

\$30 Billion Roadmap for Tehran-Ankara Ties

Pezeshkian and Fidan push new projects in trade, transit and energy



Saudi deputy FM holds talks in Tehran as Iran calls for stronger regional coordination

TEHRAN – Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Saud bin Mohammed Al-Satti, arrived in Tehran on Sunday for consultations with senior Iranian officials.

He was received in the morning by Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, at the Foreign Ministry.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the two officials discussed the state of Iran-Saudi relations and explored avenues to broaden bilateral cooperation across areas of mutual interest. The meeting also touched on key regional and international developments. ▶ Page 2

Iran's non-oil trade reaches \$76.5b in 8 months

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign trade reached 131,054 million tons worth \$76.537 billion in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 22), according to data from the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The combined value of exports and imports declined 9.38 percent year-on-year, while total trade volume rose 1.53 percent, IRNA reported.

Exports amounted to 105,231 million tons valued at \$36.997 billion, marking a 1.17 percent rise in volume and a 3.48 percent drop in value from the same period last year.

Imports reached 25,823 million tons worth \$39.540 billion, showing a three percent increase in weight and a 14.29 percent decline in value. ▶ Page 4

Law above the clouds: Caracas counters Washington's illegal threats

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Venezuela has forcefully rejected recent threats from President Donald Trump to treat its skies as closed, arguing the United States has no legal authority to impose restrictions on another nation's airspace. Officials in Caracas insist that the move is not only illegitimate but also a direct challenge to the principles of international law.

The foundation of Venezuela's position lies in the Chicago Convention of 1944, the treaty that governs civil aviation worldwide. The convention explicitly states that each country has exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory. This principle has guided international aviation for more than eight decades and remains a cornerstone of global order. By attempting to dictate terms over Venezuelan skies, the U.S. is disregarding a treaty it helped draft and has long relied upon.

Lebanon's war anxiety: Between genuine peril and manufactured panic

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT- Lebanese society has long been marked by debates, disagreements, and deep ideological fault lines. Division is not a uniquely Lebanese pathology but a universal human reflex—dating back, as Rousseau suggested, to the moment the first man staked a claim and declared, "This is mine."

But Lebanon's fractures bear their own distinctive texture, shaped by sectarian memories, contested sovereignties, and the accumulated trauma of civil strife.

Its geopolitical borders rarely coincide with our cultural geographies, and this mismatch has always left Lebanon unusually exposed to regional tremors.

Today, the country is engulfed in a new kind of tremor: a suffocating saturation of "war talk." Political salons, social platforms, and television panels have turned into speculative war rooms.

Gaza's death toll hits grim milestone of 70,000

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – More than 70,000 Palestinians have been killed as the occupying Israeli regime's genocidal assault on Gaza continues with no end in sight.

The Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza reports that the death toll from the U.S.-backed genocide by the Israeli regime has now surpassed 70,100, marking one of the gravest civilian crises in recent decades.

Officials say the regime has also injured more than 170,983 Palestinians since October 7, 2023.

Thousands of additional deaths remain uncounted, with bodies still buried under destroyed homes and shelters as rescue workers continue efforts to recover bodies without any machinery.

Women and children make up the vast majority of those killed. More than 20,000 children have lost their lives, and tens of thousands more have been orphaned or disabled for life.

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Iran officially registers sovereignty over trio Persian Gulf islands

TEHRAN – Iran has officially issued land demarcation and ownership documents for the islands of Bu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs in the Persian Gulf, reaffirming its sovereignty over these territories.

On Sunday, the State Organization for Registration of Deeds and Properties announced that the title deeds have been registered under the name of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing that the islands are an inseparable part of Iran's territory.

According to the Judiciary, this action is part of a broader national initiative aimed at protecting land assets and preventing unauthorized use or encroachment.

Officials explained that detailed geometric maps and coordinates from the national "Sham-im" cadastre system were used to reduce the risk of misuse, illegal occupation, unapproved land-use changes, or trespassing on state lands. ▶ Page 2

28 Iranian universities in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026

TEHRAN – The Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR) has placed 28 Iranian universities among the top institutions worldwide for interdisciplinary science research, compared to 29 universities in the 2025 rankings.

THE ISR, produced in association with Schmidt Science Fellows, is the first effort of its kind to measure universities' contributions and commitment to interdisciplinary science. THE ISR 2026 has ranked a total of 911 institutions from 94 countries.

Amirkabir University of Technology, with a global ranking of 99, is ranked first in the country, ISNA reported.

Shahid Beheshti University (147), Shiraz University (196), and Golestan University (351-400) ranked second to fourth, respectively. ▶ Page 7



Baneh rosewater festival added to Iran's national tourism calendar

TEHRAN – An annual rosewater festival being held in the border city of Baneh, western Iran, has been officially inscribed in the country's national tourism events calendar, becoming the tenth registered tourism event of Kordestan province, provincial tourism chief announced on Monday.

Pouya Talebnia told local reporters that the registration was confirmed through an official certificate issued by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. The festival has been listed with registration number 104191109 at the local level, as part of national efforts to professionalize and organize tourism events across the country. ▶ Page 6

Exclusive Interview

Israel waging 'ecocide' to erase Gaza's future, expert warns

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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Tehran at crossroads of failed mediation

Shargh analyzed the escalating conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan and Iran's potential role as mediator. The paper argued that coinciding with Ali Larijani's visit to Pakistan last Monday, Islamabad resumed airstrikes against Afghanistan following the collapse of the second round of talks; an event signaling that the Pakistan-Taliban crisis is on the verge of turning into full-scale war. The outbreak of an official confrontation between Pakistan and the Taliban could quickly push the crisis toward Iran's eastern borders. In such circumstances, mere telephone contacts by the Foreign Ministry with regional officials are insufficient—especially since Turkey and Qatar have also failed in their mediation efforts, leaving eyes now fixed on Tehran. Mounting evidence of Washington's indirect involvement strengthens the analysis that a shift in Afghanistan's balance may be occurring with a U.S. green light. In that case, Iran's absence from active engagement could eliminate Tehran from the security equations of the East. Continued passivity would not only diminish Iran's influence in the Afghan file but also heighten the possibility of extra-regional intervention, bolster the roles of Pakistan and Doha, and intensify border insecurity.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: A cautious look at the Paris trip

Donya-e-Eqtasad reflected on the significance of Foreign Minister Araghchi's recent trip to France. Citing senior international affairs researcher Rahman Ghahremanpour, the paper noted that what makes Araghchi's visit important is the role France has played in Iran's nuclear dossier over the past two decades. France often sought to play the role of “good cop” in relations with Iran. Yet, this trip should be viewed with caution. The reason is that, for now, no significant developments have emerged from Washington. Moreover, as long as the U.S. insists on its position and fails to meet Iran's minimum demand—recognition of enrichment—Tehran has no intention of retreating. Iran is waiting for the U.S. to take the first step and create the conditions for more constructive talks. Until that happens, Tehran perceives Washington's approach not as negotiation but as a demand for surrender—something Iran cannot accept. The question now is whether France's diplomatic initiative will be pursued by Europe in the coming weeks, or whether it will be confined to bilateral issues such as prisoner releases.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Is Europe the key link between Iran and Washington?

Arman-e-Emrooz argues that Europe is prepared to immediately assume the role of an active mediator between Tehran and Washington

if Iran takes confidence building measures over its nuclear program. It said Germany's permanent representative to the United Nations stressed in significant remarks that Berlin continues to welcome negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program, and views activation of the snapback mechanism not as the end of diplomacy but as a serious warning for Tehran to return to its commitments. Europeans have now realized that without their active involvement, either Tehran will turn elsewhere or the region will be pushed to the brink of full-scale military confrontation. The German envoy's statement should be seen as a calculated message to Tehran: on the one hand, demonstrating Europe's firm resolve to use all legal instruments if Iran persists on its current course; on the other, keeping open the door for a return to diplomacy. If Iran is willing to pay the political cost of shifting its stance and take confidence-building steps, Europe is not only prepared to halt the snapback process but can quickly assume the role of active mediator between Tehran and Washington. Thus, contrary to the bleak atmosphere of recent months, Europe has now become a player wielding both the stick of the snapback mechanism and the carrot of negotiation, determined to use this combination to prevent a nuclear disaster in the Middle East.

Iran: Tehran-Ankara cooperation model in a regional transition

The Iran newspaper, in an article on Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan's visit to Tehran, wrote: Trip by Hakan Fidan within the framework of consultations on bilateral cooperation and regional dossiers, once again underscores the importance of relations between the two neighbors in the regional structure. The developments in West Asia, heightened activity, and shifting equations in the post-October 7 environment have accelerated the transformation of the regional order, compelling key actors to adopt long-term strategic roadmaps to secure their place in the emerging order. Among these actors, Iran and Turkey stand out as pivotal players whose competition-cooperation dynamic, shaped by geopolitical capacities and central geography, gains importance under the management of conflicting interests and reinforcement of commonalities. The secessionist schemes of the Zionist regime threaten not only Syria but also cast the shadow of territorial fragmentation over Iraq, Iran, and Turkey. Israeli pressure on Turkey in Syria could, paradoxically, create an opportunity. If Tehran demonstrates the will and initiative to seize it, the groundwork could be laid for Iran's effective presence in Syrian developments—even in the absence of formal relations with Damascus.

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According to the Judiciary, this action is part of a broader national initiative aimed at protecting land assets and preventing unauthorized use or encroachment.

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The ownership deed for Greater Tunb—covering 10,832,250 square meters—has now been formally recorded. The deed for Lesser Tunb, measuring 1,394,179 square meters, was issued in March 2023, while the deed for Bu Musa—spanning 12,722,683 square meters—was issued in February 2021.

The Judiciary stated that the measure complies fully with higher-level directives, including Article 3 of the Comprehensive Cadastral Law (2014),



This file picture shows an aerial view of Iran's Bu Musa Island in the Persian Gulf.

which requires the Registration Organization to issue cadastral deeds for all lands in the country, from forests to seas and islands.

It also aligns with Clause 26 of Chapter Seven of the general policies of the Seventh Development Plan, issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, which strongly emphasizes nationwide implementation of the cadastre.

The Judiciary described the action as a “practical step” toward meeting this strategic mandate and protecting Iran's territorial integrity.

The initiative is additionally intended to address international disputes and counter “baseless claims by foreign parties,” particularly concerning sovereignty over the three islands.

Only solution to Palestine crisis is ending Israel's ‘organized occupation’: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reiterated that “the only viable and principled solution to the Palestine issue” is to end the organized occupation of historic Palestinian lands, facilitate the return of refugees, and allow Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination.

In a message to world governments marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Pezeshkian said November 29 represents global recognition of the “courage, resilience, and pursuit of justice” shown by Palestinians over decades of struggle. He said Iran “firmly supports the Palestinian people in their efforts to achieve their aspirations.”

The president said the day serves as a reminder of “eight decades of occupation” and the ongoing suffering of Palestinians, adding that recent events in Gaza have unfolded “before the eyes of the world” while governments that claim to uphold human rights “chose to look away.”

Pezeshkian argued that Palestinians continue their “legitimate struggle” for statehood after being denied their right to self-determination. He called on global governments to fulfill their moral and legal responsibilities to defend Palestinian rights.

He also criticized international organizations for their failure to confront Israel, calling the situa-



Palestinians walk among piles of rubble in the northern Gaza Strip on November 19, 2025.

tion “the greatest threat to peace and security”. He urged states to take “serious and effective measures” to halt aggression against Palestinians.

Reaffirming Iran's longstanding support for the Palestinian cause, Pezeshkian praised the “steadfast and legitimate resistance” of Palestinian youth and urged the international community to confront actions by Israel that violate international law and numerous UN resolutions.

The president highlighted Iran's proposal registered at the United Nations, which calls for the return of refugees and a referendum among “the original residents of Palestine — Muslims, Christians, and Jews — based on democratic principles and international law.” He described the plan as a viable alternative to “failed past initiatives.”

Saudi deputy FM holds talks in Tehran as Iran calls for stronger regional coordination



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) meets with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Saud bin Mohammed Al-Satti in Tehran on November 30, 2025.

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He was received in the morning by Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, at the Foreign Ministry.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the two officials discussed the state of Iran-Saudi relations and explored avenues to broaden bilateral cooperation across areas of mutual interest. The meeting also touched on key regional and international developments.

