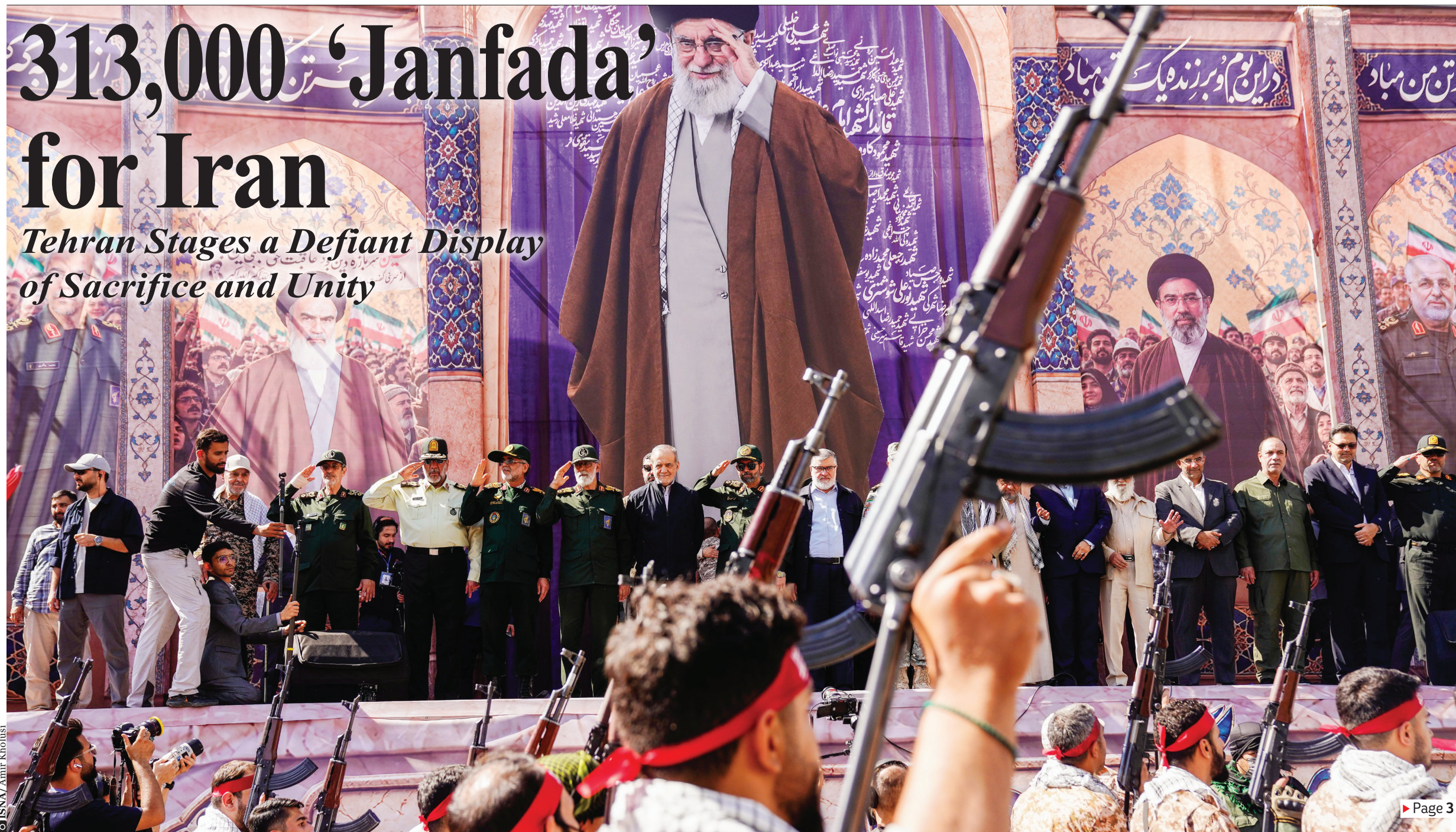


313,000 'Janfada' for Iran

Tehran Stages a Defiant Display of Sacrifice and Unity



► Page 3

Royan Institute achieves global milestone in regenerative medicine with WhartoCell

TEHRAN – Iran has taken a major step forward in regenerative medicine with the approval of WhartoCell, an allogeneic stem cell therapy developed by researchers at Royan Institute to treat osteoarthritis.

The achievement was also highlighted by MedPath, an international platform specializing in medical information, clinical trials, and healthcare technologies, putting the spotlight on Royan Institute's contribution to this scientific and technological breakthrough.

According to Mehdi Lotfipanah, Director of Public Relations and International Affairs at Royan Institute, the therapy is designed to reduce inflammation, support cartilage regeneration, ► [Page 7](#)

Denying Palestinians visas for UN summit contravenes peace and statehood

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Just like last year, the U.S. State Department has barred the Palestinian Authority delegation, including President Mahmoud Abbas, to attend the UN General Assembly in New York next week.

This move by the Trump administration comes as Palestine is recognized by 157 UN member states, more than 80 percent of the organization's members.

The decision shows that the U.S., in close cooperation with Israel, is standing against the will of the international community for Palestinian diplomatic representation and statehood. ► [Page 5](#)

Yemen denounces Saudi allegations of targeting Mecca

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – Ansarallah leader Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi has strongly rejected accusations by Saudi Arabia that Yemeni Armed Forces targeted the holy city of Mecca.

Sayyed al-Houthi stressed that the accusation is misleading, a major lie, slander, falsehood, and the "lie of the age." He emphasized that "the land of faith and the Yemeni people cannot target holy sites or accept attacks against them. Rather, they would sacrifice their lives and wealth to protect Mecca and the holy sites." In a speech, Sayyed al-Houthi said that Saudi Arabia is using its media capabilities to distort the picture, justify its crimes, drag others into the aggression, and conceal its failures and setbacks on the battlefield. ► [Page 5](#)

15 nations call for ban on attacks against peaceful nuclear facilities

TEHRAN — Fifteen countries, including Iran, China and Russia, have called for a clear and unequivocal prohibition on attacks or threats of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities operating under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, warning that silence over such actions could undermine international law and erode the credibility of the global nuclear safeguards regime.

In a joint statement issued on Thursday during the 70th General Conference of the IAEA in Vienna, the 15 countries stressed that nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes and subject to international safeguards must never be targeted or threatened with attack. ► [Page 3](#)

South Korea rebuffs Trump: No troops for US war on Iran

TEHRAN — In a decisive stance reflecting growing domestic anti-war sentiment and strategic prudent realism, South Korean President Lee Jae-myung announced on Friday that Seoul will not deploy its armed forces to join the US war against Iran, effectively rejecting escalating demands from Washington to entangle the East Asian nation in its Middle Eastern conflict.

Speaking at a news conference in Seoul, President Lee stated in unambiguous terms that South Korea will not participate in combat operations or allow its military assets to be dragged into Washington's military campaign.

"There won't be deployment that would involve or enter war. I can tell you that very clearly," Lee told reporters. "We won't deploy military assets in any form to that end." ► [Page 2](#)

Dep. FM: US cannot escape war crimes responsibility by leaving UN Rights Council

TEHRAN — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi has said the United States cannot avoid responsibility for war crimes in Iran simply by withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council.

In a post on X on Friday, Gharibabadi referred to a recent report by a UN-backed fact-finding mission that examined two deadly US strikes on civilian sites in Iran. He said the attacks on a primary school in Minab and a sports complex in Lamerd were now being recognized as "clear war crimes," rather than being dismissed as operational errors.

"History will not forget," Gharibabadi wrote, referring to the February 28 attack on Shajareh Tayyebah Primary School in Minab, in southern Hormozgan Province. Iranian authorities have said 168 people were killed in the strike, many of them children. ► [Page 3](#)



Minab children's unfinished dreams live on in paintings

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN– There are exhibitions that can be visited, and there are exhibitions that stay with you long after you have left. The group painting exhibition dedicated to the martyred children of Minab belongs to the latter.

Walking through the gallery, the first impression is not of an ordinary art show. The walls are filled with paintings that speak of children, schools, dreams and lives that ended before they had the chance to fully begin. The colors, faces and empty spaces in the works carry a sadness that is difficult to separate from the reality behind them.

