

Aramco facilities in Jizan burn as Yemeni forces advance

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Saudi Aramco's oil complex in Jizan took another direct hit on Monday, September 7, highlighting persistent fragility in Saudi Arabia's strategic infrastructure.

The latest strike targeted the vital 400,000-barrel-per-day refinery, leaving assessors scrambling to measure structural losses.

Monday's operation mirrors an August assault that temporarily paralyzed the same facility. Global markets reacted instantly, with Brent crude climbing to over \$97 a barrel. ▶ Page 5

US House moves to silence universities in favor of Israel

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN – The United States House of Representatives on September 3 passed a legislation to penalize American universities for boycotting Israel or its academic institutions, including those located in the occupied West Bank.

Lawmakers voted for the measure in a 237-169 vote, with 33 Democrats joining the Republican majority. Two Republicans broke ranks with their party to reject the bill.

The proposal will still need to be adopted by the Republican-led Senate and signed by President Donald Trump to become law.

If passed, it would bar universities that boycott “an entity licensed or regulated by, or organized under the laws of Israel, such as those in illegal West Bank settlements, from receiving federal funds.” ▶ Page 5

‘Economic blockade is difficult in a multipolar world’

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce, stating that the aim of US sanctions is to increase the costs of Iran's economic transactions, said: “In today's multipolar world, an absolute economic blockade against Iran is difficult, and shared economic interests are an important strategy for countering these oppressive measures.”

Hadi Tizhoush Taban, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, referred to the US Treasury Secretary's announcement of intensifying sanctions and a naval blockade against Iran, and stated: “An economic blockade should not be understood merely as restrictions on trade routes, because at the same time, pressure is also applied to foreign exchange earnings from oil sales, transportation, insurance, banks, and payment networks in order to place Iran in a situation where the cost of trade for the country increases.” ▶ Page 4

Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform pieces by Mozart

TEHRAN – The Tehran Symphony Orchestra will perform at the concert “Figaro,” featuring works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and conducted by Nasir Heidarian, in Tehran.

The orchestra will take the stage on September 15 and 16 at Vahdat Hall. The program is dedicated to the performance of three works by Mozart, IRNA reported.

“Figaro” is part of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra's ongoing performance schedule for this year and will feature the “Marriage of Figaro Overture,” “Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major,” and “Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major,” all of which are well-known works by Mozart.

In the performance of “Piano Concerto No. 12,” Anisa Yazdani, a teenage artist and pianist, will perform as a soloist alongside the Tehran Symphony Orchestra.

This program serves as an opportunity to hear three works from the classical music period and experience Mozart's musical world performed by one of the country's ▶ Page 8



A satellite view of the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway between Iran and Oman that links the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman.

Iran's security chief stressed that the Strait of Hormuz is completely closed, dismissing the US claim that ships and oil tankers are crossing the waterway as a “lie”

TEHRAN — Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) has announced plans to declare a comprehensive new “restricted zone” extending beyond the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf. The move significantly heightens the maritime standoff with the United States and asserts Tehran's operational control over critical shipping corridors.

In a lengthy televised interview on Sunday night, Major General Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of the SNSC, detailed the strategic parameters of the upcoming security measure.

He stated that the boundary “will begin from the US Navy's blockade line and extend into parts of the Persian Gulf,” directly enveloping access points lead-

ing toward major regional oil loading terminals. Under the incoming policy, any commercial or military vessel attempting to transit the designated sector without explicit prior authorization and tactical coordination with Iranian maritime authorities will be added to an official Iranian sanctions list.

Rezaei noted that entry into the restricted zone under these conditions will carry immediate punitive financial consequences, jeopardizing international maritime insurance policies and

permanently barring non-compliant vessels from future passage through the strategic waterway.

Addressing current operational conditions, Rezaei forcefully rejected statements by US President Donald Trump claiming that the vital energy corridor remains accessible to global trade. He dismissed Washington's account as a “big lie” and confirmed that the Strait of Hormuz is “completely closed and under the control of the armed forces”. To illustrate the severity of the closure, the SNSC chief provided sharp comparative transit metrics. Before the conflict, more than 100 ships carrying over 100 million tons of cargo navigated the strait daily. ▶ Page 3



Up to 14,000 bodies still lie under the ruins of Gaza homes

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Thousands of mourners gathered in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood on Sunday for a mass funeral honoring 100 Palestinian martyrs whose remains were recently exhumed from beneath shattered residential buildings.

Draped in Palestinian flags, the victims included at least 70 children, alongside women and the elderly from the Malaka, Rahim, Balawi, Qanbour, and Salmi families.

They were killed when Israeli warplanes leveled their multi-story homes over two years ago. The Malaka family alone lost 55 members in a single strike during November 2023. ▶ Page 5

Iran warns South Korea against military role in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN — Iran has warned South Korea against any military involvement in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz, while accusing Washington of creating disruption in regional shipping and rejecting Western efforts to revive international pressure over Tehran's nuclear program.

The warnings, delivered by Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei on Monday, came as Tehran sought to reinforce its position on three increasingly intertwined issues: security in the Strait of Hormuz, the continuing confrontation with the United States and Israel, and international efforts to exert pressure on Iran through the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations. ▶ Page 2

Iran judiciary chief calls US claims on law and freedom a ‘bitter irony’

TEHRAN — Iran's judiciary chief has sharply criticized the United States over its record on human rights, international law and freedom, describing Washington's claims to champion those principles as a “bitter irony” considering its conduct on the world stage.

Speaking at a meeting of the Judiciary's High Council on Monday, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei also highlighted ‘growing respect for Iran's resilience and political standing’ among officials from BRICS member states and religious leaders in India during his recent visit to the country. ▶ Page 2

Iranian students achieve milestones at international Olympiads despite war

TEHRAN – Talented Iranian students have achieved remarkable success at international Olympiads, winning 13 medals and securing the championship title at the International Physics Olympiad despite the numerous challenges posed by the US-Israeli war against the country.

Last year, Iranian students took part in 14 international scientific competitions but were unable to participate in two Olympiads due to the outbreak of war. Despite the hardships and challenges brought about by the ongoing conflict, they demonstrated their outstanding abilities by setting new benchmarks in various competitions and proudly raising Iran's flag on the international stage. Their remarkable achievements have become a source of great pride for the country, Mehr news agency quoted Seyyed Reza Hosseini, head of the Young Scholars Club, as saying. ▶ Page 7

Qatar: Iran war showed strategic alliance with the US ‘is not enough’

TEHRAN — The war with Iran has shown that Persian Gulf Arab states should not rely solely on their strategic partnership with the United States to ensure their security, according to Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari.

“We need to realize in the (Persian) Gulf that having international forces in the region, having a strategic alliance with the US is very important, but it is not enough,” al-Ansari said at the Hili Forum in Abu Dhabi. “Self-sufficiency when it comes to security is the only way forward.”

Al-Ansari's comments reflect a sobering reality across the region against the backdrop of the US-Israeli war that began on February 28. Throughout the conflict, Iranian missile and drone strikes have directly targeted American military installations across the Persian Gulf. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The Strait of Hormuz as the US president's political thermometer

The Iran newspaper analyzed the management of the Strait of Hormuz and the control of tensions in the region: The current situation in the Strait of Hormuz must be understood within the conceptual framework of "erosive peace." In such a condition, the aim of confrontation is not full-scale war but the management of circumstances. Washington has turned the Strait of Hormuz into a "political thermometer," adjusting the temperature of tensions with millimetric precision—both to show domestic public opinion that it has the situation under control and to prevent a price explosion. This tension-management is inseparable from the dynamics of the November 2026 US elections. On the eve of the election, any uncontrolled escalation in the Strait directly ties into fuel prices and inflation inside the United States. Given Trump's declining approval ratings, Washington is compelled to use tension as a kind of electoral painkiller to prevent further collapse in popularity—even though this erosive peace is by no means a sustainable strategy.

Kayhan: British and American employers of Iran's West-leaning camp

Kayhan, in an article, criticized Iran's West-leaning political faction. It wrote: When you see, scattered through recent years' news, remarks downplaying Iran's defensive and missile capabilities, portraying the nuclear industry as a costly burden, or depicting the management of the Strait of Hormuz as troublesome, you should not be surprised. According to the familiar pattern of the unclean hands of global powers, they are—directly or indirectly—busy belittling Iran's assets and achievements to pave the way for their eventual surrender. Today, Iran's missile power has become so evident and globally recognized that domestic West-leaning figures no longer dare to cast doubt on it. Instead, they have once again turned to the Strait of Hormuz and even the nuclear program, trying to portray these strategic industries as insignificant. Their agenda is the same as always: to depict management of the Strait of Hormuz as problematic and unimportant in public opinion so that abandoning it becomes easier. This method belongs to their British and American employers—who, unfortunately, have used Iranian agents to advance their goals.

Sobh-e-No: A war that trapped Trump

Sobh-e-No analyzed the trap Trump has fallen into. The Iran war has now become one of the biggest domestic challenges of Trump's presidency. The US economy, which had only recently emerged from the COVID

crisis, is once again stuck in the swamp of inflation and rising costs, and the slogan "ending endless wars" has given way to a painful reality. American Senator Bernie Sanders argues that continuing this war is not only inhumane but foolish and against US national interests. The central question now is: Will Trump swallow his pride and end the war, or will he push America further down the dangerous path of inflation and public dissatisfaction until the midterm elections? What is clear is that the time to end the war has come—not for Iran, but for America itself.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Trump's new game; renaming the war

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz examined Trump's decision to rename "Epic Fury Operation" as a "military engagement." A new Reuters-Ipsos poll shows that only about one-quarter of Americans consider the Iran war worthwhile. Trump faces a dilemma. If he ends the war now, he must return to the Islamabad Agreement—something he considers a defeat against Iran. But if he escalates the war, the costs will haunt him in the election. In this situation, Trump appears to have launched a war of narratives, centered on renaming the operation from Epic Fury to an overseas operation under CENTCOM's area of responsibility. This allows him, on the one hand, to claim victory, and on the other, to insist that continued strikes are necessary to finalize Iran's submission. He hopes that by breaking Iran's economic and military resilience—and, in his view, trapping Iran in domestic unrest—he can secure at least some electoral gain.

Ham-Mihan: Russia's strange policy

Ham-Mihan commented on Russia's lack of objection to Article 4 of the G20 joint statement. Article 4 refers to free, safe, and predictable navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. Russia's silence is notable because, compared to China, it is considered politically and militarily closer to Iran. Russia also needs the Strait far less than China—and even benefits from disruptions there. Yet Moscow chose not to oppose Article 4. The likely reason, Ham-Mihan argues, is Russia's desire not to irritate the Trump administration. Trump's encouragement of Russia to attend the Nashville summit in person—contrary to the Biden administration's approach—and the value of maintaining Trump-Putin relations amid the Ukraine crisis are among the factors shaping Russia's behavior. Russia may also calculate that Iran ultimately has no alternative and must tolerate Moscow's conduct.

Qatar: Iran war showed strategic alliance with the US 'is not enough'



From page 1 ► The fact that heavily fortified US bases—long viewed as the ultimate defensive shield—were themselves vulnerable to sustained attacks highlights that Washington cannot single-handedly safeguard its own assets, let alone guarantee the absolute security of neighboring Persian Gulf Arab nations.

This exposure of Western defense limits signals a crucial turning point for Persian

Gulf foreign policy. Relying on external powers offers a false sense of security during major hostilities, making regional defense self-sufficiency an urgent necessity rather than an ambition. To secure long-term stability, nations in the area must build independent defense capabilities and significantly deepen direct security cooperation among neighboring states, forging a unified regional framework free from foreign interference.

Iran warns South Korea against military role in Persian Gulf

From page 1 ► In a Korean-language post on X, Baqaei highlighted the long-standing relationship between Tehran and Seoul but drew a sharp distinction between economic and diplomatic ties and military cooperation with the United States.

Iran and South Korea have maintained diplomatic relations for more than six decades, he said, adding that Tehran values its traditionally friendly relations with Seoul. But under current circumstances, he warned, any operational military participation by South Korea in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz would be viewed by Iran as direct support for an aggressor.