Araghchi condemned what he described as the ongoing genocide and crimes committed by the Israeli regime in occupied Palestine, noting that Israel's expanding military

operations against Lebanon and Syria pose “the most serious threat to regional and international peace and security.” He urged enhanced coordination among regional and Islamic countries to curb Israel's “warmongering and violations of international law.”

For his part, Al-Satti underlined Saudi Arabia's position that closer coordination among regional states is essential for preserving peace and stability in the Middle East.

Following his meeting with the foreign minister, the Saudi deputy foreign minister also held talks with Mohammadreza Raouf Sheibani, Iran's Special Envoy for Syrian Affairs, continuing discussions on regional issues.

Recently, Tehran and Riyadh have been engaged in consultations to further enhance mutual relations.

In early November, 2025, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi met with Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Abdulrahman al Rassi in Riyadh.

Iran's deputy foreign minister for international and legal affairs underscored the strategic importance of the renewed relationship with Saudi Arabia, saying that growing cordial relations between Tehran and Riyadh are not just beneficial bilaterally but are a powerful force for regional stability and global peace.

Gharibabadi made the remarks in an X

post following a visit to Saudi Arabia aimed at deepening cooperation and coordination between the two regional heavyweights.

The deputy foreign minister stressed that Iran and Saudi Arabia, bound by many shared interests and mutual respect, are well-positioned to serve the common good of their peoples and advance regional peace.

Gharibabadi detailed his meeting with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Abdulrahman al Rassi.

He said the discussions focused on bolstering collaboration within international, regional, and multilateral organizations, as well as advancing key areas like human rights and legal and judicial cooperation.

The officials also exchanged views on strengthening the pivotal role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Gharibabadi said he emphasized the need for the OIC to play a stronger role in addressing critical issues, including condemning the crimes of the Israeli occupation in Gaza and its aggressions in the region, while expanding cooperation among member states.

The Iranian official expressed optimism for the future trajectory of Tehran-Riyadh ties, stating a desire for accelerated progress.

Iran and Saudi Arabia normalized relations under a China-brokered agreement signed in Beijing in March 2023, which stipulated the resumption of full diplomatic relations, including the reopening of embassies, within two months.

Mohammadreza Naqdi a few weeks ago.

The top general's comments followed Tel Aviv's claims that part of Iran's missile capabilities had been destroyed during the Israeli aggression.

The senior commander added that Iran responded to the Israeli military aggression accordingly.

The United States blew through about a quarter of its supply of high-end THAAD missile interceptors during Israel's 12-day war with Iran in June, according to two sources familiar with the operation.

US forces countered Tehran's barrage of ballistic missiles by firing more than 100 THAADs (short for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) – and possibly as many as 150 – a significant portion of America's stockpile of the advanced air defense system, the sources said. The US has seven THAAD systems, and used two of them in Israel in the conflict.

Air defense network on full alert, says Iranian commander

TEHRAN – The deputy commander of the Air Defense Force of the Iranian Army says the country's air defense units are on full alert to counter potential enemy attacks.

“The air defense units are commissioned to mount an effective, constant and lasting defense of the country's airspace based on the frameworks of the nation's integrated air defense network,” said Brigadier General Alireza Elhami.

“In recent decades, the air defense network has been on full alert ... to defend the country,” he explained.

The top commander also recalled the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, saying Iran's air defense units firmly countered the aggressors.

The Israeli regime launched a flagrant and unprovoked act of military aggression on Iran on June 13, 2025, triggering a 12-day war that killed well over 1,000 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

The United States also got involved in the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in gross violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces struck strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

Meanwhile, the Iranian defense minister said recently that the country's defense products have improved in terms of both quality and quantity compared to the period before the Israeli military aggression.

Speaking in an open session of Parliament, Brigadier General Aziz Nassirzadeh said this improvement has made the entire Iranian nation happy.

Another Iranian military commander had said earlier that Iran's missile capability had not been harmed at all.

“Our missiles have not suffered even a scratch,” said Brigadier General

\$30 Billion Roadmap for Tehran–Ankara Ties

Pezeshkian and Fidan push new projects in trade, transit and energy

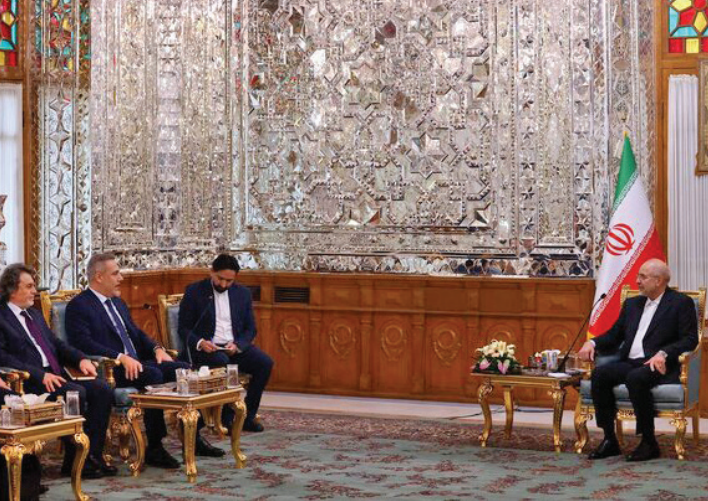
TEHRAN – Targeting \$30 billion in Iran–Turkey trade relations, Tehran and Ankara have pledged to turn their historic and cultural ties into a stronger economic partnership, as President Masoud Pezeshkian and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan called for deeper cooperation in trade, transit, and regional security.

Iranian President met with Turkish Foreign Minister in Tehran on Sunday evening.

Focusing on Iran–Turkey relations, Pezeshkian called on the foreign ministers and expert teams to intensify efforts to design new avenues of cooperation, ease bureaucratic constraints, and develop practical proposals to swiftly resolve outstanding issues.

“We are brothers,” he emphasized. “We must expand our relations. Borders that permit the movement of trade, knowledge, and culture will never allow terrorism and weapons to pass.”

The two sides also underscored enhanced unity and coordinated action among Muslim-majority nations would prevent external powers from manufacturing cri-



Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf (R) met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan in Tehran on November 30, 2025.

ses in the Islamic world.

Drawing attention to the centuries-old historical, cultural, and civilizational bonds between Iran and Turkey, Pezeshkian described bilateral relations as “deep-rooted and authentic,” with significant potential for expansion. He argued that if Islamic countries act through a shared will grounded in solidarity, convergence, and the exchange of experience, “no power will be able to create problems for the Muslim nations.”

Pezeshkian said many regional crises are the product of interventionist actors who sow division to advance their own agendas and block the development of Islamic societies. To counter



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan attend a joint press conference in Tehran on November 30, 2025.

these pressures, he urged Islamic governments to adopt proactive, strategic, and coordinated cooperation.

Highlighting Europe’s post-conflict integration as a model, he noted that despite centuries of war, European states successfully reduced borders, established joint political and financial institutions, and interconnected their trade and transportation systems. The Islamic world, possessing “far deeper cultural and civilizational commonalities,” can achieve similar progress—if it chooses coop-

al, but an unavoidable necessity.” He urged Islamic countries—including Iran and Turkey—to elevate their engagement through joint, equal, and coordinated action, asserting that Muslim nations must “remove the heavy stones of division” blocking the advancement of the Islamic Ummah.

Commenting on Iran’s trajectory since the 1979 Revolution, Fidan described Iran’s progress as possessing remarkable dynamism, “like an arrow released from a bow.” He also highlighted several joint economic, trade, and transportation projects currently underway, noting that President Erdoğan is personally monitoring their progress.

Nuclear issue, Gaza crisis, and border cooperation top agenda in Araghchi–Fidan Talks

Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Fidan held extensive talks with his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi. At their joint press conference, Fidan said this was his fourth visit to Iran as Turkey’s foreign minister and expressed gratitude for Tehran’s hospitality.

He described the talks as productive and wide-ranging, covering bilateral issues, regional crises, and international developments. Key points included:

Fidan emphasized that issues related to Iran’s nuclear program must be resolved within the framework of international law and through dialogue and consultation.

He reiterated Turkey’s opposition to the “unjust sanctions” imposed on Iran and said Ankara would do everything within its capacity to support a diplomatic resolution.

He announced Turkey’s readiness to expand border crossings with Iran and said the two sides held detailed discussions on transportation and border management.

Fidan also referred to the forthcoming opening of Iran’s consulate in the Turkish city of Van, stating that he would per-

sonally attend the inauguration if Araghchi travels for the ceremony.

The ministers also discussed cooperation in gas and electricity, with Fidan noting that the next session of the Iran–Turkey High-Level Cooperation Council is expected to convene in Tehran soon, with the participation of both countries’ presidents.

The Turkish minister stressed that Israeli aggressions have heightened concerns across the region and said the international community must fulfill its responsibilities.

The two ministers also exchanged views on the Russia–Ukraine conflict, with Fidan stating that Turkey remains in contact with all relevant parties and supports initiatives aimed at resolving the crisis.

Also in their official meeting earlier Sunday, Araghchi and Fidan expressed satisfaction with the strong, longstanding ties between the two countries and reaffirmed the commitment of both nations’ leaders to expand cooperation in all fields.

Both sides also reviewed the dire situation in Gaza and the West Bank, stressing the necessity of stopping the genocide of Palestinians and holding the occupying regime accountable. They further discussed developments in Syria and Lebanon, condemning ongoing Israeli military actions and urging urgent international steps to halt violations of international law.

Additionally, the ministers consulted on multilateral cooperation in international organizations, Iran’s nuclear issue, and the Ukraine conflict.

Turkish Foreign Minister also met with Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Ali Larjani on Sunday.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on a range of key regional security issues. Their discussions focused on the latest developments in Syria and Gaza, as well as the destabilizing role of the Zionist regime in recent regional events.

Both parties emphasized the importance of close coordination between Tehran and Ankara in managing and de-escalating regional crises.

Earlier in the afternoon, Foreign Minister Fidan met with Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament. The two discussed bilateral cooperation, regional challenges, and the need for coordinated efforts between legislative bodies of the two countries to support government-level agreements.

World now views Iran as a prominent maritime power: Navy chief

TEHRAN – Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, commander of the Iranian Army Navy, says the Islamic Republic is increasingly viewed as a growing naval power, citing expanded deployments in oceanic waters and heightened participation in international maritime engagements.

Speaking at a ceremony marking Army Navy Day, Irani joined senior commanders and naval personnel in paying tribute at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, where they renewed their allegiance to the ideals of the founder of the Islamic Republic. He said Iran’s naval achievements have significantly shaped how the country is perceived abroad.

“In the international arena, the Islamic Republic of Iran—especially in the maritime sphere—is regarded as a naval power,” Irani said.

According to the navy chief, two Iranian naval task groups are currently operating in separate oceanic regions and have already taken part in multiple international events, with further participation in combined exercises planned. Irani described these deployments as evidence of Iran’s growing integration into global maritime affairs.

“Official invitations to these events, and the use of our expertise in multinational exercises, signal the elevated standing of the Iranian people in the international community,” he noted.

In a separate televised interview, Irani highlighted Iran’s long historical presence in the Persian Gulf, describing it as a region of exceptional strategic value.

“The Persian Gulf is a semi-enclosed sea connected to the Indian Ocean and international waters through the Strait of Hormuz. It holds exceptional geographical and geopolitical importance,” he said.

He added that Iran’s islands, with their natural beauty, suitable sea depth, and surrounding resources, offer significant potential for maritime tourism, diving, and economic development.

Irani stressed that regional countries are best positioned to shape their own security architecture.

“The peoples and governments of this region, who have lived here for centuries, are the best decision-makers for ensuring security and development,” he said.

To bolster its maritime capabilities, Iran re-



The photo shows the Iranian Navy’s combat vessels during a maneuver

cently added the destroyer Sahand and the floating base Kurdistan to its fleet. Both, Irani said, will soon be dispatched on international missions as part of an expanding blue-water strategy. He also revealed plans for establishing floating bases in each major ocean, two of which are already operational.

The floating base Kurdistan is described as a port-city platform capable of providing extensive support to naval and non-naval units at sea.

The navy commander said Iran’s top priority remains escorting commercial vessels and protecting the country’s maritime economy.

Golshadnezhad wins gold at 2025 World Karate C’ships

TEHRAN – Iran’s Atousa Golshadnezhad defeated China’s Gong Li 4-2 in the final match of the Female Kumite -61kg to win a gold medal at the 2025 World Karate Championships on Sunday.