The paintings do not simply tell the story of a tragedy. They create an atmosphere of absence — the absence of children who should have been preparing for another school day, another lesson and another ordinary morning. ► [Page 8](#)

End of the 'unipolar order': Sino-Russian vetoes deal a blow to US Iran sanctions push

TEHRAN – The United Nations Security Council on Thursday failed to adopt a US-drafted resolution that would have extended the mandate of a panel of experts monitoring sanctions on Iran, after China and Russia vetoed the measure.

The draft received 11 votes in favor, with China and Russia voting against and two members abstaining. It sought to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts supporting the 1737 Iran Sanctions Committee until September 2027.

The committee and its expert panel had been suspended under Security Council Resolution 2231, adopted in 2015 to endorse the Iran nuclear deal. The UK, France and Germany last year triggered a "snapback" mechanism, arguing that the move restored previous UN sanctions and revived the committee and its expert panel. ► [Page 2](#)

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

America's strategy: lower costs and remote management

The Iran newspaper analyzed the United States' current regional strategy. According to the paper, regardless of the outcome of the war with Iran, Washington appears intent on reducing its security commitments and costs in the region. The formation of agreements such as the Mecca Pact can be interpreted within this framework. At the same time, the US is increasingly focused on containing China and the Asia-Pacific, preferring to manage regional developments remotely rather than through direct presence. Within this approach, the US seeks to turn the region into a space where rivals such as Iran, Russia, and China incur greater costs, rather than a theater for Washington's own direct and expensive intervention. Rising energy costs for China and Europe are also seen as outcomes that could benefit the US. From this perspective, the naval blockade can be understood as a measure aimed at increasing pressure and gradually eroding Iran—pressure pursued without dragging the US into a large-scale, costly war.

Ettelaat: Tehran's role in the emerging global economic order

Ettelaat examined President Pezeshkian's participation in the 18th BRICS Summit in India. His presence—amid the US and Israeli-imposed war against Iran—offered a significant opportunity to strengthen Iran's position within a multipolar order, expand economic diplomacy, and present a strong, active, constructive image of the country. The success of this engagement depends on internal coordination, managing expectations, focusing on practical projects, and reinforcing a positive, hopeful discourse. The event can be viewed as a “victory for development diplomacy.” Global gatherings such as BRICS, which bring together major and emerging powers from several continents, provide an ideal platform for expressing Iran's stance regarding the imposed conflict. While appreciating BRICS' statement condemning US and Israeli military aggression against Iran, the paper argues that Iran must

make optimal use of this opportunity—especially in economic and financial domains.

Arman-e-Melli: A highly significant trip to Beijing

Arman-e-Melli highlighted the importance of Abbas Araghchi's trip to Beijing amid regional tensions. According to the paper, what matters in analyzing current developments is this visit by Iran's foreign minister. Given that Saudi Arabia canceled the planned Oman meeting, many analysts link Beijing's selection as the destination to China's potential mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Whether these two matters are directly connected remains speculative, but China has adopted principled positions on regional developments in recent months. For this reason, some believe China may soon engage directly and effectively in regional dynamics.

Ham-Mihan: Failure in the Muscat meeting

Ham-Mihan, in an interview with foreign policy analyst Mohsen Jalilvand, explored the reasons behind the failure to hold the Muscat meeting. He argues it was clear from the outset that such a meeting would either not convene or, if held, would produce no tangible results—because the main actors, especially the United States and Israel, were absent from the negotiating table. Even if Tehran and Muscat reached a bilateral agreement on navigation protocols, the absence of defined and enforceable military deterrence boundaries or maritime transit arrangements means no deep strategic shift would occur. The international significance of the Strait of Hormuz stems from the fact that any change in its status is directly tied to the balance of power between Iran and the US, as well as broader Middle Eastern security dynamics. Although Persian Gulf states suffer the greatest economic vulnerability from shipping insecurity, they do not hold the final decision-making leverage. Therefore, technical agreements between Tehran and Muscat alone cannot resolve the current deadlock.

'US restrictions on Iranian officials in New York are propagandistic'

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei has criticized Washington for restrictions imposed on Iranian officials attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York, contrasting the measures with broader economic pressure and sanctions on Iran.

“Washington still seems to assume that nations have neither memory nor the capacity for critical thought,” Baqaei wrote in a post on X on Friday, accusing the United States of treating the international community as though it were a “hive” in which people simply accept Washington's narrative.

“Washington treats the world as if it were Pluribus: a hive in which minds are expected to switch off, eyes lock onto Washington's lips, and its narrative is swallowed whole,” the spokesman added.

Baqaei was referring to US restrictions on Iranian officials' access to wholesale shopping clubs and purchases of goods during their stay in New York for UN-related activities. Recent US measures bar Iranian officials covered by the restrictions from holding memberships in wholesale clubs and require authorization for certain luxury purchases.

The Iranian spokesman contrasted those measures with Washington's “brutal economic war” against Iran, saying it was designed to inflict “maximum pain and suffering” on Iranian citizens.

“On one side stands a brutal economic war, deliberately designed to inflict maximum pain and suffering on every Iranian citizen. On the other stands the theatrical announcement of measures to stop Iranian officials from supposedly shopping at an American wholesale club,” he wrote.

Baqaei said Washington was overlooking



the impact of sanctions on Iran's economy while issuing statements about restrictions on access to a shopping-club membership.

“They look past the sanctioning of an entire nation's livelihood, then issue solemn statements about the sanctioning of a store membership card,” he said.

He further described the US measures as “propaganda,” arguing that they demonstrated the “naivety” of the mindset behind Washington's policies toward Iran.

Baqaei also accused the United States of having launched what he termed an “unlawful war of choice” against Iran and said Washington had consequently been placed in an “embarrassing position.”

The post was accompanied by a video highlighting the contrast between the US restrictions on Iranian officials' shopping in New York and broader US economic measures against Iran.

The dispute comes as Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and other senior Iranian officials have been granted permission to travel to New York for the upcoming UN General Assembly. The US administration has said the Iranian delegation will face strict travel and purchasing restrictions during its stay.

South Korea rebuffs Trump: No troops for US war on Iran

From page 1 ▶ However, the South Korean leader noted that his administration is currently reviewing potential non-combat measures limited strictly to safeguarding commercial navigation and energy supply lines in the region. Seoul currently maintains a naval footprint off the coast of Somalia dedicated to anti-piracy missions, a model some officials have suggested could be adapted to protect South Korean flag-ships.

“[It] is also clear that we must do the minimum as other countries do to protect our commercial shipping and crude shipments, and also the safety of our people,” Lee added, attempting to balance domestic political pressure against Washington's persistent arm-twisting.

The official refusal from Seoul comes amidst heightened friction between the long-standing military allies. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized South Korea for what he characterized as insufficient support for Washington's war effort against Tehran. In an apparent retributive move that has alarmed defense analysts in Seoul, the Trump administration recently scaled back major joint military exercises between US and South Korean forces.

Despite Washington's economic and military leverage, Seoul's refusal underscores the severe domestic and geopolitical constraints facing South Korean policymakers as they navigate the fallout from the US-Israeli war of aggression in West Asia.

Widespread domestic opposition in Seoul

President Lee's firm statement follows weeks of intense domestic backlash and mounting public outrage across South Korea. Defense authorities in Seoul had previously disclosed that a specialized fact-finding



mission had been dispatched to assess maritime conditions around the strategic Strait of Hormuz—a move that triggered immediate alarm among civil society groups and anti-war activists.

Earlier this month, dozens of South Korean anti-war activists, civil society leaders, and ordinary citizens gathered directly across from the massive United States embassy compound in central Seoul. Demonstrators fiercely condemned Washington's pressure on their government, framing the US campaign against Iran as an “illegal war” of aggression.

Unfurling banners and holding signs reading “Do not join a war of aggression,” the protesters voiced deep indignation over indications that political and military leaders in Seoul were contemplating a military “contribution” to the waterway's security at the behest of the White House.