Baqaei argued that Iran is currently defending itself against 'US aggression and attacks on Iranian civilians.' Against that backdrop, he said, the deployment or participation of foreign military forces in the strategic waterway could carry serious consequences.

He also rejected the idea that sovereign states should respond to US pressure by joining military operations against Iran, saying that no responsible government should submit to coercion to participate in aggression.

Baqaei separately accused Washington of attempting to shift responsibility for disruptions to commercial shipping and rising energy prices onto Iran, arguing that the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz was triggered by the US and Israel.

In a post on X, he said the waterway had remained open until February 28, when the United States and Israel launched their military campaign against Iran.

Baqaei said the conflict had disrupted commercial shipping, halted tankers, and contributed to higher energy prices. He ac-



cused Washington of attempting to portray the resulting economic consequences as a cost imposed on the international community by Iran.

Iran warns against renewed nuclear pressure

Baqaei also rejected efforts by the United States and Israel to pressure IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and advance a move to refer Iran's nuclear file to the UN Security Council.

He criticized a draft resolution based on a recent IAEA report, arguing that Western governments had repeatedly turned to nuclear watchdog when they were unable to achieve their political objectives through other means.

He also challenged the legal rationale being advanced by Western governments over the so-called snapback mechanism, under which previous UN Security Council sanctions could potentially be restored.

According to Baqaei, Western governments' current actions contradict their own interpre-

tation of the mechanism and effectively reinforce the position previously taken by Iran, China and Russia that the mechanism is not applicable in the present circumstances.

He also accused the three European powers involved in the process of having lost credibility with Tehran and described some of their demands as unreasonable.

The spokesman placed particular responsibility on Washington for the current impasse over IAEA access to Iranian nuclear facilities. He argued that US and Israeli military actions had created the circumstances that prevented normal cooperation between Iran and the Agency.

Baqaei warned that Tehran would respond to any new action against it, describing the latest diplomatic pressure as evidence of hostile intentions and an effort to further escalate tensions.

Iran accuses US of deliberately targeting civilians

Responding to questions

Iran judiciary chief calls US claims on law and freedom a 'bitter irony'

From page 1 ► Mohseni-Ejei traveled to India to attend a meeting of the heads of the judiciaries of BRICS countries. He said his meetings on the sidelines of the gathering offered a clear indication of a changing international perception of Iran's power and its ability to withstand pressure from the United States and Israel.

According to Mohseni-Ejei, senior officials from several BRICS countries repeatedly emphasized that Iran's resistance against the United States and Israel had influenced their own strategic thinking about dealing with major powers.

He said the experience had demonstrated that Washington and its regional allies could be challenged and defeated, portraying Iran's confrontation with the two countries as a broader lesson for nations seeking to resist 'hegemonic powers.'

The judiciary chief also stressed the importance of preserving political and social unity inside Iran, warning that statements or actions that undermine domestic cohesion could damage the country's international image.

Turning to US foreign policy, Mohseni-Ejei said Washington's repeated claims to defend law, order and freedom were difficult

to reconcile with its actions.

He accused the United States of being among the leading violators of human rights and international law, arguing that Washington invokes the rights of women and children while its own military actions have caused civilian casualties.

He also accused the United States and Israel of responsibility for attacks that killed civilians and children, arguing that a country involved in such actions could not credibly portray itself as a defender of children's rights.

Mohseni-Ejei referred to several incidents in Iran, including an attack on a school in Minab, a stadium in Lamerd and a wedding ceremony on Sirik Island. He rejected the characterization of civilian deaths in such incidents as merely "collateral damage."

"If the US military claims to possess highly precise weapons, how could it have failed to identify the civilian nature of these sites?" he asked.

The Iranian judiciary chief said such incidents should not be allowed to fade into history without accountability and argued that those responsible for violations against civilians must ultimately be held to account.



He also pointed out 'a longstanding pattern of US pressure and broken commitments,' saying Washington's coercive approach extends even to its allies.

As an example, he cited recent remarks by US officials concerning Canada, arguing that Washington's conduct toward its partners demonstrated that its pressure-based foreign policy was not confined to countries opposed to the United States.

Washington Post confirms US bombing of Iranian wedding

TEHRAN — The Washington Post has admitted that the deadly attack on a southern Iran wedding was the direct result of a US bombing, exposing Washington's relentless disregard for civilian life during its military operations.

According to investigation details published by the prominent American newspaper, an errant US military munition destroyed a residential home in the coastal town of Kuhestak where families were gathered for a peaceful wedding celebration on Tuesday night. The devastating explosion killed at least four civilians and left dozens of others severely injured.

The strike was part of a broad-

er wave of aggression in southern Iran. According to the Washington Post, US Navy fighter jets launched six Joint Standoff Weapons (JSOW) glide bombs toward a nearby communications tower located merely 440 feet from the host residence in a heavily populated civilian zone. While five of the precision-guided munitions struck the communications structure, the sixth bomb strayed directly into the wedding venue. Visual evidence verified by independent weapons analysts and journalists confirmed that the structural destruction, uniform cratering, and shrapnel patterns were entirely consistent with a

dual-warhead US glide bomb detonating directly overhead.

This bloody assault on a family celebration is not an isolated incident, but part of an ongoing, systematic pattern of Washington's military atrocities in the region. The Washington Post directly linked the tragic Kuhestak wedding strike to an earlier US massacre at the Minab school. In that horrific February 28 attack during the opening hours of the US-Israeli war, American air power struck a school. The disaster slaughtered at least 168 civilians—a tragic majority of them young school children—an atrocity that American officials later

about attacks on civilian sites, Baqaei said Iran would continue to hold the United States accountable for violations of international humanitarian law.

He cited several incidents, including a deadly attack on a wedding ceremony on Iran's Sirik Island, as examples of a broader pattern of attacks against civilians.

Baqaei questioned how US forces, which possess highly accurate weapons, could have failed to identify civilian locations such as a school in Minab, a stadium in Lamerd or the wedding venue in Sirik.

Iran, he said, should not allow such incidents to disappear into history without accountability.

Tehran credits Oman with good faith on Hormuz talks

Against the backdrop of the confrontation over the Strait of Hormuz, Tehran also offered a comparatively positive assessment of Oman's role in recent discussions concerning maritime security.

Baqaei said Oman had acted in good faith during talks with Iran on shipping security and emphasized the importance of the interests of the two littoral states.

Oman, he noted, is a neighboring coastal country with longstanding and close relations with Iran and has played a constructive role throughout the process.

At the same time, Baqaei cautioned that the outcome of the next stages remained uncertain.

He said an understanding between Iran and Oman was necessary for securing shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz, but by itself would not be sufficient to resolve the broader security crisis.

Iran to declare ‘restricted zone’ beyond Strait of Hormuz amid US military adventurism

From Page 1 ▶ Currently, that traffic has collapsed to just seven or eight vessels per day, exclusively transporting essential supplies for Iran. “The Americans are trying to smuggle five to six vessels through at great expense, but these ships are usually struck,” Rezaei said.

He explained that while Iranian forces regularly intercept and neutralize these illegal crossings, Tehran has intentionally avoided sinking targeted oil tankers to prevent catastrophic environmental contamination across the Persian Gulf.

Missile test above US warship

Expanding on recent military developments, Rezaei revealed that Iranian forces executed a direct tactical operation against US naval assets operating in the area. He disclosed that 48 hours before his broadcast (on Sunday night), Iran successfully deployed and tested a newly developed, advanced anti-ship missile system in immediate proximity to an active American naval vessel. “For the first time, we tested our anti-ship missile above an American warship,” Rezaei stated. “This special missile created hell for the Americans, and they fled.”

According to Rezaei, the impact of the test was so severe that even US Central Command (CENTCOM) could not conceal the psychological disruption to its forces. Iranian media outlets further reported that the advanced anti-ship system forced the targeted US Navy warship to break formation, abandon its operational vector, and rapidly alter course to retreat from the sector.

Rezaei characterized the maneuver as concrete proof that Washington’s naval blockade remains fundamentally vulnerable to Iranian defensive strikes.

Rezaei also provided detailed context regarding the initial outbreak of the US-Israeli war on February 28. He revealed that Trump had originally mapped out a swift, 10-day military campaign designed to neutralize Iranian defense infrastructure. However, Washington was forced to abandon its offensive plan on the very first day following surprise retaliatory strikes by Iranian armed forces. Iran has targeted key US support hubs and troop concentrations across the region, including high-precision strikes against the American Titan base in Jordan and military



positions in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan. “Trump backed down from the 10-day war he had announced, and it was aborted in its infancy,” Rezaei explained, emphasizing that Iran’s rapid retaliatory doctrine fundamentally disrupted Washington’s strategic calculations. The top security official also highlighted ongoing grievances, stating that Iran maintains its full sovereign right to respond to a lethal US attack that targeted a civilian wedding ceremony in Sirik.

Israeli aggression in Lebanon

Turning to broader regional security, Rezaei evaluated the ongoing confrontation in southern Lebanon, asserting that despite localized tactical movements by Israeli forces, Hezbollah continues to maintain strategic superiority. He added that growing public hostility across the region would render any prolonged Israeli military presence unsustainable.

The current confrontation between Iran and the US follows months of volatile military and diplomatic maneuvering. Transit through the Strait of Hormuz has been heavily restricted since the start of hostilities on February 28. Following the April 8 ceasefire that paused the war, Iran and the US signed a memorandum of understanding on June 17. Crucially, Article 5 of the MoU granted Tehran full legal and administrative authority over the reopening and management of the Strait. However, the agreement deteriorated rapidly after Washington attempted to by-

pass Iranian sovereignty by establishing an unauthorized maritime transit corridor near Omani territorial waters, accompanied by renewed aerial operations and an illegal naval blockade.

In response, Tehran exercised its authority under the MoU to declare the Strait fully closed to unauthorized traffic. Rezaei announced that a formal memorandum regarding a newly designed, Iranian-managed transit corridor through the Strait will be signed with Omani officials in the coming days. However, he firmly reiterated that Tehran will not commit to opening the passage for US-aligned shipping until Washington completely halts its military aggression, lifts its blockade, and takes concrete steps to restore diplomatic trust.

Trump’s domestic woes

The prolonged maritime deadlock and severe disruptions to global oil flows have triggered intense domestic political pushback inside the United States. Citing severe supply chain shocks, rising domestic fuel costs, and the failure of American military power to secure the Persian Gulf, a mounting number of US lawmakers have openly argued that Washington has lost the strategic conflict. Facing a stalled military campaign, congressional leaders are increasingly pressing the White House to recognize its strategic overreach and utilize the legislative resolutions as a necessary diplomatic off-ramp to end the war.

LATEST NEWS

■ Pezeshkian highlights shared heritage in Iran-Tajikistan ties

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has described the shared historical, cultural and linguistic heritage of Iran and Tajikistan as a key asset for expanding bilateral relations. In a message to Tajik President Emomali Rahmon marking Tajikistan’s 35th Independence Day, Pezeshkian said the two countries’ common civilization provides a strong foundation for deeper cooperation. He reaffirmed Tehran’s commitment to strengthening ties in pursuit of mutual interests, regional stability and the development of shared cultural and literary traditions.

■ Iran highlights advantages of indigenous air defense systems

Iran’s Air Defense chief, Brig. Gen. Alireza Elhami, has highlighted the advantages of domestically developed air defense systems, saying their software and hardware can be upgraded independently and adapted rapidly to changing threats. Elhami said indigenous systems performed successfully during the recent 40-day war with the United States and Israel and are now being rapidly replicated. He added that Iran is expanding both the quantity and tactical applications of its homegrown air defense capabilities nationwide.

■ Iran navy commander warns enemies of military reach

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Adm. Shahram Irani has warned that the country’s armed forces can “ground” the enemy anywhere if necessary, saying hostile movements are being monitored continuously. Speaking at a military training course in Tehran, Irani said Iran’s naval missions in distant waters had surprised adversaries and disrupted the operational capabilities of some hostile warships. He stressed that the Armed Forces must remain prepared for future conflicts while maintaining morale, confidence and operational readiness.