Assel Kanay of Kazakhstan and Tunisian Wafa Mahjoub won two bronze medals.

Iran’s Sara Bahmanyar had won a bronze medal in the Female Kumite 750 kg earlier in the day.

The competition takes place in Cairo, Egypt from Nov. 27 to 30.

Esteghlal edge Foolad at 2025/26 PGPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team moved to the top of Iran’s 2025/26 Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) after edging Foolad 1-0 on Sunday.

Saeid Saharkhizan scored the winner for Esteghlal in the 30th minute, capitalizing on a mistake by Foolad defender Ali Nemati.

Foolad had a chance to level the score with six minutes remaining, but Sasan Ansari failed to convert from the spot. Three minutes later, Sina Moridi was shown a straight red card, leaving Foolad with 10 men.

Esteghlal returned to the summit with 19 points and a game in hand.

In Rafsanjan, Sepahan defeated the 10-man Mes 3-0 with goals from Ehsan Hajisafi (45th), Arash Rezavand (55th) and Mohammad Askari (85th).

Hungary crash Iran at 2025 World Women’s Handball

TEHRAN – Hungary delivered a commanding performance against Iran, beating Team Melli 47-13 at the 2025 World Women’s Handball Championship.

From the very start, the differences between the two teams were obvious. Hungary were off to a blistering start, setting an early 4-0 lead, while Iran had to battle hard to find their way to the goal. Their first goal came in the fifth minute, the second in the sixth, and then a long blackout followed.

In the next 14 minutes, they scored only twice, while Hungary kept fueling goal runs and were already up 18-4 by the 20th minute. In those opening 20 minutes alone, Hungary coach Vladimir Golovin managed to rotate through all players, and 12 of them were on the scoresheet, with many goals coming from fast transitions, ihf.info reported.

They were backed up by Kinga Janurik in goal, and whenever Iran did manage to break through late in the half, it was mostly thanks to Haniyeh Karimi. The team missed their left back Nastaran Koudzarifarahani, who got injured in the opening minutes. For the second match in a row at Germany/Netherlands 2025, inexperienced Iran finished the first half with just seven goals scored, while Hungary were already closing in on the 30-goal mark.

The same pace continued in the second half, as Iran showed more confidence compared to their first match against Switzerland, where they managed to score only twice after the break. This time, they scored four goals within the opening 12 minutes. Iran kept fighting, but Hungary did not slow down the tempo.

By the 50th minute, Hungary had already reached the 40-goal mark, and by the end they finished with 47, marking Iran’s highest losing margin at the World Championship. Previously, the record was held by Germany, who scored 45 against Iran in 2023, though Iran managed to net 22 goals in that match.

For Iran, Aseman Badvi and Haniyeh Karimi led the scoring with three goals each, while on the Hungarian side, where all players took part, Gréta Márton netted nine, and both Kinga Janurik and Anna Bukovszky finished with save percentages above 50%.

Hungary will now face Switzerland in the last round of the group stage in a direct battle for first place and full points carried into the main round. Iran will fight Senegal for the last main round spot,

with the loser moving on to the President’s Cup.

Hungary’s Anna Albek was selected as Player of the Match.

Iranian referees to officiate Spain v Morocco match

TEHRAN – Zari Fathi and Gelareh Nazemi have been chosen to officiate the match between Spain and Morocco at the 2025 FIFA Futsal Women’s World Cup.

Fathi will serve as the first referee and Nazemi is second referee.

Both referees have prior experience at major events, including the AFC Women’s Futsal Championship and the UEFA Women’s Futsal Euro 2019 semi-final between Spain and Russia in Portugal.

The match will be held at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig, the Philippines on Monday in the quarter-finals round.

Iran beat Iraq at FIBA World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Iraq 86-71 at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers at the Nohad Nawfal Sports Complex in Beirut, Lebanon on Sunday.

After their record shooting spree in the opening game, Iran may have imagined another lopsided encounter against Iraq. They did end up making a lot of threes again (13 three-pointers made) but Iraq coach Mazen Trakh’s men had entirely different ideas. Matching Iran shot for shot, Iraq showed tremendous fighting spirit in the first half, before losing 86-71.

While a typically balanced Iran had multiple scorers stepping up, in this second go-around, Iraq too found heroes beyond point guard Ramon Galloway.

Late in the first quarter, Iraq nosed ahead, 19-18, thanks to an Abdullah Alibraheemi breakaway dunk, and it looked like we had a close one on our hands.

But seconds later, on yet another transition play, Alibraheemi suffered an injury and would not return.

Iraq continued battling on through Galloway and center Ihab Al-Zuhairi, even leading momentarily midway through the second quarter. Post half-time, though, Team Melli began breaking the game open, leading 61-50 going into the final frame.

Iran took the chance to rest Asia Cup 2025 All-Star Five point guard Sina Vahedi for this game. The fourth quarter would see another young Iranian rising star in 23-year-old Piter Girgoorian stepping up, finishing with a game-high 21 points.

Another rising youngster, Mahdi Jafari also had an impressive game for Iran with 9 points and 9 assists.

Iran fail to reach 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – India qualified for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 after a hard-fought 2-1 win against Iran in their final Qualifiers Group D tie on Sunday.

The hosts finished level on seven points with Iran but advanced on the head-to-head ratio as they booked a fourth consecutive appearance at the Finals.

Iran, who needed to avoid defeat to secure their place in the Finals, broke the deadlock in the 19th minute after Amirreza Valipoor controlled a through ball with a deft touch before slotting home into the bottom right corner.

India clawed their way back into the game after they were awarded a penalty following a foul on Heeranganba Seram, with Dallalmuon Gangte making no mistake from the spot as he sent Iran keeper Bardiya Dorri the wrong way.

The South Asian side went ahead in the 52nd minute after Amirmahan Afroziani failed to clear a cross, leaving Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam to drill a low shot which slipped past Dorri and into the bottom right corner.

Iran's non-oil trade reaches \$76.5b in 8 months

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign trade reached 131.054 million tons worth \$76.537 billion in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 22), according to data from the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The combined value of exports and imports declined 9.38 percent year-on-year, while total trade volume rose 1.53 percent, IRNA reported.

Exports amounted to 105.231 million tons valued at \$36.997 billion, marking a 1.17 percent rise in volume and a 3.48 percent drop in value from the same period last year.

Imports reached 25.823 million tons worth \$39.540 billion, showing a three percent increase in weight and a 14.29 percent decline in value.

Some of the growth in export volume appears tied to energy shortages in industrial and mining sectors, which left parts of production capacity idle and pushed some producers toward exporting raw materials such as iron concentrate and pellet.

Data from the Iranian Steel Association indicates that raw material exports have continued rising, with iron ore concentrate

shipments up 82 percent compared to the first seven months of last year. Steelmakers have voiced concern that excessive raw material exports could tighten domestic supply for downstream production.

As previously announced by an IRICA official, Iran exported over 152 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$57.8 billion in the past Iranian calendar year 1403 (ended on March 20).

This marked a 10 percent increase in volume and a 15.62 percent rise in value compared to the previous year, Abolfazl Akbarpour, the IRICA deputy head for planning and international affairs, stated.

Imports totaled 39.3 million tons valued at \$72.4 billion, representing a 0.77 percent decline in weight but an 8.22 percent increase in value from the previous year. The result was a non-oil trade deficit of \$14.6 billion, largely due to the import of over \$8.0 billion worth of raw gold bars, which accounted for 11.12 percent of the total import value.

Iran's main non-oil exports included natural gas, liquefied propane and butane, methanol, liquefied petroleum gases and hydrocarbon gases, and gas condensates.

Malaysian embassy in Tehran fosters diplomacy, inspiration at annual MTCP alumni gathering

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN– In a cherished annual tradition that underscores the strong bilateral ties between Malaysia and Iran, the Embassy of Malaysia hosted a dinner reunion for alumni of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) on the evening of November 29th. The event, held at a premier restaurant in Tehran, brought together a diverse group of Iranian professionals who have benefited from the capacity-building initiative.

The gathering serves as a vital platform for fostering continuous dialogue and networking among Iranian experts from various sectors, including academia, government, and industry. More than just a social event, it is a strategic forum that strengthens the bridge of knowledge and cooperation between the alumni and the Malaysian Embassy.

The event was marked by the gracious presence of His Excellency Khairi bin Omar, Ambassador of Malaysia to Iran, and his dedicated team. Mr. Ambassador, during the gathering, had effective conversations and discussions with the participants, engaging directly with their experiences and insights gained from the MTCP. These dialogues focused on exploring new avenues for collaboration and reinforcing the program's long-term impact on professional development and international partnership.

The evening was widely praised by attendees as being exceptionally fruitful, productive, and profoundly inspiring. In a heartfelt address, Ambassador Khairi bin Omar reiterated Malaysia's commitment to the MTCP, highlighting its role not only in sharing technical expertise but also in building a lasting global community of leaders and innovators.

The following is the text of the Ambassador's impactful speech in the gathering:

“Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Esteemed Members of the MTCP Alumni, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good evening.

It is a true honor and immense pleasure to welcome all of you tonight. This gathering celebrates a shared belief: that genuine development is rooted in mutual trust and cooperation.

Tonight, we celebrate the remarkable success of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) and, most importantly, the dedicated professionals of the MTCP Alumni Network here in Iran.

Allow me to highlight the impressive journey of this Program:

- The MTCP was established in 1980, and since then, it has reached various countries, benefiting thousands of participants globally. I am especially proud to note that for our



dear friends in Iran, since 2002, we have welcomed over 70 participants through this vital knowledge exchange platform.

- This enduring commitment is driven by a simple fact: Malaysia views MTCP as a world-class program, excelling in teaching, research, and opening new opportunities for our global partners.

- The Malaysian Government proudly shares this special moment of success with you, knowing that as MTCP alumni, you have gained valuable knowledge, essential skills, and are already making new innovations that contribute directly to Iran's ambitious growth.

Your journey through MTCP was not just a training course; it was the start of a lifelong partnership.

- The essence of your participation lies in the valuable process of exchanging various knowledge regarding technologies, economics, agriculture, and other critical fields. This exchange enriches not only your professional lives but also the policy frameworks of both our nations.

- We offer our heartfelt appreciation to all MTCP alumni for your vital role as 'Friends of Malaysia.' We trust you will continue this existing bond between the alumni and Malaysia, allowing this relationship to flourish for decades to come.

- As you continue your excellent work, I have a special request: Please spread the good news about Malaysia—regarding your experience and the opportunities to enhance bilateral relations between Malaysia and Iran. You are our most trusted advocates.

The Malaysian Embassy in Tehran stands ready to support you. We believe that this Alumni network is the key to unlocking even deeper cooperation.

Please know that the Embassy of Malaysia always welcomes your ideas and suggestions for the betterment of relations between our two countries. We view your insights, derived from both your professional expertise and your experience in Malaysia, as invaluable.

We look forward to a future where the bonds forged through MTCP continue to drive mutual prosperity and understanding.

Terima kasih. Thank you.

‘Holding exhibitions hoped to pave way for great leap in Iran-Turkmenistan economic co-op’



TEHRAN– The governor-general of Golestan province, in north-east Iran, expressed hope that holding exhibitions will pave the way for a great leap in the level of economic cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Ali Asghar Tahmasebi emphasizing the importance of specialized exhibitions in assessing commercial risks, improving production quality, and creating links between production and commercial sectors, added: “These events play a significant role in introducing provincial capacities and developing economic diplomacy.”

He described the cultural diversity and economic capacities of Golestan as a valuable opportunity for deepening neighborly relations and added: “These characteristics can provide the basis for optimal utilization of regional capacities.”

He described the role of producers, industrialists, and merchants in linking the economies and cultures of the two countries as vital and referred to them as the driving force for the development of economic cooperation.

The 16th edition of the specialized Iran Project exhibition, focused on engineering and technical services, will be held in Ashgabat from January 28 to 30, 2026, after receiving official authorization from the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO).

The event is being organized with support from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The exhibition aims to expand the export of Iranian technical and engineering services and offers a structured platform for companies seeking to enter or deepen their presence in Turkmenistan's growing market.

With an 18-year track record in the region, Iran Project is recognized as a key international venue for showcasing capabilities across oil, gas and petrochemicals, water, electricity and energy, construction, and a wide range of engineering services.