Directing their chants toward the presidential office, the crowd echoed a resounding plea reflecting broad public sentiment against foreign military entanglements: “We cannot

send our young people into a sea of death!”

While defense spokespersons in Seoul attempted to cool public anger by maintaining that no final deployment decision had been made, the public outcry highlighted the immense political cost any military compliance with Washington would entail for the South Korean government.

Tehran's firm warnings against coercion

The prospect of South Korean military involvement in the Persian Gulf had drawn strong and explicit warnings from diplomatic authorities in Tehran, who made it clear that any foreign intervention alongside hostile American forces would carry severe economic and diplomatic consequences.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei repeatedly emphasized that any operational involvement by third countries in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz would be viewed as direct participation in US aggression.

In a detailed statement published in the Korean language

on his official X account on September 7, Baghaei highlighted the historic depth of bilateral relations between Tehran and Seoul. He noted that Iran and South Korea have maintained diplomatic and economic ties for more than 64 years, built upon a solid foundation of mutual respect and constructive cooperation. Tehran, he reiterated, has consistently attached high value to its friendly bonds with the South Korean people.

However, the Iranian spokesman clearly delineated the boundaries of peaceful engagement amid Washington's blatant violations of international law. Baghaei stressed that the Iranian nation is exercising its inherent right to self-defense against acts of aggression and responding decisively to US war crimes targeting civilians.

Under such fraught circumstances, Baghaei warned, any operational participation or military presence by foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz would constitute direct support for the aggressor.

Urging South Korean policymakers to maintain an independent foreign policy aligned with international law and long-term national interests rather than American adventurism, the spokesman emphasized that responsible nations must resist foreign coercion.

“No sovereign and responsible country will submit to US pressure and blackmail to collude in committing acts of aggression and heinous crimes against the great Iranian nation,” Baghaei pointed out.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

End of the ‘unipolar order’: Sino-Russian vetoes deal a blow to US Iran sanctions push

From page 1 ▶ China and Russia dispute the validity of the snapback and said that Resolution 2231 expired in October 2025, meaning the previous sanctions regime and its subsidiary bodies were not restored.

“Security Council Resolution 2231 expired on Oct 18, 2025, and the Security Council has ended its consideration of the Iranian nuclear issue,” Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN, told the Council.

“Disregarding these facts, forcing through the restoration of sanctions against Iran in the Security Council, and putting forward an obviously controversial draft resolution will only undermine the unity and credibility of the Council and create obstacles to diplomatic effort,” Fu said, adding that China firmly opposed the move.

Fu said that as the situation in the Middle East and negotiations on the Iranian nuclear issue “remain deeply deadlocked,” the Security Council should “play a constructive role in promoting negotiations and easing tensions, rather than becoming a platform for individual members to engage in political confrontation and exert pressure.”

Fu said China calls on the countries con-

cerned to fully implement the measures related to the “Termination Day” under Resolution 2231, “uphold the authority of the Security Council and the credibility of multilateral diplomacy, and create the necessary conditions for a political solution to the Iranian nuclear issue.”

The dispute over the snapback has effectively paralyzed the committee since its purported restoration last year. The Council has been unable to agree on a chair for the committee, preventing it from convening and conducting substantive work.

France, which holds the rotating Security Council presidency for September, convened a briefing last week on the work of the 1737 Iran Sanctions Committee. China and Russia opposed holding the meeting, but the Council adopted the provisional agenda by 11 votes in favor to two against, with two abstentions.

“The president of the Security Council should also respect the concerns of all parties, promote greater unity and cooperation within the Council and enable it to play its proper role, while avoiding actions that could further aggravate differences and divisions,” Fu said.

Fu said the immediate priority amid the con-



flikt in the Middle East is to urge the parties concerned to remain calm and exercise restraint, cease the use or threat of force, ease tensions, and create the necessary conditions for the parties to restore and implement a ceasefire, return to negotiations and reach a peace agreement, “thereby safeguarding peace and stability in the Middle East and beyond.”

Russia also weighed in, with Vassily Nebenzia, Russia's UN Ambassador, telling the Council after the vote: “We strongly urge western colleagues to stop their very dangerous actions on the Iran front, which threaten further complication of settling the crisis in the Persian Gulf.”

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

India's new ambassador to Iran meets deputy FM to advance ties

TEHRAN — India's Ambassador-designate to Iran, Vishwesh Negi, met with Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi on Wednesday to discuss strengthening mutual cooperation between Tehran and New Delhi.

Regarding the meeting, the Indian embassy in Tehran posted on X: “H.E. Shri Vishwesh Negi, Ambassador designate of India to Iran, was glad to call on H.E. Dr. Takht Ravanchi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran. As H.E. Shri Negi begins his tenure, both sides exchanged perspectives on taking forward the India -

Iran cooperation framework.”

Earlier this month, Ambassador Negi met with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran to present a copy of his credentials, during which he reaffirmed India's commitment to further strengthening ties between the two nations.

Negi is a seasoned diplomat with extensive experience in political, security, and multilateral affairs. His career includes previous diplomatic assignments in Tehran, Rome, and London, as well as senior roles at India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), where he managed



portfolios covering Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, the United Nations, and the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, he brings significant

expertise in defense diplomacy, having served as Joint Secretary for International Cooperation at India's Ministry of Defense.

313,000 “Janfada” for Iran

Tehran stages a defiant display of sacrifice and unity

By Mahmoud Mahmoudian Ravi

TEHRAN — From Imam Hussein Square to Enghelab Square, Tehran's streets on Friday became the setting for one of the largest public mobilizations seen in Iran since the war began in February. Hundreds of thousands of people took part in the “Janfada-ye Iran” — Devoted to Iran — campaign, with women, young people, veterans and other sections of society joining a 313,000-strong parade, according to Iranian organizers.

The scale of the gathering was matched by the symbolism surrounding it. Participants marched under Iranian flags, military banners and images associated with the country's wartime resistance. Iranian drones and other military equipment were displayed along the route, while veterans of the Sacred Defense and volunteers in military-style formations took part in the parade. Some participants wore white burial shrouds — a stark traditional symbol of readiness to give one's life for the country.

The photographs from Tehran captured the atmosphere from different angles. In one image, a woman in camouflage and a green headband is seen positioned beside a vehicle, looking through the sight of a rifle. In another, a woman with her face partially covered by a patterned scarf holds an assault rifle while other women stand behind her amid Iranian and other flags. The images offer a striking visual of the campaign's central message: that the call to defend the country is being presented not solely through conventional military formations, but also through the participation of civilians, including women.

313,000: A number loaded with history

The choice of 313,000 is not simply a numerical designation.

In Islamic tradition, 313 is associated with the companions of the Prophet Muhammad at the Battle of Badr in 624 CE and, in Shiite tradition, with the number of devoted companions associated with the Imam of the Age. For the organizers of Friday's event, the number therefore carries a religious and historical meaning of steadfastness, loyalty and readiness to stand with a cause at a moment of crisis.

That symbolism was visible throughout the rally. The parade was not presented merely as a military exercise but as a public declaration of readiness, with participants repeatedly invoking the ideas of homeland, independence, national unity and sacrifice.

According to Gen. Hassan Hasanzadeh, commander of the Greater Tehran Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), around 500,000 people had registered in Tehran for the initiative. Iranian organizers have separately said that more than 31 million people have registered nationwide, while other Iranian reports put the cumulative figure above 32 million.

15 nations call for ban on attacks against peaceful nuclear facilities

From Page 1 ► They called on all IAEA member states to adopt a firm and unified position against such actions and to protect peaceful nuclear activities while safeguarding the credibility and integrity of the Agency's safeguards system.

The statement was endorsed by Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Nicaragua, Niger, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe.

The countries warned that failure to respond to attacks against safeguarded nuclear facilities would undermine established international norms and weaken the international legal order. They further cautioned that silence could contribute to the normalization of actions that pose serious risks to nuclear safety and security, as well as to human life



A rally born in wartime

What gives the Janfada campaign its particular character is the circumstances in which it has developed.

The campaign began on March 29, following the US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28, and has since evolved from a registration drive into a nationwide mobilization involving public gatherings, volunteer organization and preparations for training. Iranian officials say the volunteers are being organized into formations capable of contributing to national defense and other emergency tasks.

