of this station is to honor Saint Mary and to showcase the coexistence of Divine religions in Tehran, he added.

As the shots of the station went viral, social media users from different countries described the photos as amazing. A religious Christian has posted the photos of the station, saying that the Tehran metro station, Maryam-e Moqaddas, is just wonderful. Sharing images of the station, a Russian user has asked his followers 'guess in which European city this metro station has opened? Guessed? A new metro station named Saint Mary, adorned with Christian sym-



bols, has opened in Tehran.'

A user named Richard, @ricwe123, wrote all the time, western mainstream media is telling us how Iranian is some fanatic wasteland, where religion other than Islam can't breathe. Then Tehran opens a "Holy Virgin Mary" metro station, covered in Christian symbols, and the whole story falls apart. Turns out, what we have been fed is not the truth; it's propaganda, to push a certain narrative.

Jackson Hinkle, @jaksonhinklle, wrote: 'Breaking: Tehran Municipality opens the new "Holy Virgin Mary" metro station'.

Roberto, @UniqueMangolia, posted photos and said you will never see such beauty and such a clean Metro station in the civilized West (flourishing garden as Borrell once said). Neither in Europe nor in the United States. This is an Iranian metro station. A new Holy Virgin Mary metro station in Tehran, decorated with Christian symbols.

Another social media user, named @Orthodoxe, noted that Love for God in Iran is so great that Maryam, Most Holy Mother of Christ, will have her in a metro station in Tehran, with motifs inspired by Armenian art. Something no 'post-Christian' western country

would tolerate.

Hala Jaber, @HalaJaber, wrote that Tehran just inaugurated the Holy Virgin Mary metro station, featuring Christian murals near St. Sarkis Armenian Cathedral, serving Iran's 100,000-strong Armenian Christian community.

A symbolic nod to coexistence: Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians are constitutionally protected and live peacefully in Iran, with parliamentary seats reserved for each.

Even the metro now carries that message. While the West lectures about tolerance, Tehran quietly practices it, even underground.

IRCS, Yerevan Municipality to establish a joint medical center

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Municipality of Yerevan have agreed to establish a joint polyclinic, and develop plans to manufacture artificial limb prostheses jointly.

The IRCS head, Pirhossein Kolivand, and the head of the Municipality of Yerevan's foreign relations department, David Gevorgyan, met in Tehran on Wednesday. During the meeting, Gevorgyan called on the IRCS to finalize the plan for the construction of the medical center so they can start launching the project in cooperation with the Armenian Red Cross Society, the IRCS website reported.

Lauding the IRCS measures, the official said Armenians will never forget the IRCS's help and support in the 1998 earthquake that hit the country. Referring to the conflicts and the humanitarian measures in the Middle East, Gevorgyan highlighted the IRCS's key role in providing humanitarian assistance and delivering humanitarian aid in the region.

Kolivand, for his part, expounded on the high capacities of the IRCS, noting that the IRCS is known as one of the five prominent red crescent societies in the world. The official voiced readiness to establish the joint medical center to produce prostheses and

Iranian medicines.

IRCS Enhances Medical Services in Kenya

On November 19, the IRCS inaugurated several health projects at its medical center in Kenya.

"The Iranian health center in Kenya has steadily developed over time," Kolivand said during the inauguration ceremony held online in Tehran.

Departments of ophthalmology, obstetrics and gynaecology, as well as the traditional medicine clinic, are among the new projects. Currently, the center in Kenya offers a wide range of services, including optometry, radiology, rehabilitation, and physiotherapy.

The expansion of medical centers out of the country aims to alleviate human suffering and expand health equity beyond borders, Kolivand further noted.

With ICRC assistance, IRCS is ready to share expertise

In May, Kolivand announced readiness to share its scientific and educational experiences as well as operational expertise with other red crescent societies with the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The IRCS is willing to share its expertise in different fields, such as diagnosing individuals with mobility problems through screening, providing rehabilitation services, and training individuals living in areas affected by landmines on how to identify and avoid mine hazards, Kolivand noted.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Nicolas Von Arx, Director of Operations for NAME (North African and Middle East), and the representative of the ICRC in Iran, Vincent Cassard.

Also, Kolivand called on the ICRC to hold a congress to commemorate the efforts of the international rescuers who have lost their lives to save others, and proposed hosting the congress. By supporting measures and humanitarian activities of red crescent societies, the ICRC will boost motivation among them, he noted.

Referring to unilateral sanctions, the official said, "We expect the International Committee of the Red Cross to play its role in facilitating the import of medicine and medical equipment by the Iranian Red Crescent Society."

The official went on to ask the ICRC to equip Red Crescent helicopters with night vision cameras to enhance their ability in rescue operations.