By bringing together major Iranian exporting firms and project developers, the event is expected to facilitate contract negotiations, technical partnerships and regional cooperation in large-scale infrastructure and industrial projects. It also creates a direct channel for Iranian companies to gain access to oil and gas opportunities, petrochemical developments and broader international tenders in Turkmenistan.

Officials say the Ashgabat exhibition will provide an important opportunity to highlight Iran's engineering expertise and reinforce commercial ties with a neighboring market seeking reliable partners for its long-term development plans.

In late May, Iran and Turkmenistan signed a commercial roadmap aimed at boosting bilateral trade to \$3.0 billion.

The agreement was signed in Tehran by Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Far-

zaneh Sadegh and Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov following the 18th session of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee.

Sadegh said the recent committee meeting marked a new chapter in bilateral cooperation, stressing that intensive talks had yielded fresh approaches and agreements to expand trade. “The trade roadmap is expected to be finalized before the Iranian president's upcoming visit to Turkmenistan,” she added.

The minister highlighted the strategic location of both countries within the North–South and East–West corridors, describing them as critical to regional connectivity. She noted that Iran and Turkmenistan had agreed to aim for 20 million tons in transit volumes, with a 16-million-ton target set for 2028.

Other key understandings included plans to establish joint free trade zones in Sarakhs–Sarakhs and Lotfabad–Artiq, strengthen border markets—especially in Incheh Borun—and prepare a bilateral gas contract. The roadmap also calls for constructing the Qamdaq–Atrak road toward the Iranian border and building a gas pipeline to Turkmenistan.

Agreements were also reached on developing a third electricity transmission line between Mary and Sarakhs and launching feasibility studies for a fourth. “If both sides follow through, the 18th committee will open up new avenues for economic and cultural cooperation,” Sadegh said.

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov thanked Iranian officials for their hospitality, stating that bilateral relations are at a high level. “The close dialogue between the two presidents is grounded in mutual trust, which plays a pivotal role in advancing ties,” he said.

Meredov emphasized the importance of the Joint Economic Committee as a coordination mechanism for implementing bilateral agreements across sectors such as oil, gas, transport, trade, telecommunications, agriculture, and environment. He also expressed readiness to expand cooperation in health, sports, tourism, and science.

Meredov said the Turkmen delegation had held productive meetings with Iranian officials and that President Pezeshkian had shared his vision for future cooperation during their encounter. “We view Iran's proposals seriously and are committed to joint efforts,” he added.

Iran, Eurasian bloc agree on electronic customs data exchange

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) have reached an agreement to launch electronic data exchange as part of the ongoing implementation of the Iran–EAEU free trade agreement.

According to Mehr News Agency, the agreement was finalized during the third technical meeting between the two sides, following intensive

negotiations aligned with the objectives set out in the free trade pact.

The session concluded with the signing of the official minutes.

The parties agreed on the framework, operational method and technical requirements for implementing electronic information sharing, which is expected to streamline customs procedures and strengthen regulatory cooperation.

Iran plans to increase its annual rail freight transit with Turkmenistan to four million tons, up from 1.6 million tons last year, according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI).

Speaking on the sidelines of the joint economic commission, RAI Head Jabar Ali Zakeri said rail transit is currently at its best level, and Iran aims to resolve logistical issues at Sarakhs, Lotfabad, and Incheh Borun border points to facilitate growth.

He said talks had addressed problems such as the movement of Iranian wagons on Turkmen railways and activation of the Lotfabad border terminal. The terminal will now offer special freight discounts, expected to add 170,000 to 200,000 tons of transit freight—a first for the crossing.

Iran is also working on resolving customs hurdles and expanding infrastructure at the Sarakhs and Incheh Borun terminals. “We aim to increase bogie exchange capacity at Sarakhs from 400 to 600 wagons per day,” Zakeri said.

The two countries also discussed launching a new Mashhad–Mary passenger train route.

Meanwhile, during a meeting on May 20, with Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad emphasized deepening bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sector and discussed avenues to broaden energy collaboration.

The minister highlighted the ongoing session of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee and its diverse agenda. He said the committee could significantly boost trade exchanges between the two countries.

Paknejad emphasized that constructive engagement with neighboring countries—particularly Turkmenistan, a “friendly and brotherly nation”—has always been a priority in Iran's foreign policy. He added that the current administration is firmly committed to expanding energy ties with Turkmenistan.

He pointed to the swift implementation of the gas swap deal through Iran that delivers Turkmen gas to Turkey, expressing hope that other energy-related agreements—such as direct gas imports from Turkmenistan—would advance at a similar pace.

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister and Head of Cabinet, Rashid Meredov, noted that Iran and Turkmenistan have historically maintained strong ties. In recent years, he said, relations have entered a new phase, with both

Over 300 companies to participate in IPCC 2025

TEHRAN – A total of 303 domestic and foreign companies are set to participate in The 25th edition of Iran's International Paint, Resin, Coatings, Composites and Plating Industries Fair (IPCC 2025), according to Iran International Exhibitions Company.

Mohammad-Javad Ghanbari, deputy for exhibition affairs, said

sides eager to expand cooperation across various sectors.

Meredov identified three key areas of cooperation with Iran: gas exports to Iran, joint development of compressor stations and pipelines, and gas swaps to third countries via Iranian territory. He said Turkmenistan currently produces over 80 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually, a substantial portion of which could be exported in collaboration with Iran.

He described the swift launch of the Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey gas swap as a testament to the strong partnership between the two nations and stated, “Based on this positive experience, we believe there is significant potential to further expand energy cooperation. We also have ambitious plans for increasing gas exports to Iran.”

On May 13, the head of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Chamber of Commerce said the

two countries are aiming to increase bilateral trade by 30 percent, following the first-ever exhibition of Turkmenistan's export capabilities in Iran — an event driven entirely by private sector investment.

Ramazan Bahrami, who also heads the Industry, Mining and Trade House of Golestan Province, described the three-day event held in Gorgan from May 4 to 6 as a strategic milestone in Iran-Turkmenistan commercial relations and a tangible step toward strengthening regional economic diplomacy.

Held at the Gorgan International Exhibition Center, the event featured 53 private companies and 12 government institutions from Turkmenistan, and attracted significant interest from Iranian industrialists and businesspeople.

“This was the first time since Turkmenistan's independence that such an exhibition took place in Iran, and Golestan Province had the honor of hosting it,” Bahrami said. “The exhibition was the result of consensus between the private sector and state institutions, and the outcome exceeded expectations.”

He said the expo aimed to expand trade exchanges and showcase Turkmenistan's industrial and export capacities to the Iranian market. The idea for reciprocal trade exhibitions was first approved at the 17th Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee meeting, and the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Chamber was tasked with its implementation.

Bahrami emphasized that the participation of both countries' private sectors in expert panels and face-to-face negotiations provided fertile ground for launching new partnerships. Preliminary agreements were reached in areas including petrochemicals, petroleum products, construction materials, food industries, textiles, and logistics, which are expected to boost bilateral trade once finalized.

on Sunday that 243 Iranian firms and 60 foreign companies have confirmed their presence.

He noted that the event, one of the country's oldest annual gatherings for the paint and resin industry, will run from December 3 to 6 at Tehran's permanent fairgrounds.

Israel waging ‘ecocide’ to erase Gaza’s future, expert warns

Omar Nashabeh says destruction of Gaza’s ecosystems proves a long-term strategy to make Palestinian life impossible

By Sahar Dadjoo

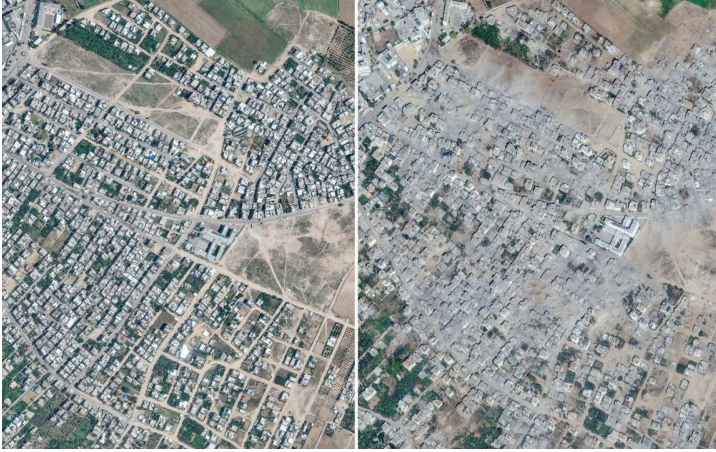
TEHRAN – As the “Right to Resist” International People’s Tribunal on Palestine delivered its landmark verdict in Barcelona—finding Israel, the United States, key European states, and other actors guilty of genocide, ecocide, forced starvation, and systematic violations of international law—one of the most compelling expert voices was that of Dr. Omar Nashabeh. A criminologist and human rights researcher, Nashabeh holds a PhD in Criminal Justice and has spent decades examining structural violence, prison systems, and state accountability across the region.

His work spans academia, investigative journalism, and human-rights advocacy, including years on the editorial board of Al-Akhbar. At the Tribunal, he served as an expert witness for the prosecution, presenting detailed evidence on Israel’s destruction of Gaza’s environment and infrastructure—an analysis that helped shape the Tribunal’s conclusion that the assault constitutes not only genocide but also ecocide. In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Dr. Nashabeh reflects on the findings, the legal foundations, and the global significance of the verdict.

The following is the text of the interview:

As a member of the “Right to Resist” International People’s Tribunal on Palestine, could you explain why this tribunal was established at this particular moment and what gaps in international justice it seeks to fill?

The Israelis have been committing genocide, ecocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes since 2023—adding to a much longer list of violations over the past 80 years, including occupation, apartheid, and indiscriminate killings since the establishment of the



Israeli entity in 1948.

Throughout all these decades, Israel has escaped accountability. This has created a global atmosphere of impunity, where Israeli authorities consistently get away with the crimes they perpetrate. Today, these crimes have escalated dramatically, leading to the killing of more than 100,000 people and the near-total destruction of Gaza—destruction that the entire world has seen, covered by mainstream media. Everyone witnessed children dying of starvation, hospitals being bombed, and basic international laws being openly violated.

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu, but they were never enforced—not even by European states that are signatories to the Rome Statute. The International Court of Justice issued three orders demanding Israel allow food into Gaza and stop the bloodshed. Israel simply ignored them.

Since international tribunals and mechanisms for justice have proven incapable of stopping Israeli massacres or holding Israel accountable, we felt there was a need for a democratic, people-driven process. That is why the People’s Tribunal was established: to create a platform where ordinary people can act, present evidence, and is-

sue a verdict based on documented facts rather than political manipulation.

The Tribunal allowed us to show evidence, produce supporting documents, and create a factual record in case anyone later questions what happened. This was not political rhetoric—it was an opportunity to expose the perpetrator through clear proof.

A report by a human rights organization found that Israel’s bombardment generated CO₂ emissions greater than the combined emissions of six countries.

As for myself, I served as a witness for the prosecution, not as a judge. The judges and jurors are required to be unbiased. I, however, made my position clear and submitted evidence demonstrating that Israel is committing not only genocide but also ecocide. I even suggested adopting the term “metacide”—the complete de-

struction of nature and any sign of human life in Gaza.

Ultimately, the Tribunal also became a moment of international solidarity—an opportunity for free people around the world to stand with the Palestinian people.

You have emphasized that Palestinians have an internationally recognized right to resist occupation. How does this tribunal legally define resistance and how does it distinguish legitimate resistance from what Israel labels as terrorism?

The definition of resistance, and the right to resist, is guaranteed under international law. One of the leading documents that legitimizes all forms of resistance to foreign occupation is the United Nations Charter.

In Chapter 7, the UN Charter states that every member of the United Nations—such as Lebanon, a founding member, and Palestine, recognized under international law—has the right, if subjected to occupation or attack, to defend itself and fight for liberation. Nothing in the Charter can obstruct or limit this right.

This right is also affirmed in United Nations resolutions, which recognize the right of peoples to resist colonialism and foreign domination. Decolonization occurred globally after the Second World War, when the international community supported the right of peoples to self-determination and independence.

Following the war, key international instruments were adopted, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. These frameworks reinforced a global direction against colonialism, affirming that peoples have the right to independent and democratic nations.