Friday's rally therefore came against the backdrop not of a distant or concluded war, but of an ongoing conflict, economic pressure and severe restrictions on Iran's trade and access to international markets. Recent reporting has also documented the effects of the US blockade and sanctions on Iran's economy and commercial routes.

This is an important distinction when placing the gathering in historical perspective. Across history, societies have mobilized around the idea of sacrifice when confronted by an existential military threat — from the Greek defenders at Thermopylae and the Soviet defense of Stalingrad to the French Resistance during World War II and Iran's own mass mobilization during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq War.

But Janfada is being organized under a different set of circumstances. It combines a modern state-wide registration campaign, social-media mobilization, religious symbolism, and military-style public exercises while the conflict itself is still unfolding and while the country is simultaneously confronting economic pressure.

It is this combination that has given the campaign much of its political and social significance inside Iran.

Women, youth and veterans in the same formation

The Friday parade also sought to project an image of participation across generations.

Women appeared prominently in the event, including women in military-style uniforms and others carrying rifles. Young people took part alongside veterans of the Sacred Defense. Newly engaged couples were also reported among the participants, while a Jewish rabbi and a Yemeni delegation wearing traditional

clothing were present, according to Iranian media reports.

President Masoud Pezeshkian, who attended the gathering, emphasized this diversity in his remarks. He described the turnout as a manifestation of the bond between the Iranian people and their homeland and stressed that “Iran belongs to all Iranians.” He called for unity and broad public participation in preserving ‘the country's dignity, independence and territorial integrity.’

The message was significant: the campaign was being presented not simply as a gathering of members of Iran's military or paramilitary organizations, but as a national mobilization cutting across different sections of society.

From the ‘Sacred Defense’ to a new generation

Iran's modern experience of mass mobilization is inseparable from the Iran-Iraq War, known in Iran as the Sacred Defense.

During that eight-year conflict, Iran mobilized large numbers of volunteers through the Basij and other wartime structures. For an entire generation, the experience



created a cultural vocabulary in which sacrifice, martyrdom, national defense and civilian participation became closely intertwined.

The Janfada campaign draws on that historical memory while speaking to a new generation.

The images from Tehran are particularly revealing in this respect. The rifles, uniforms and military vehicles evoke the visual language of wartime mobilization, while the presence of young people and women gives the event a distinctly contemporary character. The burial shrouds worn by some participants add another layer: rather than presenting sacrifice as an abstract concept, the participants were visually associating themselves

with the possibility of death in defense of their country.

A message beyond Tehran

The significance of Friday's gathering also extends beyond the capital.

Iranian officials have said that Janfada gatherings are taking place in cities across the country and that the campaign is moving toward the organization and training of volunteer units. Basij chief Hossein Taeb said the volunteers were being prepared for “full-fledged defense,” while Iranian reports said training programs were being developed across ground, air and naval domains.

The campaign has consequently become both a domestic mobilization and an international signal.

For Tehran, the message is that the country's capacity to organize people around national defense has not disappeared under the weight of war, sanctions and economic pressure. The government is presenting the turnout as evidence of national resilience and social cohesion.

When a nation says it is ready

The most powerful element of Friday's scenes may not have been the military hardware displayed along Tehran's streets. It was the human presence surrounding it.

A woman holding a rifle. A veteran marches beside younger volunteers. Families moving through the crowd. Participants wearing burial shrouds. Flags rising above a sea of people stretching through one of Tehran's historic arteries.

For Iran, the language of Janfa-



da reaches deep into a historical memory in which the survival of the homeland has repeatedly been associated with endurance and sacrifice.

Yet this time the setting is different. The pledge is being made while war is still being fought, while economic pressure is intensifying.

That is what makes the September 18 rally more than a single day's parade. It is the latest chapter in a campaign that seeks to transform the idea of sacrifice into an organized form of public participation — and to demonstrate, in the heart of Tehran, that the war has not removed the country's ability to mobilize large numbers of people around the defense of Iran.

Iran has made the protection of safeguarded nuclear facilities a major issue in international forums following attacks on its nuclear infrastructure.

The statement carries particular significance for Iran following military strikes against several of the country's nuclear facilities.

According to IAEA documents, Israeli attacks between June 13 and 24, 2025 affected several Iranian nuclear facilities, while the United States subsequently carried out strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites on June 22. The attacks led the IAEA to suspend its field verification and monitoring activities in Iran and withdraw its inspectors for safety reasons.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Dep. FM: US cannot escape war crimes responsibility by leaving UN Rights Council

From Page 1 ► He also referred to the US attack on a sports complex in Lamerd, Fars Province, which the UN investigation said killed 22 civilians.

“The United States cannot escape responsibility by withdrawing from the Human Rights Council,” Gharibabadi said.

UN mission examines two US strikes

Gharibabadi's comments followed the release of a report by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, which was established by the UN Human Rights Council.

The mission said it had “reasonable grounds” to believe that US forces were responsible for two attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure that amounted to war crimes under international law.

One of the cases concerned the strike on Shajareh Tayyebah Primary School in Minab. Investigators said the school was clearly identifiable as a civilian facility and found no evidence that it was being used for military purposes when it was hit.

The investigators pointed to features including school signs; murals designed for children and playground areas as evidence of the site's civilian character. They said the United States had failed to take all feasible measures to determine whether the school was a military objective before carrying out the attack.

The second case involved a US strike on a sports complex and nearby residential areas in Lamerd.

Investigators said the weapons used in the attack dispersed tungsten pellets over a wide area. Based on the evidence examined, the mission concluded that the attack was indiscriminate and amounted to a war crime.

The report is due to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

US withdrawal from Human Rights Council

The UN findings came shortly before Washington announced its formal withdrawal from the Human Rights Council.

The US State Department said on Thursday that Washington had ended its membership and participation in the council, accusing the body of promoting what it described as “an-



ti-American rhetoric” and of taking an overly accommodating approach toward governments, as the US says, accused of repressing their populations.

The United States had already announced that it would not seek future membership of the council as part of a broader policy of reducing its participation in several UN bodies.

Washington's decision came as the council was holding its 63rd regular session in Geneva, which began on September 7 and is scheduled to continue through October 7.

For Iranian officials, however, leaving the council does not settle the question raised by the UN investigation.

Gharibabadi argued that withdrawal from an international institution cannot remove a state's responsibility for conduct that may violate international law. His comments also reflect Tehran's broader criticism of ‘the selective application of international law and human rights standards.’

Minab school strike draws int'l scrutiny

The Minab school attack has become a particularly sensitive issue in Iran because of the high number of children reported to have been among those killed.

The UN investigation claimed the school was near a military installation but was physically separate from it. Investigators said the characteristics of the site should have made its civilian status apparent.

The mission reviewed satellite imagery, video footage, witness accounts and other material as part of its investigation. It also said it had sought information from the United States.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Scott Ritter warns of impending US economic collapse and exposes NATO military vulnerabilities

TEHRAN — The latest joint X Space hosted by Tehran Times and Sputnik featured former UN weapons inspector and US Marine intelligence officer Scott Ritter, who warned of an impending structural collapse within the American economic system driven by reckless foreign policies and soaring energy costs, while dismantling Western war narratives and exposing deep-seated military vulnerabilities across the United States and NATO.

Sputnik Question: Donald Trump stated last week that he is not happy about Ukrainian strikes against Russian energy infrastructure and wants them to stop because they are destabilizing to the global economy. Given that these attacks were enabled by intelligence from the CIA and tech companies like Google, Palantir, and Starlink, what explains his decision to explicitly oppose these strikes?

Scott Ritter Answer: Attempting to get into the mind of Donald Trump is impossible, as the Russian government has officially characterized him as emotionally unstable. He is currently under a tremendous amount of economic pressure driven by the rising price of oil, which he views as a primary indicator of American economic health. The price of oil and diesel is rising as a direct result of his own policies, which increases ground shipping costs and transfers those expenses directly to the American consumer. As James Carville famously warned Bill Clinton in 1992, “it's the economy, stupid!”—making economic performance the primary concern for American voters.