■ Iranian general says war equation shift exceeded enemy expectations

Iranian Deputy Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Kimuars Heidari has said Tehran’s ability to al-

ter the course of the recent war exceeded its adversaries’ expectations. He described the Strait of Hormuz as a strategic point capable of influencing regional and global economic equations. Heidari said Iran’s use of its strategic capabilities enabled it to expand the battlefield to a regional level and exert significant influence on global economic dynamics during the 40-day conflict.

■ Iraqi consul general calls for stronger border trade with Iran

Iraq’s consul general in Kermanshah, Saadoun al-Saedi, has called for stronger economic cooperation and trade between Iran and Iraq’s border provinces. During a meeting with Ilam Governor Ahmad Karami, he said economic power had become increasingly important in shaping global affairs. Al-Saedi described the current circumstances as an opportunity to strengthen regional economic foundations through expanded border cooperation and commercial exchanges, while praising ‘Iran’s resilience’ during its recent conflict with the United States.

■ Qalibaf warns US of retaliation against regional energy assets

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has warned that any US attack on Iranian assets would trigger strikes against American energy companies in the region. In a post on X, Qalibaf said US oil and gas facilities across the region were exposed and vulnerable. His warning came after US War Secretary Pete Hegseth said Iranian oil tankers would be targeted if Tehran attacked American vessels, claiming Iran lacked effective naval and air capabilities.

■ Iran urges UN rights council to address civilian attacks

Iran has called on the UN Human Rights Council to address ‘war crimes against civilians’ committed by the United States and Israel. Iran’s mission in Geneva said the Council should address attacks on civilian infrastructure and hold perpetrators accountable. It specifically cited the Minab school and Lamerd Sports Center, describing the attacks as clear war crimes. Tehran said it would continue seeking accountability, justice and protection for civilians through international mechanisms.

■ Chinese analyst says Trump’s Iran policy has strengthened Tehran

A Chinese analyst has argued that President Donald Trump’s handling of the Iran war has strengthened Tehran’s regional position while exposing weaknesses in US strategy. Writing for US-China Focus, Zhang Zhixin said Washington had entered the conflict without a coherent strategy or clear exit plan. The analysis cited political and economic costs, divisions within the Trump administration and growing pressure from high energy prices, arguing that the war has created durable Iranian leverage over the Strait of Hormuz.

■ Top general says Tehran will not surrender

Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Ali Abdollahi has said Tehran will not surrender and that US and Israeli efforts to offset military setbacks through economic and cognitive warfare will fail. Speaking at a meeting on countering “soft warfare,” Abdollahi described the conflict as a comprehensive hybrid campaign and stressed the importance of controlling the narrative surrounding the war. He also called for national cohesion and greater use of media and strategic communications to counter hostile information campaigns.

■ Erdogan: The whole world is paying the price for war against Iran

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the consequences of the war against Iran were being felt far beyond the countries directly involved, warning that people around the world were paying the price for the conflict.

Erdogan warned that global price pressures would persist as long as the deadlock surrounding the Strait of Hormuz remained unresolved.

“Everyone, without exception, is paying the price of the war against Iran,” Erdogan said, stressing that the burden was not being borne solely by Iranians or the countries of the Gulf.

The Turkish president has previously described Israel as the “main actor” in the conflict and said other countries in the region had paid a heavy price as a result of the war.

India’s new ambassador to Iran seeks to deepen ties amid shifting geopolitical dynamics



By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN — India’s Ambassador-designate to Iran, Vishwesh Negi, met with a senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official on Sunday to explore avenues for boosting relations between New Delhi and Tehran.

“H.E. Shri Vishwesh Negi, Ambassador-designate of India to Iran, met H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Bahrami Taqanaki, Director General, South Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran,” the official X (formerly Twitter) account of the Embassy of India in Iran posted. “The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss India-Iran relations and further strengthen bilateral cooperation.”

Earlier, Negi presented a copy of his credentials to Ali Akbar Nazari, Director General of Protocols at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Negi is a veteran diplomat with extensive experience in political, security, and multilateral affairs. His career includes postings at Indian diplomatic missions in Tehran, Rome, and London, as well as senior positions at India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), where he handled portfolios covering Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, the United Nations, and the Indo-Pacific. He also served as Joint Secretary for International Cooperation at India’s Ministry of Defense.

Navigating regional turbulence

Given Negi’s extensive security and diplomatic background, his appointment comes at a crucial juncture for India-Iran strategic and economic ties amid ongoing instability in West Asia, in the wake of the US military adventurism.

Amid heightened regional hostilities, New Delhi has consistently advocated for dialogue and de-escalation, reiterating its principled stance against armed conflict. This position was underscored by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his recent bilateral meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit and the SCO Plus meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on August 31.

“We must redouble our efforts to establish peace. I firmly believe that, ultimately, peace and security will prevail,” Prime Minister Modi told his Iranian counterpart during the discussions.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who met on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Bishkek, reaffirmed their commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation in trade, energy, connectivity, and cultural exchange.

President Pezeshkian welcomed Modi’s stance, expressing appreciation for India’s engagement and support for diplomatic pathways to resolve regional crises. Emphasizing the need to intensify multilateral efforts to restore stability, the Iranian president urged New Delhi to continue leveraging its diplomatic capital for peace.

Highlighting the deep civilizational, cultural, and historical links between the two countries, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation across trade, energy, connectivity, and cultural exchange.

India’s constructive engagement was also reflected at the multilateral level: Prime Minister Modi joined other SCO leaders in endorsing the “Bishkek Declaration” on September 1, 2026, which condemned the US and Israel’s war on Iran that began on February 28. Modi also endorsed the adoption of the Tianjin Declaration a year prior, on September 1, 2025, which reiterated the imperative of upholding international law and the principles of the UN Charter following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in June that year.

From a strategic perspective, New Delhi’s dual endorsements in Bishkek and Tianjin reflect an evolving posture within non-Western multilateral architectures. By aligning with joint statements that defend sovereignty and international law, India reinforces its traditional commitment to strategic autonomy. Tehran, on the other hand, views India’s diplomatic weight not only as an essential balancer in Eurasian geopolitics, but also as an indispensable partner in pushing back against unilateral coercive measures and militarism in West Asia.

BRICS summit and strategic connectivity

Against this backdrop, Negi’s appointment serves as a pivotal bridge between New Delhi’s top-level political commitments and their practical implementation on the ground. By dispatching an envoy with deep expertise in defense diplomacy and regional security, India is positioning its mission in Tehran to actively operationalize directives on maritime security, trade corridors, and regional stabilization.

This diplomatic engagement carries immediate significance as India prepares to host the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on September 12–13. As full BRICS partners, India and Iran share strategic interests in strengthening South-South economic cooperation and accelerating key connectivity initiatives—most notably the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

At the heart of this bilateral convergence lies the strategic port of Chabahar, India’s gateway to landlocked Central Asia and Afghanistan, and a cornerstone of the INSTC framework. For New Delhi, securing long-term operational resilience at Chabahar and de-risking regional maritime supply lines in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf require seasoned defense-diplomatic coordination—a capability central to Negi’s institutional background.

Furthermore, with both nations actively exploring local-currency settlement mechanisms to circumvent unilateral Western sanctions, Negi’s tenure will be critical in translating shared political will into sustainable economic channels. Negi’s appointment also provides the vital diplomatic momentum needed to translate the consensus reached between Modi and Pezeshkian into tangible outcomes at the upcoming summit in the Indian capital, reinforcing India’s role as an active partner in West Asian stability and Eurasian integration.

‘Economic blockade is difficult in a multipolar world’

TEHRAN- The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce, stating that the aim of US sanctions is to increase the costs of Iran's economic transactions, said: "In today's multipolar world, an absolute economic blockade against Iran is difficult, and shared economic interests are an important strategy for countering these oppressive measures."

Hadi Tizhoush Taban, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, referred to the US Treasury Secretary's announcement of intensifying sanctions and a naval blockade against Iran, and stated: "An economic blockade should not be understood merely as restrictions on trade routes, because at the same time, pressure is also applied to foreign exchange earnings from oil sales, transportation, insurance, banks, and payment networks in order to place Iran in a situation where the cost of trade for the country increases."

He added: "One of the goals of US economic pressure is to reduce the Iranian government's accessible resources, especially oil revenues, increase the costs of circumventing sanctions, and limit the country's financial capacity. Sanctions have also increased Iran's transaction costs by targeting shipping networks, intermediary companies, shadow banking, and even some cryptocurrency exchanges."

Tizhoush Taban, emphasizing that the main issue is not just the sanctions themselves, clarified: "The most important issue is the cost that sanctions impose on Iran's economy; higher discounts on oil sales, increased transportation and insurance costs, reduced investment, inefficient transfer of resources, and increased opportunities for corruption are among the consequences of this situation."

The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce, referring to the multi-polarization of the global economy, said: "Although the US can increase the cost of Iran's trade, imposing an absolute economic blockade against Iran is difficult, because today's global economy is multipolar and countries such as China, India, Russia, and the Persian Gulf states have independent economic interests."

He continued: "Iran also possesses diverse capacities and must use these capacities to reduce the economy's vulnerability. Geographic diversity, numerous neighbors in Central Asia, the Caucasus, and South and East Asia, as well as diversity in goods and services, are opportunities that can be utilized to develop foreign trade."

Tizhoush Taban emphasized: "Crude oil should not be the country's only source of foreign currency, and the share of petrochemicals, petroleum products, industrial goods, technical services, agriculture, and technology in foreign trade must increase."

Developing alternative trade routes is essential

Referring to the importance of diversifying trade routes, he stated: "Iran should not be heavily dependent on one or two trade routes, and multiple land, sea, and combined routes must be established for trade; the development of regional corridors is of great importance in this regard."

The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce added: "Sanctions are not just a banking issue, but also a logistics issue. If Iran can reduce the cost and time of goods transit, it will effectively neutralize part of the effects

Over 2,800 mining machines placed on track for overhaul

TEHRAN- The CEO of the Mining Investment Insurance Fund, noting the fund's support for 960 private mines, stated that 2,815 mining machines have been placed on track for procurement and modernization.

Ali Khatibi, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, said: "The majority of active mines in the country are in the hands of the private sector. Out of a total of 6,451 active mines, 6,005 belong to this sector, and the fund has so far supported 960 mines by issuing credit insurance policies."

He added: "The aim of this support is not just to provide financial resources; rather, efforts have been made to reduce investment risk, enabling the equipping of mines, increasing operational capacity, and ensuring production continuity."

The CEO of the Mining Investment Insurance



of sanctions."

Referring to the capacity of the country's northern routes, he said: "Northern trade routes can play a role in reducing dependence on southern ports, but none alone can fully replace southern routes, and a set of reliable and competitive routes must be established."

Tizhoush Taban emphasized: "Developing corridors is not just a construction project; it is part of the country's economic security infrastructure. Of course, these routes will only be effective if they can compete with alternative routes in terms of cost and time."

Financial Transactions Must Be Streamlined

Stating that one of the most important weaknesses of Iran's foreign trade is the method of transferring and receiving money, he said: "Iran may be able to sell goods, but if the exporter cannot receive and utilize export revenues at a reasonable cost, exports will be conducted through multiple intermediaries and with heavy costs, and such a model is not sustainable."

The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce identified the establishment of reciprocal accounts, the use of joint and regional banks, and the development of regional and digital payment systems as solutions to mitigate this problem, and added: "Eliminating the dollar alone will not solve the problem, because the dollar is not just a currency, but a financial and banking network. If a transaction is conducted in another currency but the bank or insurance company is still connected to a network that fears US sanctions, the risk of sanctions will still exist."

Tizhoush Taban, also referring to the possibility of developing trade in local currencies, said: "A portion of Iran's trade with Russia can be conducted in the national currencies of the two countries, but one important problem is the cost of currency conversion for economic actors."

He added: "In the current situation, an economic actor may face a significant loss in value when converting currency, and in some cases this reduction reaches about 20 to 25 percent. This imposes a heavy cost on the exporter."

He emphasized: "The government should not create a mechanism that increases the exporter's cost for supplying currency to the importer; rather, the exporter's currency should be converted at a fair rate with a very small margin compared to the real market rate."

The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce concluded: "By reducing currency conversion costs, developing trade in national currencies, and establishing regional payment mechanisms, some of the problems of Iran's foreign trade can be alleviated, and the ground-work can be laid for developing economic relations with neighboring countries and trading partners."