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

Lebanon’s war anxiety: Between genuine peril and manufactured panic

From page 1 ► One camp summons war with reckless bravado; another fears it so intensely that it amplifies its inevitability. Both—intentionally or not—inject oxygen into the Israeli enemy’s psychological-warfare machine.

Since the November 27, 2024 sham ceasefire, Lebanon has been flooded with “operational forecasts” and “exclusive leaks.”

Each day brings a fresh recipe for apocalypse, predicting a war “more ruinous than any in the past century.”

The collapse of the Assad government on December 8, 2024 only widened the stage, triggering a wave of narratives about a “southeastern pincer,” a new Syrian front, and imminent preemptive strikes.

The question that dominates every platform—from policy institutes to village cafés—is no longer whether war is coming but why it hasn’t started yet.

Real threats vs. manufactured fear

Communities aligned with the Resistance are inundated with forecasts from both allies and adversaries. Some analysts warn the Israeli enemy could “strike before dawn.” Others insist the Pope’s visit offers no shield.

Rumors circulate about foreign intelligence calls warning of plans to “flatten the southern suburbs.”

This atmosphere creates a single shared perception: war is not a scenario—it is a calendar appointment. But strategic reality does not support this sense of inevitability.

The Israeli enemy faces profound structural constraints. Its army is overstretched, its deterrence damaged, and its political system cornered.

Netanyahu confronts what Israeli columnist Nahum Barnea called “the most existential political nightmare of any sitting prime minister.”

His approval rating fluctuates between 10% and 20%. Even as 60% of Israelis claim to sup-

port the Gaza war, only 30% believe Hamas can be eliminated.

Economically, the occupation entity is under immense pressure. Major firms are relocating, investors are withdrawing capital, and the tech sector—Israel’s crown jewel—lost more than 8,000 employees in a single year.

Regionally, Washington maintains its usual double game: enabling escalation when useful, curbing it when risky.

For now, the U.S. ceiling appears restricted to “precision intimidation”—limited airstrikes, media warfare, and controlled friction—not a full-fledged regional conflict.

In the contemporary landscape, battlefield victories no longer guarantee strategic success. Israel’s traditional narrative—anchored in Holocaust memory and allegations of antisemitism—has lost its hegemonic power.

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

Gaza’s death toll hits grim milestone of 70,000

From page 1 ► The Gaza Health Ministry says it had refrained from adding thousands of reported deaths to the official tally pending further checks.

The psychological and social trauma inflicted on Gaza’s population will shape the territory’s reality for generations. Alongside its military onslaught, the Israeli regime has mounted an international campaign attempting to cast doubt on the Health Ministry’s casualty figures.

But major international institutions have dismissed these attempts. The United Nations has described the ministry’s figures as credible, while the World Health Organization has confirmed that Gaza’s health officials have consistently provided reliable and verifiable data.

The Zionist regime’s efforts to undermine these figures reflect growing discomfort as evidence of mass civilian suffering continues to rise.

The scale of destruction across Gaza has been described by humanitarian groups as catastrophic and systemic. Entire neighborhoods have been erased, hospitals rendered inoperative, and essential infrastructure destroyed. The damage points to a strategy that reaches far beyond military targets, directly dismantling the societal foundations of an already besieged population.

According to the UN’s migration agency, more than 90 percent of Gaza’s population has been displaced, with 1.5 million people urgently in need of emergency shelter. Families have been forced into

near-constant movement as bombardments followed them from one district to another.

The ongoing blockade, which severely restricts the entry of food, medicine, and basic supplies, has pushed Gaza’s civilians to the brink, with widespread starvation, dehydration, and the rapid spread of disease. Rights groups and UN experts warn that the regime continues to commit genocide despite widespread condemnation.

Since Washington announced what many observers called a one-sided truce on October 10, 2025, the genocide has not stopped. At least 352 Palestinians have been killed and around 1,000 injured during this period as the Israeli Occupation Forces violate the supposed ceasefire on an almost daily basis.

In one of the latest attacks, a drone strike by the Zionist regime killed two brothers, eight-year-old Fadi Abu Assi and eleven-year-old Goma Abu Assi, near a school sheltering displaced families in Beni Suhaila, in southern Gaza.

The boys had been gathering firewood for their wheelchair-bound father, their uncle said. The regime claimed the children had entered a restricted “Yellow Line” zone that effectively cuts the Strip in half. On Sunday, regime warplanes also struck eastern Rafah city, killing four more Palestinians.

Despite increasing global pressure, the regime’s aggression continues across the Gaza Strip through air raids, artillery bombardments, naval fire, and what rights organizations describe as near-total international impunity.

Europe’s war, Ukraine’s ruin, and the case for a new architecture of peace

By Ranjan Solomon

GOA, India – The Western narrative insists that Russia launched an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. This story, repeated endlessly by the Atlantic establishment, conveniently deletes the political timeline that made war inevitable. NATO’s eastward march for 30 years — right up to Russia’s border — created a security nightmare no major power would tolerate. The United States certainly would not. Russia responded not out of imperial hunger but from accumulated strategic anxiety the West arrogantly dismissed.

Europe miscalculated spectacularly. EU leaders believed they could break Russia economically with sanctions, collapse its financial core, and claim a geopolitical triumph. Instead, Russia adapted, diversified, and exposed Europe’s fragility — an energy crisis, political fragmentation, and the unsettling truth that Brussels cannot think independently of Washington. These are the same ex-colonial powers still addicted to telling the world how to behave, yet incapable of introspection.

And at the centre of this tragedy stands Volodymyr Zelensky, the entertainer-turned wartime figurehead manufactured by Western PR machinery. His domestic mandate long expired, corruption scandals deepen by the week, and Ukraine’s political institutions have buckled. Yet the EU shields him because admitting their miscalculation would be politically suicidal. Zionistically invested in his myth, Europe and Zelensky now operate hand in glove: each sustaining the other while Ukraine collapses beneath them.

Modi’s seven-hour whirlwind visit to Ukraine only added to the theatre — a token performance meant for Western approval, not Ukrainian relief. It brought no strategy, no shift, no diplomacy. Just optics.

Even Donald Trump’s crude claim that he could end the war in 24 hours — mocked as unserious — inadvertently revealed a truth: the war could have been ended early through genuine diplomacy. But NATO whispered fantasies of membership into Kyiv’s ear, Washington offered weapons in place of solutions, and the EU fed illusions of victory. Biden’s foreign policy establishment mistook moral lectures for strategy, prolonging a conflict Ukraine was never equipped to win.

Today, Ukraine is cornered. It has lost roughly 20 percent of its territory, entire industrial zones, and faces trillions in economic destruction. Millions have fled. Tens of thousands lie dead. Ukraine is broken — not only by Russian firepower, but by EU ego, American confusion, and a NATO machine that keeps manufacturing wars it later pretends to mourn.

And this pattern is not new. NATO dismantled Yugoslavia, humiliating a historic civilisation under the banner of humanitarian intervention. It devastated Afghanistan for two decades before walking away in disgrace. It shattered Libya — once Africa’s most prosperous nation — leaving chaos and open-air slave markets. This is NATO’s record: moralising first, bombing next, denying responsibility always.

Law above the clouds: Caracas counters Washington’s illegal threats

From page 1 ► The Trump administration has attempted to justify its stance by linking Venezuela to drug trafficking networks. Yet these claims have not been supported with verifiable evidence. Since early September, the U.S. military has reported 21 strikes on vessels in the Caribbean, it alleged were carrying narcotics, resulting in more than 80 deaths. No independent proof has been provided to substantiate these operations. Venezuela argues that such accusations are politically motivated, designed to topple President Nicolás Maduro. Without transparent proof, the narrative of Venezuela as a drug hub remains speculative and unconvincing.

This absence of evidence is critical. International law requires that punitive measures be based on facts that can withstand scrutiny. By designating alleged Venezuelan groups as terrorist organizations, the U.S. expands its legal powers while sidestepping the need for credible documentation. Such unilateral actions undermine trust in institutions meant to uphold fairness and legality.

Venezuela has responded by appealing to the international community. The country has urged governments, the United Nations, and multilateral organizations to reject what it describes as an act of aggression. Officials emphasize that Venezuela will meet external pressure “with legality and dignity,” reinforcing the idea that sovereignty must be

If the Warsaw Pact was dismantled in 1991, what moral or strategic justification allows NATO to live on in 2025? Its purpose is no longer defense — it is projection. While the Warsaw Pact vanished, NATO metastasised, spreading bases, missile systems, military infrastructure, and ideological influence across regions it has no natural right to shape.

NATO’s expansion since 1995 destroyed the possibility of post-Cold War peace. Clinton wrecked the order; the 2008 Bucharest Summit lit the fuse by promising Ukraine and Georgia membership. Even Angela Merkel — not known for geopolitical daring — recognised the madness: Ukraine’s entry into NATO would be existentially destabilising. Her warning stands as one of the few honest moments in an era of Western recklessness.

The West’s sabotage of the Minsk agreements sealed Ukraine’s fate. Minsk was treated not as a path to peace but as a stalling device to arm Kyiv. History will record this as one of the crudest acts of bad faith in European diplomacy.

Today, Ukraine is the tragic victim of NATO’s obsession with encircling Russia and the West’s refusal to accept a multipolar world. The remedy is radical but obvious: no NATO for Ukraine — and ultimately, no NATO at all.

Guarantees outside NATO are the only sustainable way forward. What Europe needs is a new pan-European security pact, including Russia and Ukraine, rooted in arms control, force reductions, demilitarisation, and mutual guarantees. The OSCE once hinted at such a mission; it must be revived and strengthened. Europe will never achieve autonomy until it emancipates itself from NATO’s shadow. Peace will never be possible while a Cold War institution dictates 21st-century geopolitics.

The world is no longer unipolar. Colonial contracts drafted in Washington and Brussels no longer hold legitimacy. BRICS, Russia, and the Global South insist on a world where the West is one voice among many — not the imperial conductor of global affairs. Europe will either accept this or become strategically irrelevant.

And yes, reparations must be part of the discussion. Europe pushed Ukraine into a war it could never win, fed illusions of NATO protection, financed fantasies of military victory, and prolonged a catastrophe borne solely by Ukrainians. Accountability demands that the EU help rebuild the country it helped sacrifice.

A new world order must rise — one not built on NATO’s militarism or American exceptionalism but on human dignity, genuine sovereignty, and cooperation. Lennon’s dream is no longer a song lyric. In a world drifting toward perpetual war, it is the only political imagination capable of saving us.

“You may say I’m a dreamer,

But I’m not the only one.

I hope someday you’ll join us,

And the world will live as one.”

– John Lennon –

Ranjan Solomon is a writer on peace, geopolitics, and the collapse of Western hegemony

defended through law rather than force.

The broader picture reveals a familiar pattern in Latin America. The U.S. has deployed significant military assets near Venezuelan territory, including an aircraft carrier and thousands of troops. President Trump has even raised the possibility of a ground offensive “by land” in Venezuela, further escalating tensions. Officially, this presence is framed as part of anti-drug operations. In practice, it recalls earlier interventions in the region where allegations of crime were used to justify political and military pressure. From Panama in 1989 to more recent sanctions regimes, Washington has often blurred the line between law enforcement and regime change.

For Venezuela, the issue is not only about control of its skies but about the principle of independence. By invoking the Chicago Convention, Caracas is reminding the world that rules apply equally, and that no state has the right to impose its will on another.

Ultimately, the dispute highlights a clash between law and assertion. Venezuela insists that its sovereignty is protected by international treaties and that accusations must be proven, not presumed. The U.S., by acting without substantiation, risks weakening its own credibility and the very legal frameworks it claims to defend.

Baneh rosewater festival added to Iran's national tourism calendar

TEHRAN – An annual rosewater festival being held in the border city of Baneh, western Iran, has been officially inscribed in the country's national tourism events calendar, becoming the tenth registered tourism event of Kordestan province, provincial tourism chief announced on Monday.

Pouya Talebnia told local reporters that the registration was confirmed through an official certificate issued by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. The festival has been listed with registration number 104191109 at the local level, as part of national efforts to professionalize and organize tourism events across the country.

Talebnia noted that the Baneh Rosewater Festival is held annually around June 1, coinciding with the traditional rose-harvest season. "With the formal inclusion of this event, the number of registered tourism festivals and ceremonies in Kordestan Province has reached ten," he said, adding that Baneh now joins other cities of the province in strengthening its position within Iran's cultural tourism landscape.