Trump knows very little about the specific operational details or goals of the conflicts he initiates; for instance, he took America to war in Iran based on a briefing by Benjamin Netanyahu and the head of the Mossad. When he authorized the CIA to pressure Vladimir

Putin, he did not understand what the CIA actually does—specifically that it has trained Ukrainian forces since 2014 for cross-border operations, assassinations, and long-range drone strikes. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent explicitly noted that the administration's goal is to collapse the Russian economy by targeting its energy infrastructure. While Trump may enjoy seeing war-porn briefings of burning Russian refineries, he fails to realize the global economic impact. Because Russia had to halt diesel exports to prioritize domestic consumption for harvesting machinery and trucking, a global diesel shortage emerged, pushing US diesel prices above \$6 per gallon. Trump understands these economic consequences because high fuel prices severely threaten his party at the upcoming November midterm elections.

Sputnik Question: What has been the response in the US establishment to Russia's retaliation strikes against Ukrainian ports, logistics warehouses, and rail infrastructure, and to what extent has this changed the calculus in Washington?

Scott Ritter Answer: Statements made by senior US government officials closely conform to narratives produced by Ukrainian intelligence regarding heavy Russian casualties and limited Russian military capacity. US intelligence analysts regularly produce reports that validate official policy postures to secure promotions and bonuses rather than providing accurate assessments. American policymakers genuinely believed that Ukrainian drone strikes would collapse Russia's economy, induce long gas lines, trigger a “Moscow Maidan,” and lead to regime change before the September 20 parliamentary elections.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Tajikistan emphasize trade expansion, removal of obstacles to economic exchanges

TEHRAN- Iran’ Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs, in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, reviewed the latest status of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and emphasized the need to accelerate the implementation of agreements, remove obstacles facing those active in the economic sectors, and provide new grounds for developing bilateral trade.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammad Sadegh Mofatteh, during a trip to Tajikistan and in a meeting with Ahliddin Nuriddinzadeh, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, referring to the significant existing capacities for expanding economic relations, stressed the need to accelerate the exchange of tariff information and trade items between the two countries in order to review and finalize the preferential trade agreement.

Mofatteh discussed strengthening financial and banking mechanisms between the two countries and said: “The possibility of using national currencies, barter of goods and services, and creating executive mechanisms for settling trade exchanges should be examined.”

He continued: “Creating a database of economic actors of the two countries and strengthening communication between Tajikistan’s economic bodies and the commercial counselor of the Islamic Republic of Iran is necessary to accelerate the identification and resolution of problems faced by economic actors.”

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs emphasized developing the presence of Iranian companies in the Tajik market and said: “Iranian companies’ access to Tajikistan’s tenders and projects, timely notification of economic opportunities, and providing the ground for the presence of capable Iranian companies in technical and engineering services projects should be taken into consideration.”

He emphasized the development of trade and investment cooperation and said: “Resolving the problems of production units and creating regional value chains is today a special necessity.”

Identifying investment opportunities and joint production, facilitating B2B communications between the private sectors of the two countries, developing trade cooperation, and examining a transparent mechanism for the purchase, transfer, processing, and trade of this product were among the other topics raised in this meeting.

Based on available statistics, the trade volume between Iran and Tajikistan in the first six months of 2026 reached \$254.3 million, an increase of 14.8 percent compared to the same period last year; a matter that shows the existing capacity to achieve the goal of increasing bilateral trade volume to one billion dollars by 2030.

Facilitating customs procedures and removing trade obstacles between Iran and Tajikistan

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs said: “In line with developing economic and trade relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan, removing customs obstacles, facilitating the transit of goods, and strengthening logistical and transit cooperation between the two countries are being seriously pursued.”

According to a Thursday report by IRNA from the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammad Sadegh Mofatteh, during a trip to Tajikistan and in a meeting with Tursunzoda Azim Haydar, First Deputy Head of the Customs Service of the Republic of Tajikistan, stated: “Issues and problems raised by Iranian companies and economic actors in the fields of goods valuation, tariff classification, manner of declaring goods, and customs procedures have been raised in direct interaction with Tajik customs officials and must be reviewed.”

He proposed creating a consultative mechanism between the customs of the two countries to identify goods with disputes in valuation or tariff classification and to try to achieve a unified procedure.

Mofatteh stated: “Direct communication with Tajik customs managers and holding specialized meetings with officials in international affairs, tariff, and export and import areas can provide the basis for continuous follow-up of the issues of economic actors of the two countries and reflection of problems to relevant officials.”

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and



Trade for Commercial Affairs added: “Electronic exchange of customs information and documents before the consignment reaches the border is another important issue being pursued, which can help facilitate trade between the two countries by reducing procedure time, exchange costs, and stoppage of goods at the border.”

Referring to the existing capacities between Iran and Tajikistan, he said: “The possibility of more effective use of the two countries’ customs, development of rail and road transport, facilitation of entry and exit of Iranian and Tajik trucks and wagons, and greater use of Iran’s route for the export and transit of Tajik goods is a suitable ground for enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries.”

In this meeting, holding a specialized meeting among Iran Customs, Tajikistan Customs, the commercial counselor, and companies with real cases, in order to directly examine operational issues and achieve executive solutions, was emphasized.

Focus on joint agricultural projects and technology exports between Iran and Tajikistan

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs, in a meeting with the First Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Tajikistan, emphasized the development of economic and trade cooperation in the agricultural sector and said: “Focusing on joint agricultural projects and technology exports between these two countries will lead to strengthening relations.”

Mohammad Sadegh Mofatteh, in a meeting with Nur Ali Mohammadullah, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Tajikistan, stated: “Iranian companies have announced readiness to supply agricultural tools and machinery, pesticides, chemical fertilizers, irrigation equipment, livestock medicines and vaccines, and equipment needed for livestock and poultry farming.”

He added: “Proposals have been made to provide the possibility for Iranian producers and joint producers to benefit equally from the offered facilities, which we hope will be given attention.”

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade for Commercial Affairs emphasized reviewing and amending the import tariff for CKD parts in the agricultural sector and said: “In the field of investment and joint production, a specific project for the production and assembly of tractors and agricultural machinery in Tajikistan with the participation of the Tajiran company has been defined, and we have the possibility of developing the export of these products to regional markets.”

He emphasized creating a design for a cotton chain project and said: “We are ready to cooperate from the stage of supplying and purchasing cotton to processing, spinning, weaving, and production of final products with the aim of exporting to third markets, developing greenhouse projects, cold storage, packaging, and processing industries using technical and engineering services.”

Referring to the creation of an export terminal and logistics center for agricultural products, Mofatteh said: “For the aggregation, packaging, processing, and export of Iranian and Tajik products, targeted use of the foreseen customs and tax exemptions is envisaged.”

In continuation of this meeting, in the field of livestock and poultry medicine and health, the possibility of creating a joint production unit for livestock and poultry medicines was emphasized after evaluating the market and receiving feedback from the Ministry of Agriculture and private sector actors of Tajikistan.

Identifying capacities for livestock breeding improvement and technology transfer and establishing communication between Iranian companies and Tajikistan’s livestock breeding center with the aim of transferring technical knowledge, breeding improvement, and developing joint cooperation were among the other topics raised in this meeting.

‘BRICS can reduce Iran’s trade costs’

TEHRAN- The Vice Chairman of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce, stating that using BRICS financial mechanisms and settling exchanges with national currencies can reduce Iran’s trade costs, said: Placing the rial in the calculation basket of this group requires stabilizing the value of the national currency and reforming foreign currency exchange regulations.

The foundations of the global economy are experiencing a historic transition from traditional and centralized financial structures under Western hegemony toward multi-lateral and decentralized mechanisms. In the meantime, emerging pacts such as “BRICS” with initiatives in dedicated payment systems and settlement with national currencies, have created a platform for breaking the financial monopoly and reducing the vulnerability of developing economies; an opportunity whose real utilization inside the country, more than external technical obstacles, depends on reforming structures, monetary policymaking, and removing self-created internal barriers.