Fund identified exploration as one of the riskiest stages of mining activity and stated: "So far, 1,141 exploration areas have been covered by the fund's insurance, and in the Iranian year 1404 (starting March 2025), 33 exploration investment policies have been issued. Within this framework, about 65,000 hectares of covered areas have entered the exploration activities phase."

Khatibi continued: "Reducing exploration risk allows investors to continue operations such as drilling and trenching with greater confidence, increasing the likelihood of identifying and developing new reserves. Support for deep drilling, especially operations at depths exceeding 1,000 meters, is also on the fund's agenda."

He also identified equipment modernization as another pillar of the fund's support.

Details of reconstructing 27 airports across Iran after war outlined

TEHRAN- The CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, outlining the jihad-style efforts undertaken after the ceasefire, reported the rapid reconstruction of runways and navigation systems at 27 damaged airports across the country, relying on the expertise of domestic personnel and collaboration with knowledge-based companies.

According to IRNA, Morteza Dehghan stated on Monday at a press conference, emphasizing the hopeful message of self-reliance and the capabilities of domestic experts: "Today, relying on the expertise of domestic specialists at Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, aviation services are being provided with authority across various specialized sectors; because this company bears a heavy and exclusive responsibility both in airport management and infrastructure, and in air navigation and air traffic control."

He said: "Our colleagues in both the airport and air navigation sectors stood firm with all their might and authority, and the people were able to witness the safe and uninterrupted resumption of aviation services in the country's skies immediately after the ceasefire."

The Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development added: "From the very beginning when the ceasefire was discussed, our anticipation and expectation was that aviation would be considered as the priority and primary demand of the country's economy; because for the reconstruction of any sector and to get the wheels of the economy moving, the first area that must be activated is aviation and airports."

The CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company emphasized: "For various economic sectors of the country to resume normal activity and serve the people, timely entry by the aviation sector was essential, and in this regard, Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company was at the forefront"

He said: "We must always stay several steps ahead of other aviation sectors; because until ground infrastructure at airports and aviation infrastructure in the skies—including air navigation and air traffic control—are prepared by the specialists of this company, no airline will be able to provide services and operate flights, and this made our responsibility far heavier and more critical"

Dehghan noted: "The main battle for the airports company



actually began after the ceasefire was announced; because despite the extensive scale of damages, we had to immediately resume services to the country."

He added: "Contrary to all international laws, regulations, and conventions, heavy and unjust damages were inflicted on the country's civil aviation infrastructure, and approximately 27 airports were damaged during the aggression."

He said: "Various sections were targeted, including runways, taxiways, aprons and aircraft parking areas, safety and firefighting buildings—which are directly responsible for saving human lives—navigation and aid-to-navigation equipment, inspection assistance devices, and passenger terminals; that is, everything used at airports to ensure passenger safety and security was damaged."

The CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company continued: "Despite this scale of destruction, the main strategy and emphasis of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and the esteemed government was that these infrastructures should immediately return to operational status, and this major mission was executed by prioritizing two main objectives."

He added: "Our first priority was the complete and flawless observance of safety standards, both in runway surfaces and in navigation systems and air traffic control. Fortunately, there is very high technical, engineering, and execution capacity in the country, among consultants, contractors, and especially the company's own specialists."

He said: "From the very first days, our colleagues began reconstructing runways and pavements to prepare the necessary conditions for safe takeoffs and landings; simultaneously, the improvement and reconstruction of navigation systems and aviation equipment also commenced."

Dehghan stated: "In the first step, the company's air naviga-

tion specialists were able to support existing systems and reconstruct damaged equipment and make them operational; because conducting any flight without these navigation and airport infrastructures is impossible."

He added: "The second focus of our actions was utilizing the capacity of knowledge-based companies and the domestic private sector—entities with which we had begun joint cooperation for the localization of aviation equipment and systems in previous years. Although some of these companies' facilities were also damaged in the war, the necessary infrastructure was provided to them, and they stood alongside the airports company's experts."

He stated: "The flights now being conducted in complete safety in the country's skies are the result of the round-the-clock and coordinated efforts of these groups."

The CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, praising the dedication of operational personnel, emphasized: "A very prominent issue during this period was the jihadist spirit and attitude of our colleagues; this sacrifice was not merely an administrative duty. Our colleagues, while drones were present in the skies, evacuated vital and essential equipment from control towers and technical blocks and transferred them to safe locations to prevent damage, so that after conditions stabilized, they could quickly bring the systems back online."

He added: "Committed contractors across the country also stood by us, and in some cases, they began improvement operations even without formal contracts or receiving payment. This self-sacrifice and national solidarity deserve to be recorded in history."

Dehghan noted: "Although the efforts of jihadist forces in reconstructing urban residential areas were rightly reflected by the media, these self-sacrificing and epic-making actions also

took place with equal strength in the specialized fields of the aviation industry, deserving narration and preservation."

Financing solutions for airport reconstruction through asset monetization and BOT models

The CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, outlining modern financing methods to compensate for damages and reconstruct aviation infrastructure, reported the equipping of the country's airspace with advanced world-class surveillance systems and the full restoration of international confidence in Iran's skies.

Regarding how to secure financial resources for the reconstruction of damaged airports, he stated: "The airports company, as an independent revenue-expenditure entity, relies on revenues from domestic flights and overflights; therefore, the sudden halt of flights during the crisis led to the loss of current revenues and imposed heavy damages."

Dehghan said: "In the first step, we implemented optimized resource management and pursued the collection of domestic and foreign receivables in both foreign currency and rials; and in the next step, with the support of the esteemed government, we secured the necessary credit for purchasing sensitive foreign navigation, aid-to-navigation, and surveillance equipment, alongside domestic production capacity."

He added: "Despite the temporary suspension of construction projects during wartime, immediately after operational conditions stabilized, the reactivation of development projects began with precise prioritization."

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development emphasized: "Utilizing the legal capacities of 'asset monetization' was one of our main approaches, and with the authorities granted by the government, the airports company was at the forefront of this area, and we were able to activate several important projects through this method."

He said: "In addition to attracting resources and facilities from the country's banking network, diversifying financing methods by attracting private sector investment through BOT, BLT, and BOO contractual models has been placed on the company's serious agenda to accelerate project implementation."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Overcoming financial, logistical hurdles: path to Iran-Vietnam trade expansion

TEHRAN- Despite significant potential in petrochemicals, agriculture, and industry, Iran and Vietnam have yet to reach their desired trade levels. Overcoming financial, logistical, and intermediary obstacles is essential for a leap in bilateral exchanges, reports Mehr News correspondent.

Vietnam has emerged as a major production and trade hub in Southeast Asia, while Iran—with its strong petrochemical, mineral, agricultural, and chemical sectors—can supply many of this export-driven economy's needs. Yet sanctions, payment transfer issues, reliance on third countries, logistics costs, and limited Iranian business awareness of the Vietnamese market have left much of this potential untapped.

UN Comtrade data shows Iran's exports to Vietnam at about \$67.84 million in 2022, with imports around \$38.64 million—totaling roughly \$106.5 million, well below targets. However, signs of renewed momentum are emerging. In March 2026, Vietnam's ambassador reported bilateral trade reached about \$109 million over eight months, with goods like rubber, coffee, and tea flowing to Iran, while petrochemicals, IT products, and construction materials moved to Vietnam. He projected 7–10% annual growth and hoped for a 50% increase over five years.

Vietnam's total foreign trade hit a record

\$930.05 billion in 2025, with exports of \$475.04 billion and 8.02% GDP growth—making it a far larger market than current Iran-Vietnam figures suggest.

Mostafa Mousavi, head of the Iran-Vietnam Joint Chamber, reports fresh Vietnamese requests for petrochemical and agricultural purchases, with barter deals under consideration. In some cases, Vietnam has shown readiness to buy directly and even offered to send its own ships for cargo pickup.

A key challenge has been the indirect nature of much trade, often routed through third countries like the UAE. This inflates costs, lengthens transit times, and raises sanctions-related risks. Direct trade is seen as a crucial competitiveness booster. Barter and alternative financial channels are being explored, alongside leveraging Vietnam's 2015 preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union—which Iran joined in 2023—as a complementary access route.

Direct air links are also improving. The Tehran–Ho Chi Minh City route launched on August 31, 2026, with Tehran–Hanoi to follow soon. Trade attaché Mohsen Rezaei-pour called this a game-changer for business travel, investment, and high-value, time-sensitive cargo, complementing sea freight.

In agriculture, a Vietnamese delegation recently toured apple production and packaging facilities in West Azarbaijan, with quarantine hurdles largely resolved—opening a new market beyond traditional destinations. Beyond apples, Iran can export dried fruits, processed foods, and horticultural products, while Vietnam offers coffee, rice, tea, seafood, and consumer goods.

Petrochemicals remain Iran's strongest export advantage, with some non-official estimates placing chemical exports to Vietnam in the hundreds of millions for 2025, though data discrepancies exist. Meanwhile, Iran could import electronics, machinery, and rubber products, suggesting a balanced, diversified trade basket is achievable.

Vietnam's \$930 billion foreign trade landscape means Iran's \$109 million share is still marginal. Yet recent steps—direct flights, quarantine progress, and interest in barter—signal a shift from "potential" to "practical pathways." If stable financial mechanisms, reduced intermediation, and better logistics take root, Vietnam could become a key Iranian market in Southeast Asia, offering not only off-take for petrochemicals and agriculture but also a gateway to broader ASEAN supply chains.

Aramco facilities in Jizan burn as Yemeni forces advance

From page 1 ► Commercial shipping trackers confirm that refined product exports from Jizan flatlined entirely in August after Ansarullah enforced tighter operational perimeters.

Sanaa has described similar actions as a necessary answer to the continued Saudi siege and the kingdom's alignment with broader regional aggression.

While no group formally claimed Monday's specific strike, the operation follows the strict trajectory of the Red Sea blockade declared by Yemeni leadership in July.

Muhammad al-Farrah, a senior member of Ansarullah's political bureau, stated on X that Riyadh remains firmly at the top of Yemen's enemies alongside Israel.

He condemned the kingdom for funding mercenary networks to protect stolen resources.

Clearing the skies of hostile aircraft

Yemen's air defense units are actively dismantling Saudi aerial supremacy, neutralizing high-value assets across multiple fronts.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, spokesperson for the Ye-



meni Armed Forces, announced the downing of a Saudi-linked Wing Loong II armed reconnaissance drone over Al-Bayda Governorate on Monday morning.

Air defense units targeted the aircraft with appropriate weaponry while it was conducting hostile surveillance.

This Al-Bayda intercept marked the third Saudi drone destroyed in a mere 24 hours. Forces previously shot down a Chinese-made CH-4 over Al-Jawf and another Wing Loong II over Taiz.

The systematic destruction of these expensive platforms underscores the expanding technological reach and vigilance of the Yemeni Armed Forces.

Ground advances, retaliatory fire and Saudi strikes

Fighting on the ground has

erupted into the fiercest combat seen in six years. Over the weekend, Yemeni forces launched a massive push along the Red Sea coast.

Clashes erupted around Mocha and Taiz as resistance units advanced toward the Bab al-Mandeb Strait.

Saudi-backed mercenaries attempted counteroffensives but faced devastating losses.

Yemeni military media released high-definition footage Monday showing domestic ballistic missiles obliterating Saudi weapons trucks arriving at the Al-Wadi'ah camp, vaporizing military supplies intended for mercenary factions.

Additionally, Riyadh has conducted heavy airstrikes across civilian neighborhoods, compounding its violations.

The human toll of this brutality was starkly illustrated in Al-Jawf province, where a Saudi air raid struck a local correctional facility. The facility's director said that emergency teams recovered the body of a martyred child and treated two wounded survivors, while 35 inmates and a female visitor remain trapped beneath the heavy rubble.

Addressing this dangerous escalation, Brigadier General Saree denounced the kingdom's latest campaign of air raids and massacres in a statement on Monday, pointing specifically to the bloodshed in Al-Jawf alongside continuous spy drone flights and heavy weapons shipments to mercenary proxies.

Saree warned that the ongoing aggression "will not remain without a response and punishment," stressing that Riyadh must ultimately "bear the consequences of its crimes against the Yemeni people."