He described the registration as a significant step in showcasing the province's ritual and cultural capacities. "This recognition will help promote culture-based tourism and revive valuable local traditions," Talebnia stated.

Kordestan's registered tourism events now include the Pir-Shalyar wedding ceremony, the Komsa ritual, the Sanandaj Nowruz Festival, Nowruz of Tangisar, Winter Nowruz, strawberry festival, the Palangan Hezar-Daf ceremony, grape festival.

Local cultural observers say the festival marks a new chapter for Baneh's agriculture sector, where the fragrance of the Mohammadi rose blends with the promise of economic growth and sustainable rural development.

Iran's rosewater-making tradition, known as Golab-Giri, is historically rooted in the central city of Kashan and its surrounding villages, where that kind of purple rose has been cultivated and distilled for centuries. Each year in May and June, communities in the region celebrate the harvest with rosewater festivals, honoring a time-honored craft that continues to flourish across the country — now including the city of Baneh.

Iran lifts export restrictions on handmade backgammon boards

TEHRAN – Iranian authorities have lifted export restrictions on handmade backgammon boards, a move officials say will open new international markets, strengthen craft-based employment, and support the country's traditional artisans.

According to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the decision follows months of coordinated efforts by the ministry's Deputy for Handicrafts and Traditional Arts. After extensive consultations with the Trade Promotion Organization, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, and other relevant bodies, the product is now cleared for export without limitations.

Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi, Deputy for Handicrafts and Traditional Arts, said the decision marks an important achievement for Iranian artisans. "With continuous follow-ups and broad coordination with involved agencies, the export of the valuable 'backgammon board,' one of the authentic symbols of Iranian handicrafts, has officially been allowed," Jalali-Dehkordi announced.

She emphasized that the move aligns with the government's broader strategies to remove export barriers, facilitate foreign trade, and provide comprehensive support for craftspeople and producers. "We hope

In that regard, Iran plans to submit its own nomination file to UNESCO to register the country's centuries-old tradition of rosewater distillation as an element of intangible cultural heritage. According to Alireza Izadi, director general for the registration and preservation of cultural heritage at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the Iranian file would be submitted separately, clarifying recent reports suggesting a possible joint registration with other countries.

"Iran has its own rituals and traditions related to rosewater distillation, and 'Golab' is a Persian word," Izadi said on Sunday. "The registration of Iran's Golab-Giri will be pursued independently." His remarks appeared to address speculation about potential collaboration with Saudi Arabia, which in 2024 registered its Taif rose practices on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

A Golab-Giri festival begins with a procession of the locals carrying baskets of roses to local distilleries. The flowers are then sorted and placed in large copper pots where they are boiled to produce the oil. The pots are made from bricks, stones, and mud. Aside from the actual production of rosewater, the attendees may roam through vibrant bazaars where local vendors sell all sorts of rose-infused products, such as perfumes, soaps, and even tea. In fact, rosewater is an essential ingredient in Persian cuisine. Furthermore, there are various musical and cultural events, including folk dances and traditional performances.

Flower harvesting is almost completed early in the morning. According to rumors, essential oil quantity and quality decline as a result of delays in harvesting or transport to the distillery. For part of its process, some 80 liters of water and almost 30 kilograms of rose petals are added to each pot, which is connected to metal pipes to allow steam to pass through to create the hydrosol. Distillation waste can either be fed to animals or composted.

Locals believe that rose oil and rosewater have therapeutic rewards. Some say rose oil calms the mind and relieves depression, grief, stress, and tension, adding that rosewater products help improve skin health, colds, and digestive system issues.

that with full implementation of this circular by customs offices and commercial departments across the country, we will witness a significant leap in backgammon exports, stronger sustainable employment in workshops, and a greater share for Iranian handicrafts in global markets," she added.

In previous years, the export of backgammon boards from Iran faced some restrictions, limiting access to international buyers and reducing potential revenue for artisans skilled in wood inlay, carving, and traditional design.

Backgammon — a game of strategy and chance played by racing counters across a board with the roll of two dice — enjoys global popularity, having surged in the late 20th century. Its deep historical roots in Iran have long been a point of cultural pride.

In 2023, archaeologists uncovered an ancient backgammon dice made of bone in the foothills of Motla-Kuh in northern Iran's Gilan Province. According to provincial tourism officials, the artifact was found during excavations in Amlesh County and represents the first discovery of its kind in the region — further evidence of the game's longstanding presence in Iranian history.

Qaleh Bala, a village where people celebrate endemic Iranian Ground-Jay

TEHRAN – For 14 years, the remote eco-friendly village of Qaleh Bala has welcomed wildlife enthusiasts to its unique "Journey to the Habitat of the Iranian Ground-Jay" festival — an annual event where residents and visitors come together to honor and protect one of Iran's rarest native birds.

This festival is part of the community's conservation program to protect a bird found exclusively in Iran. The Iranian Ground-Jay—known in Persian as "Zagh-e Boor", locally referred to by older villagers as "running fool," and scientifically identified as *Podoces pleskei*—is a sandy-yellow species that inhabits deserts and semi-desert shrublands, especially tamarisk-saxaul sand plains.

Qaleh Bala Village, located at the gateway to Turan National Park—Iran's largest UNESCO Biosphere Reserve—enjoys a harmonious coexistence with this bird and with remarkable wildlife including the Asiatic cheetah, the Persian onager, and more.

The village of Qaleh Bala is located in the northeastern part of Iran's Central Desert, in Semnan province, Shahroud county. Set in a foothill region with a hot, dry climate, the village is renowned for its striking architecture, shaped by local materials such as adobe, mud, stone, and wood—elements that lend its homes a deeply authentic and traditional character.

This year, the Zagh-e Boor Festival was also held in this picturesque village. The celebration



came to life with the presence of local residents in traditional dress, visitors from various provinces, environmental activists, birdwatchers, rangers from Turan National Park, and several local and national officials.

In the main square and through the village's central alleyways, a range of age-old cultural rituals were performed, including the traditional wedding ceremony, the Tal and Mahtal rain-invoking ritual, the wooden-stick dance, performances of local music, and the Rain Doll show. Each of these traditions reflected and revived the cultural identity and intangible heritage of the people of Qaleh Bala.

"This year's event once again highlighted the villagers' efforts to present Qaleh Bala as an environmentally friendly village. Initiatives such as unveiling a statue of the Iranian Ground-Jay, made from iron scrap, conveyed a clear message from local artists about recycling, reducing waste, and raising awareness

on the importance of protecting the village's natural resources, especially the Ground-Jay."

"The use of fabric bags, embroidered with designs of the Iranian Ground-Jay and other traditional, natural, and local symbols, continues to serve as a sustainable alternative to single-use plastic bags. Crafted by the village women, these bags—recognized as one of Qaleh Bala's 300-year-old handicrafts—showcase the art, culture, and entrepreneurship of the village's women."

The village local markets, organized with the participation of local residents, offer local products based on pomegranate, apple, plum, grape, etc., including grape syrup, Falghel sauce, lavashak (fruit leather), pomegranate paste and sauce, jam, syrup, vinegar, rosewater, and other distillates, as well as medicinal herbs and more. In some stalls, the region's wildlife diversity in Turan National Park was presented by local youth

and ecotourism activists.

During the festival, visitors stay in the eco-lodges of Qaleh Bala to experience authentic rural life in one of Iran's earliest villages to develop community-based ecotourism. After the United Nations launched its 2002 project to protect the Asiatic cheetah, some villagers donated parts of their land to Turan National Park for conservation and, in return, shifted toward tourism and the establishment of eco-lodges. In these traditional adobe houses, guests enjoy authentic local dishes such as abgoosht, gandom-polo, and various traditional and oily breads, along with foods like dano, ashkenah, digi, ghorouti, and local soups. Natural herbal drinks made from thyme, kakooti, mint, and rose add warmth and sincerity to the village hospitality. Among all these dishes, the special traditional food dano is the most popular and is served to visitors every year during the festival.

Tabriz, a heaven for culinary tourism



TEHRAN – From hearty stews to fragrant nougat, the flavors of Tabriz offer a vibrant gateway into one of Iran's richest gastronomic traditions, positioning the historic city as a rising destination for culinary tourism.

As global travelers increasingly seek authentic food experiences, Tabriz stands out as a city where every dish tells a story of patience, artistry, and cultural pride.

Across the world, culinary tourism has become one of the fastest-growing sectors of travel. Countries now compete not only with scenic landscapes and modern attractions, but also with distinctive local cuisines that reflect community identities. Food has become a powerful cultural ambassador — and in Tabriz, perhaps more than anywhere else in Iran, cuisine functions as a living museum of tradition.

Tabriz, located in northwestern Iran, is renowned for its grand bazaar, historic architecture, and exceptional craftsmanship. Yet it is the city's diverse culinary heritage — preserved in homes, market stalls, and centuries-old teahouses — that captivates visitors the most. As travelers wander the cobbled alleys of the city's bazaars, they are greeted by the aroma of fresh bread, fragrant spices, and sweet pastries, each evoking memories of the city's long history.

Inside Tabriz's historic homes, traditional cooking techniques have been passed down through generations. Hearty stuffed meat-

balls, delicately wrapped grape-leaf dolmas, festive soups, vibrant stews, and colorful nuts and sweets embody the patience and skill of local cooks. In Tabriz, food is not merely sustenance; it is a cultural language carried from one generation to the next.

Preserving a culinary heritage

The traditional foods, sweets, and nuts of Tabriz are central to the city's identity. Each kufteh, dolma, soup, stew, piece of nougat, or handful of nuts carries stories of the past. Visitors who come to Tabriz often describe tasting the local dishes as a sensory journey — one that reveals the city's deep respect for artistry and heritage.

Many tour guides say that a visit to Tabriz is incomplete without sampling its traditional cuisine, saying that local dishes are symbols of cultural memory, crafted with care and shaped by generations of experience. "They are more than meals; they are expressions of patience, creativity, and pride."

Here is a selection of traditional dishes of Tabriz:

Kufteh Tabrizi (Tabriz Meatballs)

A hallmark of the region's cuisine, kufteh Tabrizi dates back more than 200 years, noted even in Qajar-era travelogues. Made from minced meat, split peas, rice, aromatic herbs, dried plums, and walnuts — and sometimes eggs to hold its form — the enormous meatballs are slow-cooked in a sauce of tomato paste, onions, and

local herbs. Their sweet and savory balance, paired with a soft and nutty center, makes them one of Iran's most celebrated traditional dishes. More than festive food, kufteh Tabrizi is a symbol of craftsmanship and familial tradition.

Dolmeh Barg-e Mo (Grape Leaf Dolmas)

With a history spanning over 150 years, Tabriz's grape-leaf dolmas are known for their meticulous wrapping and perfectly balanced flavors. Fresh grape leaves are filled with rice, minced meat, split peas, and herbs, then simmered in a flavorful blend of tomato paste and lemon juice. As a traditional dish for holidays and celebrations, dolma embodies the hospitality and artistry of Tabriz's cooks.

Local soups (Ash)

The city's comforting soups — including Ash-e Mast and Dooghava — date back more than a century. Ash-e Mast blends yogurt, rice, herbs, and sometimes meat, while Dooghava, often prepared during festivals, combines yogurt, rice, and herbs to create a nourishing, aromatic meal. These soups reflect Tabriz's emphasis on wholesome, balanced food.

Carrot stew (Khoresht Havij)

A beloved family favorite, Khoresht Havij has been prepared in Tabriz homes for more than a century. Made with tender meat, carrots, onions, tomato paste, and spices, it is slow-cooked to merge the natural sweetness of carrots with savory flavors. Its bright color and gentle taste make it a staple of both everyday meals and ceremonial gatherings.

Glimpses of traditional confectionery

Nougat (Nogha)

A century-old delicacy, nougat is crafted from egg whites, sugar, honey, and nuts such as almonds, pistachios, or hazelnuts. Its silky texture and mild sweetness make it a popular celebratory treat and a

favorite souvenir.

Ris (Aris)

Dating back 70–80 years, Ris is made from flour, sugar, butter, and nuts, occasionally flavored with saffron. Its slightly dry texture and aromatic sweetness make it a treasured traditional confection.