Kambiz Mirkarimi, Vice Chairman of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber, in an interview with IRNA’s economic reporter, regarding strengthening financing mechanisms and using the capacities of the BRICS Development Bank, believes that one of the main obstacles in the path of Iranian businesses is the lack of connection to the SWIFT system, because it has not only made financial transfers high-risk but also increased costs. Therefore, any method that reforms or facilitates this path will be a step toward improving trade relations.

Referring to the sanctions on Iran and Russia and the financial constraints of both countries in accessing SWIFT, he stated: “No one benefits from the financial mechanisms designed by BRICS as much as Iran and Russia, although other member countries will also benefit from this mechanism because they want to enhance their bargaining power against the West and have more financial tools at their disposal.”

Karimi stated: “One part of this mechanism is the discussion of the ‘BRICS Pay’ system, through which they want to implement independent payment systems separate from SWIFT based on settlement with national currencies. This is one step; of course, the idea of creating a single currency is a long-term vision and still has a lot of work to do, and one cannot talk about a single currency from now, but for the time being, national currencies can be used for settlements.”

Stating that currently Iran’s transactions and settlements with some trading partners such as China and Russia are carried out with national currencies, he added: “If within the BRICS framework they can multilaterally create a centralized ‘clearing and settlement house,’ then the problem of bilateral trade surpluses and deficits will be resolved. For example, at present we import more from Russia than we export to it; this imbalance shows that enough rubles may not be



available to the Iranian importer. But when central banks coordinate within a multilateral pact to settle among themselves, these surpluses are settled and transferred very easily and directly between central banks, which itself will be a very big move and step in utilizing national currencies.”

Can Iran place the rial in the BRICS basket?

In response to this question, Karimi explained one of the important axes raised in BRICS: reducing the dependence of Iran’s economy on the Western financial system. Given the developments, is this goal achievable? And if achievable, what mechanism would need to be implemented? He explained: “This is achievable; another part of the work is to do the accounting with national currencies and obtain the necessary credits. The counterpart country is also ready to allocate these credits; just as Russia has given credits of which, for example, 50 percent were governmental, or China has considered finance credits for numerous projects. Many projects implemented in Iran have been completed with the support of this mechanism.”

He continued: “Therefore, investment projects can be implemented in the country in this way, and BRICS member countries also have the necessary tools and capacities to implement it. But the fundamental issue is which of these currencies should be the basis for settlement and how their stability should be. These countries are willing to trade with national currencies; now if Iran also wants to place its national currency as a calculation basis in this basket, its realization requires observing a set of requirements and the existence of monetary stability.”

The Vice Chairman of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce noted: “The Russian ruble has proven to have relative stability, and member countries and companies have no problem trading with the ruble or Chinese yuan. If we also want the Iranian rial to be defined in the calculation basket of these currencies, Iran must also provide requirements for stabilizing the value of its national currency so that the rial can enter this joint BRICS basket; by moving in this direction, costs will definitely decrease.”

The member of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, stating that today a major part of these capacities is available, but part of the challenges goes back to our own country’s domestic regulations, stated: “Issues such as multiple exchange rates and existing foreign exchange

rules, along with some administrative regulations, have caused that despite the existence of infrastructure and technical facilities for foreign exchange settlement, including the availability of bilateral financial messengers and the possibility of settlement with national currencies, still due to the difficulty of these regulations, both from Iran and the other side, there remains a tendency to use intermediary currencies such as the dollar and euro and to seek help from third countries. Therefore, although sanctions have an undeniable role, a large part of the issue depends on reforming our own foreign exchange regulations and domestic rules.”

Karimi stated: “For years, in Iran-Russia bilateral interactions, the technical structure, banking lines, correspondent relations, and settlement platform in ruble and rial have been established. Currently, an Iranian exporting company can conclude a contract with the Russian side and officially include its rial account number inside Iran in the contract text, without needing to open an account abroad. The Russian buyer deposits rubles into the Russian bank account, and the Iranian exporter receives the equivalent in rials. But the main issue is the settlement rate; since rates in Iran are somehow manipulated and multiple, and there is always a gap between the free market rate and the official rate, the Central Bank directly or by decree tells the Iranian bank at what rate to perform the conversion. The existence of this type of intervention and price being dictated creates a kind of uncertainty, and it is this uncertainty that causes economic actors to still be cautious and considerate in using the national currency.”

Iran’s trade with BRICS is \$60 billion per year

Deputy Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) for Trade Services Affairs announced Iran’s exchange with the BRICS group at \$60 billion per year and said: It is necessary that the view toward Iran’s membership in pacts such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation go beyond the level of political presence and turn into tangible economic cooperation.

Mohammad Sadegh Ghanadza-deh, in an interview with IRNA, referring to the achievements of the Iranian President’s presence at the BRICS summit, said: “In this summit, issues such as the development of international corridors, payment mechanisms, trade, and financial

cooperation were examined, and Iran also emphasized its readiness to participate in these areas.”

He continued: “Bilateral consultations were also part of these interactions, and in them the issue of developing trade and transit routes and creating suitable solutions for financial exchanges among countries was considered.”

Ghanadzadeh added: “Despite limitations caused by sanctions, war conditions, and problems created in the field of transportation and flights, Iran has maintained its presence in BRICS economic events, and this presence must be used to develop trade relations.”

Ghanadzadeh noted: “Iran must use this opportunity to increase economic interactions with BRICS members and take cooperation from the level of political consultations to specific projects in the fields of trade, transportation, payment, and investment.”

He announced the volume of Iran’s exchanges with the members of this group at about 23 billion of Iran’s exports are allocated to BRICS member countries, and in return, \$37 billion worth of goods are imported from these countries.”

He added: “A significant part of the world’s population lives in the member countries of this group, and the share of these countries in the global economy has also increased in recent years; for this reason, BRICS has today become an influential collection in international economic equations.”

The TPO official continued: “Cooperation of BRICS members with Iran in transit routes, trade facilitation, customs and standards coordination, and payment mechanisms has been placed on the agenda.”

He specified: “The use of national currencies in trade exchanges is also among the issues that have been raised in recent years, but now the discussion is about creating executive and practical mechanisms for it.”

Ghanadzadeh said: “In bilateral relations among members, the use of local currencies can be expanded, and subsequently, this experience can lead to the formation of broader financial instruments among member countries.”

Stating that BRICS has allocated a significant share of Iran’s foreign trade to itself, he stated: “Despite the high volume of exchanges, the capacities of this membership have not yet been fully utilized in the country’s economy.”

He added: “It is necessary that the view toward Iran’s membership in pacts such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation go beyond the level of political presence and turn into tangible economic cooperation.”

The TPO official emphasized: “Expanding trade relations with major economies can create new paths for Iran, which faces limitations caused by sanctions, for the continuation of foreign trade and reduce part of the pressures caused by international restrictions.”

Oil industry’s damaged capacities put on path to recovery: minister

TEHRAN- Iran’s Oil Minister, emphasizing the favorable process of rebuilding damaged oil industry facilities, said: It is expected that part of the lost capacity will become available by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2027), and the rest in the first half of next year.

According to a report by Mehr News Agency, citing the Ministry of Oil, Mohsen Paknejad,

regarding the process of rebuilding facilities damaged in the third imposed war, stated: The rebuilding process of four gas refineries and the liquid fuel storage and loading facilities in the city of Tehran that were hit and damaged is very favorable.

Emphasizing that the executive mechanisms for rebuilding the damaged facilities have been finalized, he specified: The imple-

mentation process is such that it is even expected that we will have part of this capacity available by the end of the year, after the cold season, and the rest in the first half of next year.

The Minister of Oil said: A very large number of workers are engaged in this rebuilding operation, and the progress is such that it can be monitored on a weekly basis.

Energy price increases will worsen because of war against Iran: Italian energy minister

TEHRAN- Italian Economy Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti said Wednesday the situation with energy spikes due to the Iran was worsening everywhere and he was confident that soon other

countries would endorse a letter from Italy and five other EU members urging the Irish duty presidency to adopt a common

approach to the conflict in West Asia and the supply chain problems, also via a tax on excessive energy windfall profits, Italian News Agency ANSA reported.