More than a decade into this aggression, Riyadh's offensive campaign relies heavily on air power and paid militants to hold territory.

Yemen's resistance forces continue to prove that every escalation guarantees an uncompromising retaliation.

Maliki offers 'containment' for Iraqi resistance

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – Former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has rejected the disarmament of resistance factions, proposing "containment" as an alternative to stripping them of their weapons.

In a TV interview, Maliki, who leads the State of Law Coalition and serves on a key three-member committee tasked by the Shia Coordination Framework with negotiating with the resistance movements, argued that the very language of "disarmament" is counterproductive.

He stated that the term creates significant "political and psychological resistance" among the factions, noting that the terminology of disarmament is not used because being described as "disarmed" carries a great psychological impact. He further elaborated that referring to a resistance faction as "disarmed" carries both a psychological and a practical weight that makes the term unworkable in negotiations.

Instead, Maliki proposed a fourth term for the issue of weapons: "containment," adding it to a list that has included "disarmament," "restriction," and "regulation". He stressed that the goal should be an "organizational step, not a retaliatory one," and that the era of "challenge, threats, and intimidation" is over because "threats do not

yield results".

"The language that was prevalent, challenge, threat, and intimidation, has ended, because threats do not produce results," he said.

"Calls for conflict, attacks on headquarters of the factions, and attacks on the government do not produce results. The government is not weak to be attacked, nor is it in the government's interest to attack the factions."

Maliki framed these realities as the foundation for a new approach. He noted that these are the first facts that have now become established, which have opened the door and the field for him and others interested in national affairs and the safety of the internal situation to find an opportunity for deliberation and dialogue. This, he argued, can help resolve the matter without exposing itself to a state of collision.

Central to Maliki's argument was the assertion that the continued possession of light and medium weapons by resistance factions is a "necessity" to protect Iraq in the face of any future challenges.

He revealed that a joint committee is actively discussing distinctions between the weapons of the Iraqi resistance. "There is a distinction between heavy weapons, medium weapons, and light weapons," Maliki



said. "This is one of the issues being raised: Does keeping or containing weapons include everything? Or only the type of weapon that is considered a weapon for targeting internally and externally? This is what the committee formed with the factions will resolve."

Maliki, who was nominated for prime minister in January but ultimately failed to secure the position, used only his second televised interview since then to draw a clear line between the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) and other armed groups.

"The Popular Mobilization Forces are a state military institution formed by a cabinet decree; its arms are the state's arms, and its command is under the state's authority," he stated.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Up to 14,000 bodies still lie under the ruins of Gaza homes

From page 1 ► For years, grief-stricken survivors could only stand before mountains of crushed concrete, unable to reach the dead due to incessant shelling and a complete lack of extraction equipment.

A fraction of those still buried

Sunday's ceremony near the Imam al-Shafi'i Mosque marks only a small portion of an overwhelming human tragedy.

While the Palestinian Health Ministry records over 73,600 killed since October 2023, this official figure excludes thousands trapped in the ruins.

Civil Defense officials and independent human rights monitors estimate between 8,000 and 14,000 Palestinians remain entombed beneath the debris across the enclave.

The recovery in Zeitoun formed part of the second phase of an emergency initiative launched in mid-July.

This phase targets 147 destroyed residential sites across northern and central Gaza, where over 1,000 martyrs re-

main buried.

Rescue crews recently pulled 233 bodies from just 20 residential buildings after more than 800 hours of intensive effort.

At other sites, such as the Engineers Tower in Nuseirat refugee camp, teams are attempting to recover 150 people using a single excavator.

Progress remains agonizingly slow because workers lack basic machinery, forcing them to sift through reinforced concrete using shovels and bare hands.

Israeli blockade starves rescue teams

The delay in unearthing these victims stems directly from the ongoing Israeli blockade and deliberate military targeting.

Israeli air strikes have systematically targeted Palestinian Civil Defense facilities throughout the war, destroying roughly 85 percent of the agency's heavy equipment and emergency response vehicles.

Despite cease-fire stipulations requiring the regime to permit the entry of heavy ex-

cavators and bulldozers, Israeli forces continue to block all heavy equipment, spare parts, and fuel supplies.

Brigadier General Raed al-Dahshan, director of Gaza's Civil Defense, stated that rescue crews operate under virtually non-existent capabilities.

He explained that what an excavator can accomplish in one hour takes manual laborers a full month. Rescuers frequently pull out children's toys and schoolbooks alongside bone fragments.

Without heavy equipment, retrieving the thousands of martyrs still trapped under Gaza's 40 million tons of debris will take years rather than months, prolonging the torment of grieving families who call civil defense offices daily asking for news of their missing relatives.

Erasing evidence of war crimes

The crisis is further exacerbated by Israeli military operations that dismantle and clear rubble in occupied zones.

UN Special Rapporteur Fran-

cesca Albanese warned that clearing debris without international oversight risks destroying physical evidence of genocide.

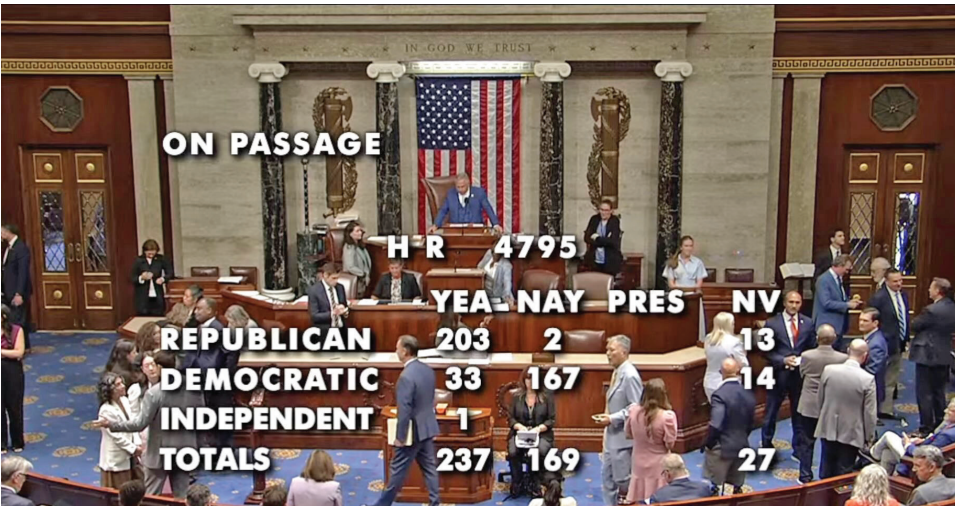
The Palestinian Center for Missing Persons warned that military bulldozers operate indiscriminately in restricted zones, crushing skeletal remains and mixing them with building materials, making future identification through DNA testing impossible.

Concurrently, reports indicate Israeli authorities are holding approximately 1,700 Palestinian bodies in detention facilities for potential leverage in negotiations.

For families such as the Balawis, receiving the remains of loved ones brings a bitter form of closure after years of waiting. Yet for thousands of families across Gaza, the wait continues.

By denying entry to basic rescue equipment, Israel continues its policy of collective punishment, ensuring shattered neighborhoods remain open mass graves.

US House moves to silence universities in favor of Israel



From page 1 ► Withholding such funding would make it nearly impossible for many universities to operate or provide financial aid to students.

Such a bill clearly violates freedom of opinion, something that the U.S. claims it stands for as a principle and lectures other countries about it.

Jenin Younes, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), said the bill raises serious concerns for the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which protects freedom of speech rights.

"The Supreme Court has made clear that the government cannot condition its funding on suppression of First Amendment-protected activity," Younes told Al Jazeera. "Courts also recognize that boycotts constitute such activity."

The bill indirectly backs the theft of the Palestinian lands in the West Bank in violation of international law.

The anti-Israel feelings among Americans, especially among the intellectuals including university students, started growing as Israel has so far killed more than 73,000 in Gaza and turned the enclave into a pile of rubble following a deadly Hamas attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

Until now, the bill has dealt a blow to the United States' status in the world. If the bill becomes a law, it will bring down the U.S. to the level of a dictatorial regime that stifles opposition voices under different pretexts.

Of course, the American society is familiar with the U.S. measures against universities as students were holding campus protests and encampments against the Israeli war on Gaza. Starting January 2025, the Trump administration took several measures against certain universities, typically framing them as responses to alleged antisemitism.

American officials, especially Republicans, are tarnishing the image of the U.S. more than ever before in order to buy some praise from Israel.

American officials, including Congresspersons, are not shy to blindly back Israel regardless of reputational damages. They don't ask themselves that subservience to Israel that does not care about Palestinians' rights and lives should have a limit.

The legislation would require academic institutions in the U.S. to annually certify that they allow cooperation with Israeli universities. The stipulation raises concerns that the bill not only bans boycotts of schools in illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank but could compel US universities to forge relationships with them to fulfil the certification requirement.

This comes despite that fact that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in 2024 that Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, "have been established and are being maintained in violation of international law".

Those lawmakers who have endorsed the bill should be ashamed of the American public who are angry of Israel's massacres against Gazans and deadly settler violence in the West Bank.

A Pew Research Center survey in July suggested that 62 percent of Americans have an unfavorable view of the current Israeli government, which has coalesced with far-right parties.

Israeli themselves are aware that they are disliked by Americans. Naftali Bennett, the former Israeli prime minister, in a recent interview with Itai Segal, conceded that

among American youth, Israel is synonymous with genocide.

Outlining the severity of this shift, he said, "If you ask an American student, 'Israel, what comes to mind?' They say genocide. That is the situation." He offered a comparison. "You say Italy, 'pasta, spaghetti.' You say Israel, 'baby killers.'"

In such a negative atmosphere against Israel, 237 House representatives sacrificed what remained of America's reputation as a country that still valued public opinion.

"As Americans' sentiment turns against our unholy alliance, Israel and its servants in Congress are working overtime to come up with ways to silence dissent and keep Americans' tax dollars flowing to the genocidal, apartheid state," Younes said.

Most American politicians, especially Republicans, are lying that they favor an independent Palestinian state living side by side peacefully with Israel. If they were not lying, they did not vote for a such a legislation.

Younis said including Israeli colleges in the occupied West Bank in the anti-boycott bill is further evidence there is no real intent by the U.S. "to hold Israel accountable for its unlawful occupation or to pave the way for a Palestinian state."

With the pace of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and statements by certain Israeli officials, including War Minister Israel Katz, who said on September 2 that Israel is seeking Trump's support to approve plans to expel Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, what remains of Palestine to form a government.

The American lawmakers who seek to punish universities that are reluctant to cooperate with Israeli academic centers are fully aware of the views of Katz and other Israeli officials like National Security Minister Itamar ben Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.

If the U.S. had been really seeking a durable cure for the decades-long bleeding Palestinian wound, that has also engulfed certain countries in the region in fire, it must have taken some measures against Israel such as banning or even threatening arms boycott. However, the U.S. has been shielding the U.S. in the UN Security Council for decades. It only once abstained to veto an anti-Israel resolution at the council that declared Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory have "no legal validity" and constitute a violation of international law. That move only happened in December 2016 during the final weeks of the Obama administration.

Despite hollow claims, the American Congress and states have been passing legislations to restrict the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement that aims to pressure Israel economically to end abuses against Palestinians.

Robert McCaw, government affairs manager for CAIR, called the bill "a blatant attempt to hold American students' financial futures hostage."

The House's move is intended to force students and professors to value their bias in favor of Israel otherwise they will be punished. Only despotic regimes want their people to think like them and endorse what they say without any question.

Now the question is why should the majority of House representatives expect students and professors to cooperate with Israeli universities that have been playing a key role in enabling abuses against Palestinians by developing weapon systems and military strategies.

Iran head to Nagoya with a strong delegation

TEHRAN - Nagoya is preparing to host one of Asia's biggest sporting events, with millions of sports fans across the continent turning their attention to the 20th Asian Games.

Iran will travel to Japan with a large delegation featuring a combination of experienced champions, established medal contenders and promising young athletes, all aiming to make a strong impact on the Asian sporting stage.

Iran's final delegation consists of 522 members, including 312 athletes.