Qorabieh

One of Tabriz's oldest sweets — over 100 years old — Qorabieh is made from ground almonds, sugar, egg whites, and rosewater. Soft, fragrant, and elegantly shaped, it remains a festive favorite and a signature gift for visitors.

Loz (Almond or Pistachio Candy)

With more than a century of history, Loz is crafted from almonds or pistachios and sugar, shaped into diamonds or rectangles. Often slightly toasted, these candies are enjoyed during holidays and family gatherings for their crunchy, nutty flavor.

Tabriz Nuts (Ajil)

Ajil — a traditional mix of walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, pistachios, raisins, and dried fruits — is an iconic element of Tabriz's hospitality culture. Served during celebrations and gatherings, each combination of nuts reflects the season and the host's attention to detail.

A potential culinary destination for the world

As culinary tourism continues to gain global importance, cities that preserve their food heritage are increasingly valuable to international travelers. Tabriz, with its centuries-old culinary traditions and culture of hospitality, is emerging as a standout destination.

For visitors seeking a genuine, flavorful journey into Iran's gastronomic heritage, Tabriz offers an experience "like no other" — a city where every aroma, every spice, and every bite carries the legacy of generations.

Iran marking national week of persons with disabilities

TEHRAN – The national week of persons with disabilities is being held from November 29 to December 5 across the country with the theme of “Social Inclusion; Social Integration of Persons with Disabilities”, in line with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3.

During a press conference held on Saturday, Seyed Jafar Hosseini, the head of the Welfare Organization, said that the budget to support persons with disabilities has increased by 81 percent in the current Iranian year, which began in March, compared to the previous year.

Since the administration took office [in July 2024], the budget has increased from 132 trillion rials (around 115 million dollars) to some 238 trillion rials (about 207 million dollars), the official noted, the Welfare Organization’s website reported.

The recent reports have shown that around 11.8 percent of the country’s population, 10.5 million individuals, live with a disability, with men accounting for 11.2 percent of them. Genetic disorders and acquired disorders amount to 40.7 percent and 59.3 percent, respectively, in Iran, he said.

Currently, more than 1.6 million persons with disabilities are benefiting from the Welfare Organization’s services. The organization



will inaugurate some 452 centers during the week. These include 49 rehabilitation centres and 15 community-based rehabilitation (CBR) projects, 381 housing and employment projects, as well as 35 other projects with a total investment of 4.45 trillion rials (3.86 million dollars), 6.46 trillion rials (5.617 million dollars), and 3.41 trillion rials (2.713 million dollars), respectively.

Over 4 thousands persons with disabilities will be employed, and 35 solar panel projects will be launched, providing job opportunities for 21,000 persons with disabilities who are hard to employ.

Welfare Organization services

During Government week (August 24-30), the Welfare Organization inaugurated different projects,

namely neighborhood-based social health, physical health, and cancer screening for women heads of household, CBR centers, validation of elderly day-care centers, and a talent search system for welfare recipients.

Neighborhood-based social health project focuses on revitalizing neighborhood institutions and benefiting from the capacity of qualified individuals, as well as centers under the supervision of Welfare Organization and communities to better serve the community, IRNA quoted Hosseini as saying.

The organization also launched 200 CBR in less privileged and remote areas where access to welfare services is limited. Social workers will receive a 20-hour training to start their jobs as facilitators in these centers. They will be respon-

sible for some 150 cases. Overseeing local communities, identifying individuals with disabilities, as well as resources and measures, are among their responsibilities.

A total of 10,566 housing, employment, social, and rehabilitation projects with a total investment of 520 billion rials (some 452,000 dollars) were inaugurated on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of National Welfare Week, held from July 16 to 22, Hosseini further noted.

About 77 percent of the projects focused on employment, 21 percent on housing, and the remaining two percent on the social and rehabilitation sector, the official noted.

Moreover, 359 projects started, most of which would be implemented in Kerman, Lorestan, and Isfahan provinces.

“Over the past year, 14,000 housing units were provided to beneficiaries and people with disabilities. 45,966 houses are under construction. And 1,942 housing units will be handed over to people with disabilities during the week,” Hosseini highlighted.

The official went on to announce the launch of a job support fund. “Thanks to welfare services, nearly 200,000 beneficiaries and individuals with disabilities were employed, and the service sector accounts for 62 percent of the employment.”

BRICS ‘best cities award’ secretariat set up in Iran

TEHRAN – The secretariat of the BRICS Award, Best Cities Experiences and Research, has been established in the country with the aim of sharing experiences, expanding collaborations among cities, and promoting urban diplomacy.

Holding the first conference on sustainable city management with the participation of 50 mayors from BRICS member states in the city of Shiraz is among the main goals of the secretariat, Mehr news agency reported.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Arseny Karyakin, the secretary general of the BRICS Association of Cities and Municipalities, said the secretariat will play a significant role in expanding scientific and executive cooperation as well as sharing experiences among cities of the member states. Iran has high capacities for the enhancement of ties between BRICS states, the official highlighted.

Mohammad Mojabi, an official with Tehran’s municipality, for his part, said that the main objective of the international award is to identify, support, and share successful experiences and influential research. The central secretariat is responsible for holding strategic annual courses, he added.

The first international conference will soon be held in Shiraz. Five mayors from each member state will be invited to participate in the conference, he added.

28 Iranian universities in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026

TEHRAN – The Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR) has placed 28 Iranian universities among the top institutions worldwide for interdisciplinary science research, compared to 29 universities in the 2025 rankings.

THE ISR, produced in association with Schmidt Science Fellows, is the first effort of its kind to measure universities’ contributions and commitment to interdisciplinary science. THE ISR 2026 has ranked a total of 911 institutions from 94 countries.

Amirkabir University of Technology, with a global ranking of 99, is ranked first in the country, ISNA reported.

Shahid Beheshti University (147), Shiraz University (196), and Golestan University (351-400) ranked second to fourth, respectively.

Bu-Ali Sina University, Razi University, University of Kurdistan, University of Mohaqeq Ardabili, Urmia University, and Yazd University ranked 401-500 globally.

The ISR methodology consists of three pillars, each representing a stage in the life cycle of research projects: inputs (19 percent), process (16 percent), and outputs (65 percent). Each pillar is further divided into metrics to measure different aspects of that stage. There are 11 metrics in total.

This year, in response to university engagement and feedback, the interdisciplinary scope has been broadened to cover any research project that comprises multiple scientific disciplines, or one or more scientific disciplines combined with one or more of the following non-STEM disciplines: social sciences, education, psychology, law, economics, or clinical and health.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) claims the top spot for the second year in a row, and is again followed by Stanford University in second place, then California Institute of Technology and newly-ranked University of California, Berkeley in an all-American top four.

Latest rankings

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings has placed 48 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2026, compared to 32 universities in 2025.

Published annually since 2009, the QS Asia University Rankings highlights the top universities in Asia each year.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 93) is placed first among Iranian universities, followed by Sharif University of Technology (ranking 142 globally) and Amirkabir

Originally composed of four members – Brazil, Russia, India, and China in 2006 – with South Africa joining in 2011, BRICS, from 2024 to 2025, admitted six new members – Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates – becoming BRICS+.

At present, the 11 member countries represent more than 40 percent of the world’s population, 40 percent of global oil production and exports, and 40 percent of global trade. For the participating countries, BRICS expansion means a vaster market, additional resources, including energy, and huge potential for investment.

BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities

The BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities is a voluntary coalition of municipalities, national associations of local authorities, cities, and other entities from BRICS+ countries.

It aims to enhance local self-government, coordinate member efforts in municipal management, and advocate for local governments’ interests on the international stage.

The BRICS+ Association of Cities and Municipalities fosters decentralized cooperation, knowledge sharing, and partnership development among local governments, promoting sustainable development and good governance. The Association was launched in 2024 in Kazan, Russia.

Iranian, Malaysian scientific officials discuss expanding ties

TEHRAN – Iran’s scientific counselor in East Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, Alireza Pourtavakol, held a meeting with the managers of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) to discuss ways to foster scientific and academic cooperation between the two countries.

On Saturday, Pourtavakol met with Nur Azaliah Abu Bakar, the head of UTM department for international affairs; Nor Ruwaida Jamian, the head of Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology; Hafiza Binti Abas, the head of UTM department for artificial intelligence, and Basheer Al-haimi, a senior lecturer at the Azman Hashim International Business School (AHIBS), ISNA reported.

During the meeting, the two sides explored the potential for enhancing international collaborations and expanding interactions between universities of the two countries.

Highlighting the significance of conducting joint scientific and research projects, Pourtavakol proposed to develop relations via establishing a collaborative research center, exchanging students and professors, granting reciprocal scholarships, publishing joint scientific articles, holding short-term professional scientific courses, industrializing products of knowledge-based companies, cooperating with technology parks, and providing sabbatical leaves.

AI, robotics, smart automation, renewable energies, and nanotechnology were among

other discussed issues.

Iran, Malaysia universities enhance co-op

In 2024, the Iranian-Malaysian universities fall camp was held from November 3-11 by Malaya University, Kuala Lumpur. A total of 50 Iranian students and professors took part in the third joint international school run by Iranian and Malaysian universities (fall camp).

Following the agreement signed between the University of Isfahan and the UM University of Malaysia on the sidelines of the D-8 meeting in October 2023, the third joint Iran-Malaysia school was held with the theme of “training young global scientists and leaders to address modern international challenges”.

The course included comprehensive collective programs in line with student-scientific diplomacy, IRNA reported.

The course focused on six main topics, including the impact of artificial intelligence on security and privacy, integrated water resources management, artistic heritage and Islamic civilization, sustainable governance in climate change and crisis management, and the balance of faith and reason in lifestyle.

In October 2024, in an effort to develop academic cooperation, Sharif University branch of Academic Center for Education, Culture & Research (ACECR) and Khajeh Nasir (K.N.) Toosi University of Technology signed memorandums of understanding with University of Malaysia and Asia Pacific University of Tech-

nology & Innovation (APU), respectively.

Conducting an online meeting, Mohsen Mardani from Sharif University branch of ACECR and Mohammad Yusuf from the University of Malaysia signed an MOU, highlighting the expansion of cooperation in conducting international collaborative research activities, as well as sharing technology, IRNA reported.

The officials also emphasized the need to create a suitable platform to plan and develop joint businesses in technical engineering, agriculture, and health sectors.

Moreover, they decided to establish specialized working groups in the aforementioned fields to develop a short-term, medium-term, and long-term plan.

Yusef, for his part, announced Malaysia’s readiness to lay the ground for expanding knowledge-based activities and expressed optimism that the ongoing cooperation would serve as a preliminary step to implementing future joint activities based on innovation and creativity.

The second MOU was signed during a meeting held on October 3rd, between the president of K.N. Toosi University of Technology, Amir-Reza Shahani, and the vice-chancellor of APU university of Malaysia, Ho Chin Kuan, Mehr news agency reported.

The officials underscored expanding cooperation between the two universities and launching a joint MS course in Artificial Intelligence (AI), as well as Cyber Security.

ENGLISH IN USE

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World’s first ‘subway library’ to open in Tehran

For the first time in the underground transportation system worldwide, a public library will be opened in Tehran subway, Farnoush Nobakht, director of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company, said.

According to the memorandum signed between the Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company and the Tehran public libraries foundation, libraries will be launched in seven selected stations, first of which will be inaugurated on August 12, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The library, called “Metro Book”, is in line with the cultural programs to promote the culture of reading and increase per capita reading among subway passengers during intra-city trips, the library with a capacity of more than 5,000 books provides services continuously from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., she explained.

افتتاح کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران برای اولین بار در جهان

برای اولین بار در سامانه حمل و نقل متروهای جهان، کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران افتتاح می شود.

به گزارش ایسنا، قرار است طبق تفاهم نامه منعقد شده بین شرکت بهره‌برداری متروی تهران و حومه و نهاد کتابخانه‌های عمومی استان تهران در هفت ایستگاه منتخب «مترو کتاب» راه اندازی شود. این کتابخانه در راستای برنامه‌های فرهنگی متروی تهران مبنی بر ترویج فرهنگ کتابخوانی و افزایش سرانه مطالعه در میان مسافران مترو هنگام سفرهای درون شهری این کتابخانه با ظرفیت بیش از ۵۰۰۰ عنوان کتاب به صورت فیزیکی از ساعت ۸ صبح تا ۲۰ به طور مستمر به ارائه خدمات می دهد.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The reward for any work is proportionate to the toil of performing it.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:53 Evening: 17:11 Dawn: 5:27 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:56 (tomorrow)

Iran's "My Daughter's Hair" shares top honor at Indian festival

TEHRAN- The 56th International Film Festival of India- IFFI 2025, concluded Friday in Goa, celebrated a diverse array of cinematic excellence from around the globe.