“I spoke with my European colleagues this morning; the situation is worsening” regarding rising energy costs driven by the war in Iran, Giorgetti told a press

conference following a cabinet meeting that extended a cut in diesel duty in Italy.

Referring to the letter sent to Brussels on August 22 by Giorgetti and his counterparts from Germany, Austria, Poland, Portugal, and Spain—calling on the Irish presidency for a “common approach” to the West Asia con-

flict and supply issues, including the potential use of a tax on energy windfall profits—the minister added that, ahead of the upcoming Ecofin meeting, “we started as a group of five, but others will quickly join.” “One can be optimistic about the EU, but very cautiously so,” he added.

Yemen denounces Saudi allegations of targeting Mecca

From page 1 ► Saudi Arabia had previously leveled a similar allegation against Ansarallah without providing any evidence to back up the claim. That allegation was made during the widescale U.S.-backed war that a Saudi-led coalition initiated against Yemen in March 2015.

Sayyed al-Houthi pointed out that Saudi air strikes have targeted more than 2,000 mosques in Yemen, including historic mosques that were nowhere near the front lines. He highlighted that these crimes were part of an established policy for which Ansarallah possesses documents and evidence, citing acknowledgments by international organizations and the United Nations.

He also noted that the Saudis are fighting with American aircraft and bombs, while American, Israeli, and British intelligence officers are directing operations on the ground. He said Saudi Arabia was seeking to draw these parties into a direct war on an international level.

Addressing the people of southern Yemen, Sayyed al-Houthi stressed that they were not being targeted, saying that operations are directed solely at Saudi military mobilizations.

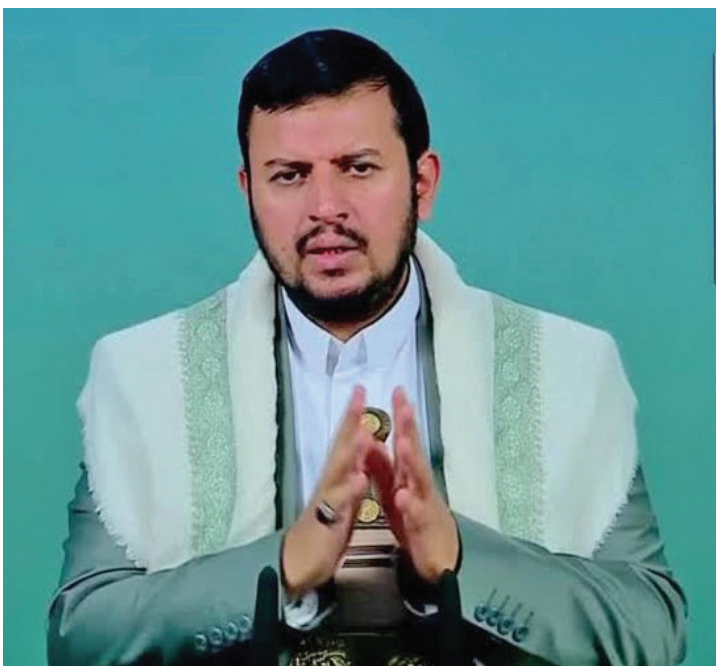
Call for an Islamic coalition against Israel

The Ansarallah leader also criticized countries and governments that ignore what the Palestinian people and the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque are facing. He explained that the real and immediate enemy of Islam's holy sites is the Zionist regime, whose ideological plans and statements are based on taking Mecca and Medina and seizing Palestine and large parts of the Arab world.

He also announced readiness to act as part of an Islamic coalition to confront this Zionist threat, reaffirming his position on the central issue of defending Palestine and the holy sites. He said the immediate demand was an end to the Saudi aggression and the lifting of the blockade.

Yemeni people gathered and demonstrated on Friday in a mass mobilization rejecting the Saudi accusations as slander.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni Schol-



ars Conference condemned Saudi Arabia's claims that Mecca had been targeted, stressing that the allegation represents a "valuable opportunity for the Zionist enemy to target holy sites and incite discord among Muslims."

Accordingly, the Yemeni scholars rejected Saudi Arabia's exploitation of the Two Holy Mosques "to serve colonial objectives aimed at fragmenting the Islamic world and controlling Muslim wealth."

The real threat to Mecca

The statement said that the real threat to Mecca and the Holy Kaaba lies in the American and Western military bases located in the lands of the Two Holy Mosques and the Arabian Peninsula.

According to the statement, the danger also lies in "opening the airspace to Zionist aircraft and handing over the management of hotels for pilgrims, as well as security administration, to Israeli companies."

The scholars stressed that the claim regarding an attack on Mecca was a "desperate attempt" aimed at "tarnishing the resistance of the Yemeni people," but that it "will fail, just as previous attempts have failed."

The statement warned against "any country becoming involved with the Saudi regime in aggression against the Yemeni people."

The Yemeni scholars called

on all free people around the world, particularly scholars and media outlets, to stand with the oppressed and blockaded Yemeni people and to "avoid being drawn into the false media narrative of the Saudi regime, whose lies and fabrications have been exposed by events, particularly the events in Gaza."

They reaffirmed the Yemeni people's steadfast position on the central issue of the Islamic world: the Palestinian cause and the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as on developments in Lebanon, Iran, and Syria.

This comes as Yemeni Supreme Political Council President Mahdi al-Mashat refuted the "false claims of the Saudi regime that we targeted Mecca," saying they were a "desperate attempt to mobilize the peoples."

Al-Mashat added that "the lies no longer deceive the peoples of our Arab and Islamic world, just as the previous claims about threats to international maritime navigation failed to do so."

The Supreme Political Council President said the people of Yemen are "the strongest in faith and loyalty to the Islamic holy sites and are prepared to sacrifice themselves for the House of God."

This comes as the Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF) are engaged in clashes with Saudi-backed forces in several provinces after launching preemptive strikes against their battlefield mobi-

lizations. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, continues to carry out airstrikes against several provinces, which Yemeni forces continue to respond to.

Saudi Arabia has been carrying out attacks through airstrikes targeting several provinces, including Marib, Al-Jawf, Taiz, and Hudaydah.

YAF spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced that Saudi warplanes carried out 37 airstrikes over the past 24 hours using F-15 aircraft, as part of the ongoing Saudi aggression against the Yemeni people.

Saree explained that the warplanes involved in the F-15s took off from Khamis Mushait Air Base and targeted the provinces of Taiz and Hajjah, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries.

Amid the Saudi aggression against Yemen, head of the Sanaa negotiating team Mohammed Abdul Salam stressed that the aggressive military escalation against the country would not enable Riyadh to achieve any of its objectives.

Instead, he said, it would further complicate the situation, noting that Saudi Arabia had already tried the military option in Yemen and achieved nothing through it but failure.

Reports have emerged that Saudi Arabia has asked the Sultanate of Oman to request that Ansarallah agree to a two-week truce, during which discussions would be held to seek a solution to Yemen's humanitarian situation.

The YAF continues to confront the aggression, as Yemeni armed forces engage in clashes with Saudi-backed forces in several provinces following preemptive strikes against their field mobilizations. In addition, the YAF is targeting vital Saudi facilities on Saudi territory, including oil facilities and Khamis Mushait Air Base. Earlier the YAF published footage of a Saudi F-15 shot down over Yemeni territory.

The YAF had previously announced the equation of "blockade for blockade and escalation for escalation" in response to the Saudi aggression and the blockade imposed on the Yemeni people for more than a decade.

have passed their tipping point. The revelations of the Iran war and of the Israeli war in Gaza before it have already changed the calculations of U.S. allies and adversaries. Another round of fighting or the election of a different American president will not repair the rupture.