ENGLISH IN USE

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‘Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%’

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said.

He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporgan, Urmia, Choopanloo and Miandoab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سیورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میاندوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.

Rayan 2025 AI, programming contest announces winners

TEHRAN – The winners of the Rayan 2025 international artificial intelligence and programming competition, known as World Finals, were announced here on Friday.

Iranian students showcased a great performance in both AI and programming sections. In the programming section, Ali Safari was placed first. China secured second and third place, followed by India, Vietnam, Armenia, Serbia, and Pakistan, respectively, ISNA reported.

In the AI section, Iranian teams, namely, no Trust issues here, Pileh, AI Guardians of Trust, Al-UoK, red-serotonin, Persistence, and GGWP were placed first to seventh.

The final round of the Rayan international artificial intelligence and programming contest was held on Friday at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, with participants from 25 countries.

Supported by the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the event kicked off on November 25, attracting hundreds of contestants from the U.S., Russia, China, India, Italy, Chile, Australia, Armenia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Taiwan, Romania, Singapore, Poland, Slovakia, Vietnam, Serbia, Argentina, Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Ethiopia, as well as the host, Iran.

The solo programming section was held on Friday morning, with 60 Iranian and foreign participants who worked individually to solve nine complicated algorithmic problems within a duration of three to four hours.

The scientific competition aimed to promote knowledge, foster international networking, and establish scientific authority in AI and programming.

Enhancing algorithmic thinking, problem-solving skills, teamwork, developing innovative ideas, starting new businesses, and expanding AI engineering and programming were among the other objectives of the contest.

Recent achievements

Iranian students secured three gold medals and a special award in the International Science and Invention Fair (ISIF) 2025, ranking them

among the top innovators worldwide.

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

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

YISF was held in Yakutsk, Russia, from July 6 to 9. The event brought together 129 teams from 10 countries, participating in two different categories.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran to attend Heads of BRICS Intellectual Property Offices meeting

TEHRAN – The Iranian Intellectual Property Center will participate in the Heads of BRICS Intellectual Property Offices (HIPO) Meeting planned to be held virtually from December 1 to 5 in Brazil.

Iranian experts in specialized fields such as patents, industrial designs, and trademarks will attend the meeting, Mehr news agency reported.

The representatives of the national intellectual property centers from BRICS member states will come together to promote knowledge, share expertise, and boost multilateral strategic cooperation among member states.

The participants will discuss issues like new methods for classification of patents, international standards for registering and exchanging information, integration of artificial intelligence in patent examination and registration process, as well as new guidelines for assessing medical patents.

GII: Iran secures position

According to the 18th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) report, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks second among the countries of the Central and South Asian region, unchanged over the last three years.

GII 2025 measures innovation performance across 139 economies and unveils the world's top 100 innovation clusters. It tracks global innovation trends through investment patterns, technological progress, adoption rates, and socioeconomic impacts.

According to this year's report, Iran ranks 70th among the 139 economies featured in the GI 2025. In 2024, the country ranked 64th among the 133 economies featured in the GI.

The country ranks 17th among the 36 upper middle-income group economies; in 2024, Iran ranks 5th among the 38 lower-middle-income group economies.

The GI ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs

and outputs, the GI aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.

As stated in the 2025 edition, over the past six years (2020-2025), the statistical confidence interval for the ranking of Iran is between ranks 56 and 75.

Iran performs better in innovation outputs than in innovation inputs in 2025. This year, Iran ranks 109th in innovation inputs, which is lower than last year (85th).

Iran ranks 46th in innovation outputs. This position is higher than last year (48th).

For Iran, 5 indicators have improved in the short-term (International patent filings, Connectivity, Robots, Labor productivity, Life expectancy), and 5 indicators have worsened (Scientific publications, Research and development (R&D) investments, Venture capital deal Numbers, Fixed broadband, and temperature change).

Iran ranks highest in Creative outputs (45th), Knowledge and technology outputs (46th), and Human capital and research (66th).

The country ranks lowest in Institutions (138th), Business sophistication (107th), and Infrastructure (98th).

Iran performs above the Upper middle-income group average in Human capital and research (Iran's score is 32.43, while the upper middle-income score is 29.7); Knowledge and Technology outputs Iran's score is 27.46, whereas the upper middle-income score is 20.0; and Creative outputs (Iran's score is 31.87, while the upper middle-income score is 22.6).

Published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the report ranks Iran first in Market capitalization.

It ranks 2nd, 5th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 14th, 14th, 22nd, and 23rd in Trademarks by origin, Software spending, Gross capital formation, Graduates in science and engineering, Labor productivity growth, Industrial designs by origin, Patents by origin, Domestic market scale, and High-tech imports, respectively.