The size of the team has generated considerable discussion in recent months. While Iranian officials initially emphasized a "quality-based" approach focused on athletes with genuine medal prospects, the delegation was gradually expanded following the addition of new quotas.

At one phase, 26 additional quotas were added to the initial lineup, raising questions over whether quantity had ultimately taken precedence over quality.

However, a large delegation does not necessarily mean a lack of quality. Iran remains a serious medal contender in several major disciplines, with wrestling, taekwondo, weightlifting and shooting expected to form the backbone of its medal campaign.

Shooting is among Iran's strongest medal hopes, with 14 Iranian shooters set to compete in Japan.

Weightlifting will also attract significant attention. The Iranian lineup includes established names such as Mostafa Javadi, Ali Aalipour and Ali Davoudi, alongside two female lifters. Yet the competition will be fierce, with Asia's traditional weightlifting powers leaving little room for error.

Athletics is another discipline carrying high expectations. A target of 10 medals has been discussed, although achieving that figure will be challenging given the gap between some Iranian athletes and the continent's leading performances.

In canoeing, nine Iranian athletes will compete, with hopes of ending a 16-year wait for an Asian Games gold medal.

In team sports, Iran's volleyball team remain one of the continent's leading contenders. Basketball, football and several other teams, however, face tougher challenges. Iran's U23 football team, in particular, have been drawn alongside China, North Korea and the United Arab Emirates, while limited preparation and a lack of sufficient friendly matches remain concerns.

Beyond the established medal hopefuls, Nagoya 2026 could also provide a valuable platform for Iran's younger generation. For some, this may be their first major international experience, potentially marking the beginning of a journey toward future success.

With a blend of proven champions and emerging talent, Iran head to Japan with genuine hopes of producing a strong medal haul. From wrestling and taekwondo to shooting, weightlifting, volleyball, athletics and canoeing, the expectation is clear: Iran want to make their presence felt across Asia.

Iran's withdrawal has significant implications for IWB

TEHRAN – International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) has announced that Iran's withdrawal at this very late stage of the 2026 IWBF World Championships has significant implications for the organization and integrity of the World Championship.

Iran were forced to pull out of the Championships after four members of its delegation were denied visas.

IWBF issued a public announcement on Sunday addressing the incident:

IWBF was informed by the Iran Sports Federation for the Disabled that the Iranian men's national wheelchair basketball team, who are due to compete at the 2026 IWBF World Championships, will not travel to Ottawa to participate in the event.

The Iranian Federation made this decision due to the fact visas remain outstanding for four members of its delegation, including the head coach and assistant coach.

All 12 players and four other members of staff have received their visas.

IWBF and the Local Organizing Committee have worked closely with the Iranian Federation and provided all possible support regarding the outstanding applications, including maintaining regular communication with the relevant Canadian authorities. However, visa decisions and processing timelines are the responsibility of the relevant authorities and remain outside our control.

IWBF recognizes the difficult circumstances facing the Iranian Federation. At the same time, a withdrawal at this very late stage has significant implications for the organization and integrity of the World Championship. Consequently, our immediate priority is to focus on delivering the event, address the areas affected and work closely with our partners to mitigate the impact. Updated schedules and further information will be released in due course.

The longer-term implications of the withdrawal will be considered separately by the IWBF Executive Council in accordance with the applicable IWBF regulations and procedures.

Iran announce volleyball squad for 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN - Iran have announced their 12-player squad for the men's volleyball tournament at the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, with several notable absences from the national team roster.

The squad consists of Amin Esmailnezhad, Pouria Hossein Khanzadeh, Hossein Hajiklateh, Arshia Behnezhad, Elshan Davoudipour, Ali Hajipour, Morteza Sharifi, Ali Haghighparast, Mobin Nasri, Mohammad Valizadeh, Issa Naseri and Yousef Kazemi.

Following the conclusion of the 2026 Asian Championship in Fukuoka, libero Mohammadreza Hazratpour, along with Esmail Mosafer and Nima Bateni, will return to Tehran, while Yousef Kazemi will join the national team camp from Tehran.

Hazratpour had previously been one of head coach Roberto Piazza's main options at libero. He was included in Iran's squad for the 2026 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) and shared the libero position with Hossein Hajiklateh.

The men's volleyball tournament at the 2026 Asian Games will take place from Sept. 27 to Oct. 3, with Iran drawn alongside Indonesia, Thailand and Kyrgyzstan in the preliminary round.

Iran are the reigning Asian Games champions, having won gold at the last three editions in 2014, 2018 and 2022. They will head to Nagoya aiming to secure a historic fourth consecutive Asian Games gold medal.

Iran and Iraq sitting volleyball teams hold joint training camp

TEHRAN — Iran and Iraq's national sitting volleyball teams are currently holding a joint training camp at the Iran Sports Federation for the Disabled in Tehran.

The joint camp has been held in a friendly and positive atmosphere, with both teams taking part in training sessions together. During the sessions, the Iraqi coaching staff paid close attention to the tactics and technical abilities of Iran's star players.

Iran's sitting volleyball team recently secured the country's first Paralympic quota for the 2028 Games by winning the 2026 World Championships in Hangzhou. The team are now stepping up their preparations for the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya.

Head coach Hadi Rezaei will take a squad featuring a blend of experienced players and promising young talent to Nagoya.

Iran have dominated sitting volleyball at the Asian Games, winning gold medals at each of the last four editions. The team will be aiming to maintain that impressive record in Nagoya.

Qom: A province of ancient beacons along historic routes

TEHRAN - Scattered across the mountains, plains and historic routes of Qom province, a group of ancient Meels, stand-alone beacon towers once used to guide travelers and caravans, offers a distinctive glimpse into the history of travel and communication in central Iran.

Often standing on elevated ground overlooking old roads and passes, the structures are among the lesser-known heritage sites of Qom. Their locations, architecture and relationship with ancient routes could make them compelling destinations for travelers, historians, architects and enthusiasts of Iran's cultural heritage.

Speaking to ISNA, historian and researcher Hossein Sadeqi says Qom is unusual in having a relatively large concentration of historic Meels, with the structures spread across different parts of the province. Based on existing roads, the distance between some of them is estimated at around 50 kilometers.

The term Meel historically referred to a standalone beacon or light-bearing structure. Such towers were built beside important roads and routes, particularly in periods before and during the Islamic era, to help travelers and caravans navigate difficult terrain. Fires were traditionally lit at their upper sections, allowing people to identify the route during darkness or in fog.

Unlike minarets attached to mosques or other religious buildings, these structures were originally independent ones. According to Sadeqi, their functions included guiding travelers as well as communication and signaling. Their elaborate architectural features in some cases, however, have led researchers to consider whether certain examples served additional purposes.

Most surviving historic Meels in Iran date from the fourth to sixth centuries AH, although examples attributed to earlier periods also exist. Many were equipped with stairways leading to their upper sections, with some featuring separate spiral staircases.

Aliabad Meel

The stone Meel of Aliabad stands about 50 kilometers along the Qom-Tehran road, beside the historic stone castle of Aliabad. Built on an elevated hill, it is believed to have served as a landmark for caravans.

The tower is about 11 meters high and has an arched entrance approximately 1.5 meters wide. Spiral stairs lead toward the upper section. Stone and sarooj, a traditional Iranian waterproof mortar, were used in its construction.

Several rows of what appear to be reed pipes can be seen in the structure at a height of about three meters. Sadeqi suggests that these may have been incorporated to reduce the effects of ground vibrations.

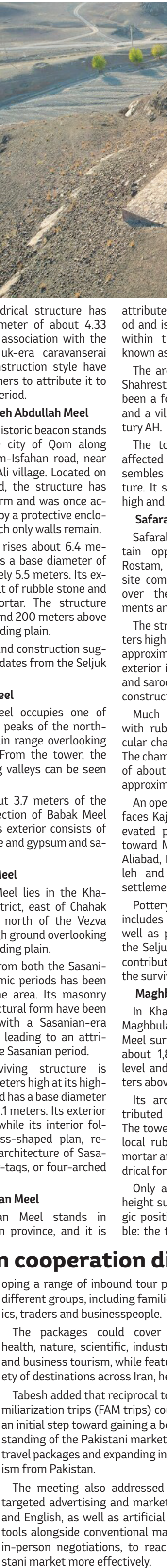
Iran, Pakistan tourism cooperation discussed at HEGTA meeting

TEHRAN – Ways to expand tourism and investment cooperation between Iran and Pakistan were discussed at a meeting between the head of the Tourism Group of Iran's Social Security Organization (HEGTA) and Iran's commercial counsellor in Pakistan.

Alireza Tabesh, chief executive of HEGTA, and Morad Nemati, Iran's commercial counsellor in Pakistan, held the meeting at HEGTA on Sunday evening, focusing on opportunities to strengthen tourism ties and facilitate investment between the two countries.

Tabesh highlighted the historical, cultural and religious ties between the two neighboring countries, saying the shared heritage provides a basis for expanding cultural links as well as tourism and investment cooperation.

He stressed the need to make greater use of the Pakistani market and proposed devel-



The cylindrical structure has a base diameter of about 4.33 meters. Its association with the nearby Seljuk-era caravanserai and its construction style have led researchers to attribute it to the Seljuk period.

Imamzadeh Abdullah Meel

Another historic beacon stands outside the city of Qom along the old Qom-Isfahan road, near Cheshmeh Ali village. Located on high ground, the structure has a conical form and was once accompanied by a protective enclosure, of which only walls remain.

The Meel rises about 6.4 meters and has a base diameter of approximately 5.5 meters. Its exterior is built of rubble stone and gypsum mortar. The structure stands around 200 meters above the surrounding plain.

Its form and construction suggest that it dates from the Seljuk period.

Babak Meel

Babak Meel occupies one of the highest peaks of the northern mountain range overlooking the valley. From the tower, the surrounding valleys can be seen clearly.

Only about 3.7 meters of the northern section of Babak Meel survives. Its exterior consists of rubble stone and gypsum and sarooj mortar.

Chahak Meel

Chahak Meel lies in the Khajestan district, east of Chahak village and north of the Vezva River, on high ground overlooking the surrounding plain.

Pottery from both the Sasanian and Islamic periods has been found in the area. Its masonry and architectural form have been compared with a Sasanian-era Chahar-Taq, leading to an attribution to the Sasanian period.

The surviving structure is about 4.6 meters high at its highest point and has a base diameter of roughly 5.1 meters. Its exterior is circular, while its interior follows a cross-shaped plan, recalling the architecture of Sasanian Chahar-taqs, or four-arched structures.

Shahrestan Meel

Shahrestan Meel stands in central Qom province, and it is

attributed to the Sasanian period and is thought to have stood within the ancient settlement known as Shahrestan.

The area, now called Mazraeh Shahrestan, is believed to have been a fortified site in antiquity and a village by the fourth century AH.

The tower has been heavily affected by erosion and now resembles a cone-shaped structure. It stands about 7.5 meters high and was built of mud brick.

Safarali Meel

Safarali Meel rises on a mountain opposite Mount Sepor-e Rostam, west of Kaj village. The site commands extensive views over the surrounding settlements and plains.

The structure is about 6.8 meters high, with a base diameter of approximately seven meters. Its exterior is made of rubble stone and sarooj, while the interior was constructed without mortar.

Much of its interior is filled with rubble stone, while a circular chamber survives above it. The chamber has a floor diameter of about 3.45 meters and walls approximately 1.7 meters thick.

An opening on the eastern side faces Kaj village. The tower's elevated position provides views toward Mohammadabad, Korgol, Aliabad, Bayer Kalhar, Malek Qaleh and surrounding seasonal settlements.

Pottery found around the site includes prehistoric material as well as pottery associated with the Seljuk period. The latter has contributed to the attribution of the surviving Meel to that era.

Maghbulabad Meel

In Khajestan, southwest of Maghbulabad village, another Meel survives at an elevation of about 1,893 meters above sea level and approximately 65 meters above the surrounding plain.

Its architectural style is attributed to the Seljuk period. The tower was constructed from local rubble stone and gypsum mortar and originally had a cylindrical form.

Only about 2.7 meters of its height survives today. Its strategic position is particularly notable: the tower stands at a point

from which it could have served travelers using the historic routes connecting Saveh, Tafresh and Qom.