Among the highlights of this nine-day festival was the joint award for the Best Debut Feature Film Director, which was shared by Iranian filmmaker Hesam Farahmand for his debut feature "My Daughter's Hair" and Estonian director Tõnis Pill for "Fränk."

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

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

A production of 2025, the film delves into the hidden struggles of everyday people. Inspired by real experiences, the director has sought to create authentic characters navigating a world where justice is uncertain, and choices shape destiny. The film combines poetic visuals with social realism, offering a story that resonates beyond borders.

The cast includes Shahab Hosseini, Ghazal Shakeri, Zoha Esmailifar, Arman Mirzaee, Hadi Eftekharzadeh, Mohammad Reza Samian, and Mahni Mehrpour.

Moreover, the prestigious Golden Peacock for Best Film was awarded to "Skin of Youth" from Vietnam, directed by Ash Mayfair, while the Silver Peacock for Best Actor went to Ubaimar Rios for his role in "A Poet", while Zara Sofija Os-

tan received the Best Actress award.

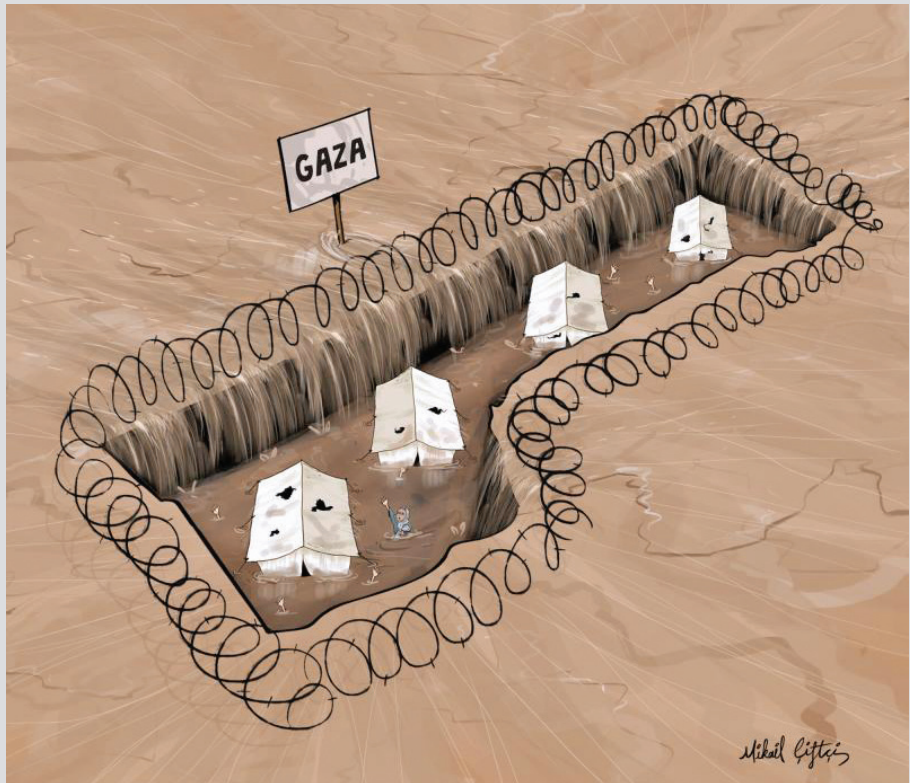
Indian director Santosh Dawakhare earned the Silver Peacock for Best Director for the film "Gondhal" and the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal was awarded to the Norwegian film "Safe House" for its compelling portrayal of human morality and conflict. The Special Jury Award was presented to Akinola Davis Jr. for "My Father's Shadow".

In the Indian Panorama section, 25 feature films, 20 non-feature films, and five debut works showcased India's rich cinematic landscape. Karan Singh Tyagi was honored as Best Debut Director for "Kesari Chapter 2". Additionally, the OTT category was introduced for the first time at IFFI 2025, with "Bandish Bandits" Season 2 receiving the award for Best Web Series.

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

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

Cartoon of Day



Winter in Gaza
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Renowned global figures serving as jury members of 43rd Fajr International Film Festival



TEHRAN – Twelve jurors will evaluate films across International Competition and Eastern Vista sections of the 43rd Fajr International Film Festival (IFFF), which is underway in Shiraz, Fars Province.

According to the festival website, the jurors include acclaimed directors, producers, cinematographers, actors, composers, festival programmers, and cultural leaders from Iran, Turkey, France, Oman, Macedonia, Greece, Spain, India, Algeria, Malaysia, and Armenia, among others.

Seven renowned figures will serve on the jury of the International Competition section including Turkish director and screenwriter Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Iranian cinematographer and director Mahmoud Kalari, Greek filmmaker Angelos Frantzis, Iranian- French composer Christophe Rezai, Spanish film programmer Jose Cabrera Betancort, Indian actor and director Bijaya Jena, and Algerian producer Samira Hadj Djilani.

Nuri Bilge Ceylan's deeply atmospheric and philosophically resonant films have made him a leading voice in world cinema. He has won numerous prestigious awards: "Distant" (2002) won the Grand Jury Prize and Best Actor at Cannes, "Three Monkeys" (2008) earned him the Best Director Award at Cannes, "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia" (2011) received the Cannes Grand Prix, and "Winter Sleep" (2014) won the Palme d'Or.

His visually stunning works explore existential themes, rural life, human relationships, and solitude with slow pacing and poetic realism.

Mahmoud Kalari has defined the visual language of modern Iranian cinema. He has collaborated with acclaimed directors such as Asghar Farhadi, Abbas Kiarostami, and Jafar Panahi. Kalari studied photography in New York and worked for the Paris-based Sigma Photo News Agency.

Recognized by the Time magazine among the "15 Best Photographers of the Year," his work has appeared internationally. He has won four Crystal Simorgh awards for Best Cinematography at Fajr Film Festival. He has shot over 65 films, including Farhadi's Oscar-winning "A Separation" (2011).

Angelos Frantzis has directed five short films and seven feature films including "Still River" that

earned him Best Director (2019) and "Eftychia," which won Best Film from the Greek Film Academy (2020).

His work has been screened and awarded at numerous international festivals, including Rotterdam, Torino, Hong Kong, Sitges, Sao Paulo, Munich, and Istanbul.

Christophe Rezai was born in Toulouse to an Iranian father and French mother, is based in Tehran since 1994. Trained in piano, vocal, and music theory, he has composed for feature films, short films, documentaries, and over 300 Iranian TV advertisements. Rezai has collaborated with acclaimed directors including Dariush Mehrjui, Mani Haghighi, Shahram Mokri, and Safi Yazdani.

He founded the baroque ensemble Aria Music (1996) and the Nour ensemble, performing in Iran and India. Among his awards, he won Best Film Music at the Avignon Film Festival (2003) and the Crystal Simorgh at Fajr Film Festival (2017) for "Negar."

Jose Cabrera Betancort is an experienced Spanish film programmer with over 20 years in international festival programming and coordination. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Audiovisual Communication and received a fellowship in Cinema from the Royal Spanish Academy of Arts in Rome.

He has worked with Miradas-Doc and Transilvania IFF, directed "Tenerife Shorts" for ten years, and programmed for Las Palmas IFF for a decade. Currently, he serves as Head of Film Management at Valladolid IFF and Head of Programming for Bucharest IFF, bringing extensive expertise in curating diverse and compelling cinematic experiences.

Bijaya Jena is a versatile filmmaker and actress with decades of experience in Odia, Hindi, and international cinema. An FTII Pune alumna, she has acted in award-winning films such as "Jaga Balia" and "Holi," and directed acclaimed films including "TARA" and "ABHAAS (Prologue)."

She has served on juries for national and international film festivals. With expertise spanning acting, directing, producing, and writing, Bijaya brings a rich, cross-cultural perspective and deep understanding of cinema to her role as a juror.

Samira Hadj Djilani is a prominent Algerian film and audiovisual producer and cultural manager. She formerly directed the first private Algerian TV channel "Khalifa TV" and has deep experience in cinema and media production. As founder and president of the Réseau Algérien des Femmes d'Afaires (RAFA), and vice president of the regional women's network Réseau des femmes leaders du Maghreb (RFLM) for Algeria, she has worked to promote women's roles in business and culture.

She has also produced films such as "Ahmed Bey," marking a major Algeria-Iran coproduction, aiming to bring Algerian cinema to international audiences.

Eastern Vista jurors

In the Eastern Vista section, the jury members include Croatian documentary filmmaker Aleksandra Markovic, Russian writer, director and musician Igor Viktorovich Levshin, Iranian actress Hoda Zeinolabedin, Malaysian media and film executive Teng Lee Yein, and Armenian producer Shushanik Mirzakhanyan.

Aleksandra Markovic is a London-based documentary filmmaker, editor, and lecturer originally from Croatia. A graduate of Queen Mary University of London (MA Documentary Film, with distinction), she has directed and edited several short and mid-length documentaries, including collaborations for Al Jazeera's "Witness" series. Markovic serves as a juror for the International Documentary Association (IDA) and the Immigration Film Festival.

She currently lectures in documentary filmmaking and post-production at SAE Institute London, combining academic insight with extensive industry experience to mentor emerging filmmakers, while maintaining an active career in international documentary production.

Igor Viktorovich Levshin is a Russian poet, prose writer, video director, and musician. He debuted in the late 1980s in the almanac Epsilon Salon (Moscow) and, since the early 1990s, has been regularly published in Chernovik magazine (New York).

He is a prizewinner of the video poetry contest organized by Formaslov, and the author of dictionary articles for the Dictionary of 21st Century Culture project.

Iranian director stages reading of Ibsen's "Rosmersholm" in Tehran

TEHRAN-Iranian director Sarvenaz Nankali staged reading performance of Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's "Rosmersholm" at Tehran's Homa Theater Hall on Sunday.

The performance was held by a cast composed of Amir Adib, Jahangir Ramezani, Ali Shajareh, Hannaneh Safdari and Omid Mohammadnejad.

Henrik Ibsen's 1886 "Rosmersholm" is widely regarded as one of his most complex and enigmatic plays. The play explores deep themes of morality, societal change, and the inescapable influence of the past. Set amidst personal tragedy and political upheaval, "Rosmersholm" examines the psychological turmoil of its characters as they grapple with guilt, conviction, and the desire for renewal. Often praised for its subtlety and multilayered symbolism, it stands alongside "The Wild Duck" as one of Ibsen's most profound works.

The central figure is Johannes Rosmer, a former clergyman and aristocrat who owns the estate of Rosmersholm. Haunted by his wife Beata's suicide, Rosmer is caught between his aristocratic heritage and his revolutionary ideals for societal reform. Rebecca West, a resilient and morally ambiguous woman, lives at Rosmersholm and has a past that ties her to Beata's death. Their relationship is intimate and intense, yet Rosmer insists it remains purely platonic. As the play unfolds, their bond becomes a battleground of moral conflict, desire, and guilt.

The story takes place a year after Beata's death. Rebecca, once a friend of Beata, now resides at the estate, and her presence reveals the lingering shadows of tragedy. Rosmer, respected in his community, supports a reformist government, which puts him at odds with the conservative local figures. His brother-in-law, Professor Kroll, vehemently opposes Rosmer's

political stance, viewing it as a betrayal of their aristocratic roots. Kroll's hostility intensifies when he publishes articles criticizing Rosmer and Rebecca, fueling suspicion, guilt, and internal conflict within Rosmer.

The climax occurs when Rosmer, overwhelmed by guilt and despair, proposes marriage to Rebecca. She, burdened by her own moral failings—she admits to having contributed to Beata's despair—rejects him. Her confession reveals her complicity in the tragedy, destroying their fragile trust. In a final act of despair, Rosmer asks Rebecca to prove her devotion by committing suicide in the mill-race, as Beata did. Rebecca agrees calmly, giving instructions for her body's recovery, and Rosmer joins her. The play concludes with their deaths, symbolizing the destructive power of guilt and the inability to reconcile with the past.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)