Although it has little decorative ornamentation, the arrangement of its masonry remains of architectural interest.

Meem Meel

Meem Meel, located in the village of Meem in Kahak district, resembles Safarali Meel but is smaller.

The structure stands roughly 85 to 90 meters above the surrounding plain and is about nine meters high. Its base diameter is approximately 4.62 meters.

Built of rubble stone and gypsum mortar, it has a conical exterior and an enclosed chamber inside. Its architectural similarities with other Qom beacons have led researchers to attribute it to the Seljuk period.

Rahjerd Meel

The stone Meel of Rahjerd stands near Dizijan village on the heights of Mount Zambureh, overlooking a gorge and the Zavvarian passage in the Rahjerd area.

Approximately 4.25 meters of the structure survives. Its base diameter is about 6.3 meters, and it rises roughly 60 meters above the surrounding plain.

Its rubble-stone construction and gypsum mortar are similar to those used in other Seljuk-period Meels in Qom province.

Taken together, these structures form a scattered network of architectural landmarks that reflects the importance of movement across central Iran long before modern roads transformed the landscape. Their locations on high ground, near passes and along historic routes reveal a practical relationship between architecture and travel.

For modern visitors, the appeal of Qom's Meels lies partly in their isolation. Unlike major monuments located in urban centers, many of these towers survive amid mountains, plains and old travel corridors. Reaching them can therefore offer not only an encounter with historic architecture but also a sense of the landscapes through which merchants, pilgrims and caravans once moved.

Nemati, for his part, stressed the importance of using existing bilateral memoranda of understanding and agreements to expand tourism cooperation and strengthen ties between the private sectors of Iran and Pakistan.

He also highlighted the potential for HEGTA to establish links with Pakistani business and tourism operators and use available capacities to attract tourists and investors.

They also discussed expanding flight programs, removing travel barriers and facilitating the implementation of inbound tours, emphasizing the need to translate existing potential into practical and implementable programs.

It was agreed to pursue several projects that can produce tangible outcomes, while making greater use of the private-sector capacities of the two countries.

Iranian students achieve milestones at international Olympiads despite war

TEHRAN – Talented Iranian students have achieved remarkable success at international Olympiads, winning 13 medals and securing the championship title at the International Physics Olympiad despite the numerous challenges posed by the US-Israeli war against the country.

Last year, Iranian students took part in 14 international scientific competitions but were unable to participate in two Olympiads due to the outbreak of war. Despite the hardships and challenges brought about by the ongoing conflict, they demonstrated their outstanding abilities by setting new benchmarks in various competitions and proudly raising Iran's flag on the international stage. Their remarkable achievements have become a source of great pride for the country, Mehr news agency quoted Seyyed Reza Hosseini, head of the Young Scholars Club, as saying.

The students performed outstandingly at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO); the five-member team ranked first globally, garnering three gold medals and two silver medals, which was exceptional over the past 20 years, he added.

Held from July 4 to 12 in Bucaramanga, Colombia, the IPhO 2026 brought together over 400 students from more than 90 countries.

Hirbod Foudazi, Kian Zarrabian, and Mohammad Mirmohammadi secured gold medals, while Amir-Sam Goharpey and Nima Koushki won silver medals.

Despite attacks on Iran's national artificial intelligence infrastructure that disrupted the team's access to computing resources and data centers, Iranian students won their first gold medal at the International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI), the official said.

The team also won two silver medals and one bronze at the third edition of the competition, held from August 2 to 8 in Astana, Kazakhstan, according to the official.

Shayan Rezaeizadeh grabbed the gold medal, Mohammad-Reza Darvishi, and Mohammad-Amin Nazmfar won the silver medals, while Mani Monjipor received the bronze medal.

Brilliant Iranian students proudly claimed their first-ever medals at the 67th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), which was organized on July 15 and 16 in Shanghai, China. They won two gold medals, one silver medal, and three bronze medals.

Alireza Joonbakhsh-Najafabadi and Alireza Sharifi won the gold medals, Amirhossein Tayyeb clinched the silver medal, and Arsha Azizeddin, Radin Nik-Eqbali, and Arian Zandi received the bronze medals.

Female Iranian students secured an unprecedented success at the 22nd International Geography Olympiad (iGeo), held from August 11 to 17 in Istanbul, Turkey. They succeeded in winning a bronze medal and three honorable mentions; their performance was inspiring to many other nations, Hosseini further noted.

Also, in the 19th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2026) in Italy, the Iranian team won an impressive haul of two silver



medals, six bronze medals, and a top prize.

Mehraneh Vashaqani-Farahani secured the world's top ranking in the Young Reporters of the International Union of Geological Sciences short documentary category, delivering one of the most notable results for the Iranian team at this year's competition, IRNA reported.

In the individual examinations, Shamim Molla-Qolizadeh and Javad Namjoo each won a silver medal, while Ghazal Qazizadeh took bronze.

Namjoo also won a bronze medal in the Earth System Project (ESP) category. In the International Team Field Investigation (ITFI), Molla-Qolizadeh, Namjoo, Qazizadeh and Vashaqani-Farahani each earned a bronze medal.

Iranian students clinched medals and an honorable mention at the 9th International Economics Olympiad (IEO 2026) held from July 12-20 in Shenzhen China, and the 38th edition of the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) held from August 9 to 16 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

This year, 270 students from 54 countries attended the IEO competition. Mobin Karimi Dizicheh secured a silver medal. He received an honorable mention and also won Best in Finance, Borna news agency reported.

Mohammad-Hossein Rahimi Nejad, Alireza Atashi, and Ehsan Zolfaghari won the bronze medals.

Meanwhile, a total of 386 students from more than 97 countries participated in this year's IOI competition.

Hamed Ghaffariaghdas and Arash Ostadsharif-Memar grabbed the silver medals, while Mohammad Shayan won the bronze medal. Moreover, Bahamin Shafaqi received the honorable mention.

The 37th International Biology Olympiad (IBO 2026) took place from July 12 to 19 in the city of Vilnius, Lithuania. The event brought together participants from some 80 countries across five continents.

Radin Bayani, Mohammad-Reza Vaezi, and

Amir-Hossein Nosrati grabbed gold medals, while Amir-Hossein Hemmati won the silver medal, IRIB reported.

The 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2026) was held from July 10 to 19 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Over 350 students from 90 countries attended the event.

Ali Shamsi-Mofakhar, Mahyar Najar, and Amir-Reza Hosseini secured silver medals, while Ario Seirafi won the bronze medal.

Four Iranian female students attended the Open International Geography Olympiad (OpenGeo) 2026, winning four medals, including a silver medal and three bronze medals for the first time.

Artina Heidari won the silver medal; Setayesh Haqnazari, Sana Karbalaee Vali, and Helia Khodabandelou received the bronze medals, IRIB reported.

The six-member Iranian team has shown brilliance, claiming the championship at the fourth International Mathematics Summer Camp (IMSC) held in Beijing, China, from June 17 to July 12, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and dedication to mathematics.

Aryan Zandi, Arsha Azizoddin, Seyyed Amir-Hossein Tayeb, Alireza Sharifi, Radin Nik-Eqbali, and Ali Joonbakhsh Najafabadi won 4 gold medals and two silver medals, outperforming students from Poland and Brazil, IRNA reported.

Iran's Physics Olympiad team, consisting of five students, has achieved an astounding triumph at the International Scientific Physics Olympiad 2026, winning two gold medals, a silver, and a bronze.

Hirbod Foudazi was ranked first among all participants, receiving the title of absolute winner, achieving the best result in the Theoretical Exam, and grabbing the gold medal and the national diamond, IRNA reported.

Amir-Sam Goharpey won the other gold medal; Kian Zarrabian and Mohammad Mirmohammadi received a silver medal and a bronze medal, respectively.

The ISPhO-2026 Olympiad was held exclusively online from June 21 to June 30, 2026.

Mustafa Foundation launches blockchain platform for global scientific support

TEHRAN – Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation unveiled a new platform powered by blockchain technology on Saturday to enable Muslims around the world to participate more easily in programs and projects of the Foundation.

The platform uses cryptocurrencies, smart contracts and innovative financing mechanisms to enable transparent, rapid and international participation in supporting the Mustafa Prize and other scientific and technological initiatives.

“Many Muslims and businesspeople who, as a result of technological developments in recent years, have converted part of their assets into cryptocurrencies have faced the question of how to put those assets to work in real, clearly defined projects,” Ali-Akbar Salehi, the chairman of the board of trustees of the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation, said.

“This is where the idea of creating a platform to connect crypto assets with real investment opportunities and tangible projects emerged.”

He highlighted the ability to set precise conditions governing the use of funds as one of the technology's most important features.

“For example, a patron can specify that their contribution or financial participation should only be released after a particular event or outcome has been achieved. A smart contract then automatically executes the process according to the rules defined in advance,” he explained.

“This reduces the possibility of intervention outside the agreed framework and increases transparency throughout the process.”

Global network for supporting science and innovation

Salehi has proposed the establishment of a “Global Network of Patrons of Science” alongside the network of scientists that the foundation has worked to build over the years.

“Just as the Foundation has spent years working to build a network of scientists across

the Muslim world, we should now establish a global network of patrons of science alongside it,” Salehi said.

“I have said many times that knowledge and ideas cannot be confined to a particular geography, and scientific progress cannot take place without interaction and exchange among scientists. The Mustafa Prize was established from the outset with precisely this vision in mind: to connect the scientific capacities of the Muslim world with the international scientific community.”

“If the production and exchange of knowledge can be global, why shouldn't support for science be global as well?” he added. “Alongside a network of scientists, we can create a network of people who want to contribute to scientific progress.”

The key question, Salehi said, is how to make it easier for an individual anywhere in the world to support science by contributing to a young scientist or a specific research project.

New financial technologies and digital assets, he noted, can help reduce some of the geographical barriers to international participation. “We want to put these capabilities at the service of science,” he said.

“Imagine a credible project in areas such as cancer treatment, water, energy, artificial intelligence, or other cutting-edge technologies that needs funding. Instead of simply making a payment to an institution, an individual could know exactly what problem they are supporting, which research team is working on it, and what the intended objective is.”

Salehi described the initial motivation behind the initiative as supporting defined scientific projects involving Muslim countries through financial contributions from individuals around the world.

“If this happens, the financing of science itself could become a tool for building networks and advancing scientific diplomacy,” he said.

Tehran, Hanoi discuss ways to bolster scientific cooperation

TEHRAN — Ehsan Qaboul, head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology's Center for International Scientific Cooperation, and Nguyen Luong Ngoc, Vietnam's ambassador to Iran, have discussed opportunities to strengthen and expand scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

During a meeting on Monday, the two sides stressed the importance of expanding academic exchanges, including through student exchange programs and establishing a Persian language chair in Vietnam.

Praising Iran's technological capabilities, Luong Ngoc said that despite decades of sanctions, Iran has made significant advances in the technology sector, describing the country's achievements as an inspiration for Vietnam, IRNA reported.

Underlining the high capabilities of both parties in biomedicine, nanotechnology, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and advanced agriculture, he suggested fostering ties in these sectors.

“Vietnam is the world's second-largest rice exporter, shipping between six and seven million tons of rice annually,” the ambassador said, adding that Vietnam is ready to share its expertise and experience in advanced agricultural practices with Iran.

He also called for renewing and expanding a previously signed memorandum of understanding between the University of Tehran and Hanoi National University of Education, noting that a delegation from the Vietnamese university is planning to visit Tehran.

“Hanoi National University has a Persian language teaching department, which can lay the basis for the exchange of students and professors,” he further noted.

The Persian official, for his part, noted that a draft of a memorandum of understanding between the science ministries of the two countries has been developed and sent to Vietnam to be signed in the near future.

He proposed that Iranian and Vietnamese academic advisors jointly supervise the dissertations of 20 Iranian Ph.D. students, with their research focusing on shared ecosystems.

He also announced Iran's readiness to estab-

lish a Persian language chair in one of the top universities of Vietnam, noting that Vietnam is welcome to launch a language chair in Iran.

To facilitate Vietnam's students majoring in Iran, Qaboul said that the country would grant 10 scholarships in all majors to post-graduate Vietnamese students to study in Iran.

Referring to the high capacities of 58 science and technology parks operating in the country, the official went on to propose holding online B2B meetings between the technology parks of the two nations, highlighting that Vietnam can benefit from Iran's experience in water management, smart agriculture, and food security.

Expanding ties in AI, IT

In June, Iranian and Vietnamese officials discussed ways to expand collaborative efforts in AI and information technology (IT).

During a meeting held between the head of the Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) Institute, Mohammad-Hossein Sheikh, and Luong Ngoc, the two sides highlighted the importance of developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to facilitate sharing expertise, and boosting ties among research centers of the two countries.

For his part, Luong Ngoc said that the two sides need to get familiar with the capacities and capabilities of each other, noting that sharing experiences and knowledge in AI sector, available products, and technological capabilities will lay the ground for the expansion of collaborations.

Referring to ICT sector in Vietnam, the official said three main groups including specialized centers, universities, and IT companies are operating in the sector. He also voiced the readiness of Vietnamese Embassy to provide the Institute with information about relevant research centers.

For his part, Sheikh highlighted the capacities of ICT Institute, and announced the Institute's willingness to develop scientific and research cooperation with counterpart centers and institutes in Vietnam.

Vietnamese official proposed to introduce an ICT expert to serve as a liaison between the two countries to expedite interactions between research institutes.

From rainwater to figs: Estahban's tradition of sustainable cultivation



Fars province in southern Iran, home to more than 75% of the country's fig cultivars and around 17% of the world's, is one of the most important centers of rainfed fig production.

Among its key regions, Estahban holds a special place, with approximately 2.6 million fig trees cultivated across 25,950 hectares, making it one of the world's leading centers for rain-

fed fig production.

For more than 250 years, Estahban's gardeners have passed down their knowledge and experience from one generation to the next. Their expertise in traditional fig cultivation, combined with innovative water-management practices, has helped sustain the region's orchards in a challenging, water-scarce environment.

Their unique methods for cap-

turing and efficiently using rainwater not only improve water use but also help protect the soil, reduce erosion, and maintain the long-term sustainability of the orchards.

These traditional yet sustainable practices show the important contribution of Estahban's gardeners to preserving and continuing the development of rainfed fig production, both in

Iran and around the world.

Rainfed fig cultivation plays a vital economic and social role in the region, providing livelihoods for thousands of families, directly and indirectly, and even providing food for both domestic and wild animals. Communities from the county's main city regularly spend a month or more in the fig gardens each year, helping to pick the fruit.



SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Failures are often the results of timidity and fears;
disappointments are the results of bashfulness; hours of
leisure pass away like summer-clouds, therefore, do not
waste opportunity of doing good.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 18:40 Dawn: 4:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:42 (tomorrow)

Saadi Foundation launches international competition “20 Words, One Text”

TEHRAN- Marking the National Day of Persian Poetry and Literature, September 18, the Saadi Foundation is organizing the international competition “20 Words, One Text” to celebrate the Persian language and literature, engaging Persian learners and enthusiasts worldwide.

According to the Saadi Foundation's Public Relations Office, Persian learners and enthusiasts globally can compose a short piece using a designated list of words and submit it as a video recording to the event's secretariat, IRNA reported.

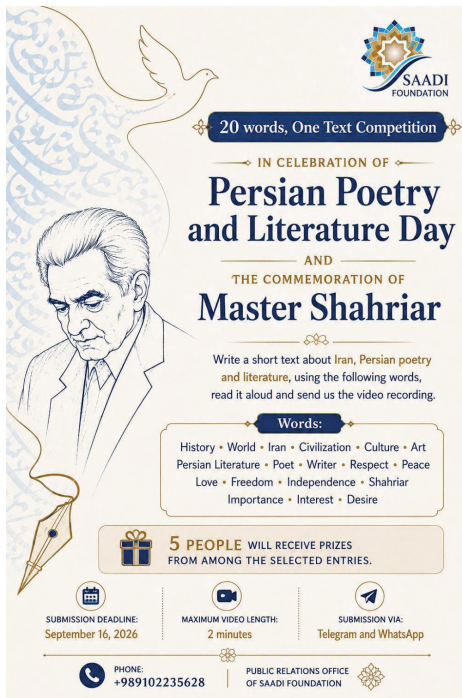
Participants are required to craft and recite a Persian text about Iran, Persian poetry, and literature using the following words: history, world, Iran, civilization, culture, art, Persian literature, poet, author, respect, peace, love, freedom, affection, independence, Shahriar, importance, enthusiast, and wish.

Guidelines set by the secretariat state that entries must be recorded vertically and run for a maximum of two minutes in Persian. Participants must say their name and country of residence at the start of the video.

The submission deadline is September 17. Following an evaluation of all entries, five winners will be announced and awarded prizes.

Saadi Foundation was founded in 2012, laying the groundwork for teaching and learning Persian language worldwide. The foundation has promoted Persian by compiling the methods and standards of teaching and learning the language. In addition to face-to-face and online courses in and from Iran, the foundation has more than 40 centers across the world to teach the students of the language.

Now after more than a decade, the foundation serves as a bridge, connecting non-Iranians to Iranians and Iran, an ancient country whose civi-



lization has always been an important subject of study for orientalist and Iranologists. No study on culture and civilization is possible without knowing the language.

Persian is an old classical language. It has stood the test of time, especially through its rich literature. Many non-Iranians have developed a love for this more than 1,000-year-old literature and become enthusiastic to learn the language to read masterpieces by poets and authors such as Ferdowsi, Omar Khayyam, Attar of Nishapur, Hafez, Rumi, Abu'l-Fadl Bayhaqi and Saadi Shirazi in Persian. Saadi Foundation has always been the best place for culture lovers to learn Persian over the past decade.

Cartoon of Day



Trump

Cartoonist: Masoud Shojai Tabatabai from Iran

Turkish Ambassador named honorary member of Persian Language Academy

TEHRAN- Turkish Ambassador to Iran Hicabi Kirlangic has been named an honorary member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature in recognition of his longstanding scholarly contributions to Persian language and literature and his efforts to promote cultural ties between Iran and Türkiye.

The honorary membership decree was presented to Kirlangic on Sunday during a meeting with Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, head of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, in Tehran.

Haddad-Adel praised the Turkish ambassador's valuable efforts to strengthen relations between Iran and Türkiye, particularly his academic contributions to Persian language and literature and his translations of classical and contemporary Persian works.

He highlighted Kirlangic's Turkish translations of major works of Persian literature, including Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi's masterpiece Masnavi-ye Manavi and Saadi's Bustan and Gulistan, as well as his complete translation of the Divan of Hafez into Istanbul Turkish.

"These translations have helped introduce Persian literature to a wider audience in Türkiye," Haddad-Adel said, adding that the academy had selected



Kirlangic as an honorary member in recognition of his scholarly work in teaching and researching Persian language and literature and translating Iran's classical and contemporary literary works.

Haddad-Adel also said that the Iranian Embassy in Türkiye had been asked to organize a scholarly gathering attended by Persian language scholars and enthusiasts to formally present the honorary membership decree and convey the appreciation of Iran's academic and literary community for Kirlangic's lasting contributions.

Kirlangic expressed his gratitude for being admitted as an honorary member of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature, describing the distinction as a source of great pride.

Referring to the conclusion of his tenure as Türkiye's ambassador to Iran, Kirlangic said that upon returning to Türkiye, he would serve as "an ambassador of Iranian literature and culture."

The Turkish diplomat also referred to his ongoing scholarly activities, saying he has been working for several years on translating Rumi's Divan-e

Shams into Istanbul Turkish.

"I hope that I can complete this scholarly service to the Persian and Turkish languages as soon as possible," he said.

Born in 1966, Kirlangic is a professor of Persian language and literature at Ankara University, as well as a poet and translator. In addition to teaching Persian and training numerous students in the field, he has translated several major Persian literary works into Istanbul Turkish, including Jami's Subhat al-Abrar, and "One Hundred Years of Fiction Writing in Iran".

170 short films vie at 15th International 100-Second Film Festival

TEHRAN- A total of 170 films have been selected to compete in the main section of the 15th edition of the International 100-Second Film Festival, with the works set to be screened at the main halls of the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization in Tehran from September 15 to 18.

The selected works include 36 films in the national section, 29 in the international section, and 105 films in the special "For Homeland" category.

Among the films selected for the international competition are "Nao Esquece" by Lucas Eduardo, "The Second that Stopped" by Mohammad Mehdi Qasemi and "Point of View" by Belal Ashur, which will compete alongside other selected entries for the



festival's awards.

The national competition features works by Ebrahim Moradi, Saeid Sajedi, Yasin Pourazizi, Ali Rostamabadi, and Hanieh Sadeqi.

Meanwhile, the special "For Homeland" section includes works by Zeinab Zamanian, Mo-

haddeseh Vahidi, Ali Masoudi and Bahman Rezaei.

Under the direction of Mohaddeseh Pirhadi, the 15th edition of the International 100-Second Film Festival will center its thematic focus on three primary categories, including "Battle for

the Future," "Battle for the Children of the World," and "Battle for the Homeland."

The festival is renowned for its stringent time constraints, which challenge creators to deliver a complete and impactful narrative within a very limited window.

Since its inception, the festival has served as a prestigious platform for discovering new talents and experimenting with the art of the short, pushing the boundaries of how much emotion and information can be conveyed in a few fleeting seconds. The upcoming edition promises to be a diverse gathering of international perspectives, reflecting the shared struggles and hopes of humanity through the lens of a camera.

Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform pieces by Mozart



TEHRAN - The Tehran Symphony Orchestra will perform at the concert "Figaro," featuring works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

and conducted by Nasir Heidarian, in Tehran.

The orchestra will take the stage on September 15 and 16

at Vahdat Hall. The program is dedicated to the performance of three works by Mozart, IRNA reported.

"Figaro" is part of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra's ongoing performance schedule for this year and will feature the "Marriage of Figaro Overture," "Piano Concerto No. 12 in A Major," and "Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major," all of which are well-known works by Mozart.

In the performance of "Piano Concerto No. 12," Anisa Yazdaniyan, a teenage artist and pianist, will perform as a soloist alongside the Tehran Symphony Orchestra.

This program serves as an opportunity to hear three works from the classical music period

and experience Mozart's musical world performed by one of the country's most veteran orchestras—works that, while differing in structure and expression, offer a picture of the diversity and scope of Mozart's compositions.

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1933, is Iran's oldest and largest symphony orchestra. It was founded as the Municipality Symphony Orchestra by Gholamhossein Minbashian, before entering its modern form under Parviz Mahmoud in 1946.

In the years that followed, conductors such as Rubik (Ruben) Gregorian, Morteza Hannaneh, Haymo Taeuber, Heshmat Sanjari, Farhad Meshkat, and Fereydon Nasserri took over as the conductors of the orchestra.

IAF screens Jacques Tati's "Playtime"

TEHRAN - The Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran screened the 1967 satirical comedy "Playtime" directed and co-written by Jacques Tati on Monday.

The film was shown at the Nasserri Hall of the IAF and was followed by a review session in the presence of the film critic Mohsen Kheymehdooz.

"Playtime" is set in a hyperconsumerist mid-century modern Paris. The story is structured in six sequences, linked by two characters who repeatedly encounter one another over the course of a day: Barbara, a young American tourist visiting Paris with an

American tourist group, and Monsieur Hulot, a befuddled Frenchman lost in the city.

Tati also stars in the film, reprising the role of Monsieur Hulot from his earlier films "Les Vacances de Monsieur Hulot" (1953) and "Mon Oncle" (1958). However, Tati grew ambivalent towards playing Hulot as a recurring central role during production, and he appears intermittently in "Playtime," alternating between central and supporting roles.

Shot on 70 mm film, the work is notable for its enormous set, which Tati had built specially for the film, as well as Tati's trademark use of subtle yet complex visual comedy sup-

ported by creative sound effects. The film's dialogue, variously in French, English, and German, is frequently reduced to the level of background noise.

While it was a commercial failure on its original release, "Playtime" is retrospectively considered Tati's magnum opus, his most daring work, and one of the greatest films of all time.

In 2022, "Playtime" was voted 23rd on the British Film Institute's critics' list and 41st in their directors' list of "Top 100 Greatest Films of All Time".