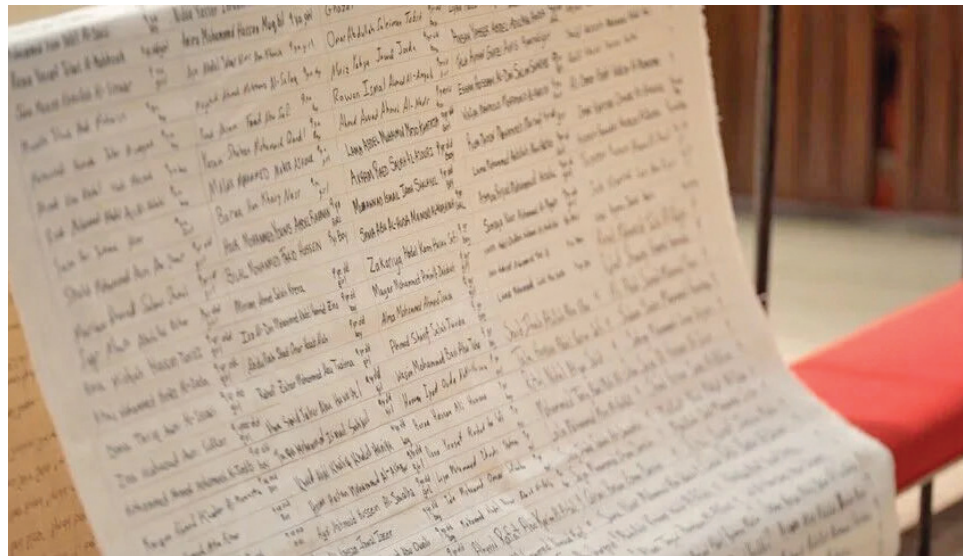
The years ahead promise further discord.

Israel hopes to expand its de facto borders, including by annexing as much as possible of historic Palestine, and to impose its writ by force across vast swaths of the region. And assuming that the Iranian government does not collapse any time soon—which it appears highly unlikely to do—an emboldened Tehran will hope to defend and expand its regional influence by bogging Washington down in the kinds of endless, borderless "gray zone" conflicts in which it has always thrived.

If the United States is finally willing to abandon its failed strategy, however, the collapse of one order could still be an opportunity to build a new and better one. The conditions, admittedly, are far from ideal. Although most of the region's leaders and publics desperately want a respite from military strikes and economic disruption, they also deeply resent Washington for dragging them into a disaster. But discarding its policy of support for autocrats, impunity for allies, and militarized containment of enemies might enable the United States to engage with the region in a healthier way—one that eventually could yield the durable stability Washington has claimed to want all along.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

100-meter shroud in New York displays names of over 20,000 Palestinian children killed in Gaza



TEHRAN - The handwritten names of more than 20,000 Palestinian children who have been killed in the Gaza Strip were displayed on a 100-meter-long shroud at the UN Church Center in New York.

The event was organized at the initiative of Doctors Against Genocide, Clergy Against Genocide in the United States, Justice for All, and several other groups.

The ceremony featured the recitation of the Holy Quran and an interfaith gathering coinciding with the opening of the UN General Assembly. The coalition honored victims as the UN General Assembly convenes in New York.

The initiative was part of a memorial project aimed at keeping alive the names

and memories of Gaza's martyred children and preventing them from being reduced to mere numbers and statistics, Palestine News reported.

"Not a number, but a name," organizers emphasized, explaining that the project aims to restore individual identity to every young person killed in the enclave, while demanding an end to Israeli military operations and establishing accountability for war crimes.

The initiative drew inspiration from an Italian memorial created in Rome by Pastors Against Genocide, which originated from the tragic practice in Gaza of parents writing children's names directly onto their bodies to ensure identification if their homes were bombed.

Denying Palestinians visa for UN summit contravenes peace and statehood

From page 1 ► The reasons that the U.S. has cited for refusing to issue visa for the Palestinian delegation are laughable.

As part of its justification for denying visa for Palestinian officials, the U.S. explicitly cited Palestinian efforts to pursue Israel through international courts and secure greater international recognition for a Palestinian state.

"(The Palestinian Authority was) taking actions to internationalize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) [and] seeking to bypass negotiations through seeking unilateral recognition," the State Department said.

This statement by the State Department clearly shows that the U.S. wants Palestinians to be silent in the face of the unstoppable Israeli appropriation of their lands and brutality against them, especially against Gazans which reached unprecedented levels since the creation of Israel in 1948.

In view of the Trump administration, it is an unforgivable sin to say that Palestine is facing unstoppable land theft and violence. The Trump administration wants Palestinians to act as servants of the U.S. and Israel and don't cry out against violence and injustice.

Whether Trump's administration likes it or not, it is for eight decades that the issue of the Israeli-Palestine conflict has become "internationalized" and the U.S. has not been an impartial mediator to resolve this old wound. If the U.S. had not been advocating Israel by closing its eyes to the realities, there was a hope that the issue could have been resolved. Through its unjustified support for Israel, the U.S. has acted as a barrier to end the eight-decade conflict.

The Palestinian Authority has right to seek "unilateral recognition" of other countries because the U.S. has prevented the recognition of an independent Palestinian state by the UN Security Council.

Such a demand from Palestinians not to seek recognition is extremely unexpected, unjustified, and an ill-conceived perception.

The world is in favor of Israel

Whether the U.S. likes it or not, the world public opinion is in favor of Palestinians. Even most American citizens and a consid-

erable percentage of their politicians have turned against Israel for its genocide in Gaza.

According to a Quinnipiac poll released in June, nearly two-thirds of Democrats and more than half of independents think the United States is too supportive of Israel. And in mid-July, more than half the Democrats in the House of Representatives voted for a bill to cut off U.S. military aid to Israel.

Many Israelis themselves admit that Israel has been committing indescribable crimes against Palestinian by enjoying the U.S. shield. Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has openly acknowledged that Americans view Israel as a "baby killer".

In part of its statement the State Department has said it was extending the restrictions on PA officials as "a consequence of their failure to reform, contrary to their commitments to the United States, and their ongoing activities that undermine the prospects for peace."

It is true that the Palestinian Authority is corrupt and refuses reforms, but the U.S. move in refusing visa for the Palestinian team does not convince anybody. Yet the claim that "their activities undermine the prospects for peace" is a superstitious statement and contravenes the realities that the world has been seeing all through-out these years.

It is Israel that has been undermining every initiative for peace. The land-for-peace initiative proposed by the late Saudi King Abdullah, that was endorsed by Arab leaders in 2002, left no justification for rejecting it. This initiative was re-endorsed in later years by the Arab rulers but was dismissed by Israel.

The claim that the Palestinian Authority's moves go against peace is a fallacy. There is only one goal and it is that the United States, especially under the administration of Donald Trump, is working in tandem with Israel to hollow out Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the Oct. 7 event is now being used a pretext for that purpose.

Such words that the PA's activities derail pace are totally unacceptable and don't convince even the most simple-minded people who have been observing the behavior of Israel against Palestinians and the policies of the United States in favor of Israel.

Iran ends the American Middle East: analysis

'Trump's debacle in Iran has shattered the illusion of American military omnipotence'

TEHRAN - Marc Lynch, a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University, says the failed U.S.-Israeli war on Iran has put an end to "the American Middle East."

Writing an article in Foreign Affairs, Lynch says, "If the war in Gaza left the future of American regional leadership in doubt, the war with Iran was confirmation of the end of the order."

He adds, "Events together have dealt a death blow to the American Middle East."

"Trump's debacle in Iran has shattered the illusion of American military omnipotence," say Lynch, the author of ***** Middle East: The Ruination of a Region*****.

The following is a shortened version of the article titled "The End of the American Middle East":

The American Middle East is finished. The regional order that has prevailed since 1991 has been one of the many casualties of the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran. The American and Israeli failure to dislodge the ruling system in Tehran has proved the bankruptcy of decades of sanctions and violence. The inability of the United States to protect its Persian Gulf allies from Iranian attacks or to keep the Strait of Hormuz open has fatally undermined the core security bargain that justified its network of military bases in the region. And Israel's increasingly threatening posture and abandonment of any pretense of interest in reaching an accommodation with the Palestinians have ended Washington's decades-long mission of bringing its

Arab allies and Israel together into an enduring security partnership.

The United States' primary goal for three and a half decades has been to lock its disparate allies into an order built around protecting Israel while containing, at first, Iran and Iraq, and more recently Iran and its nonstate allies. Far from being a deviation from that strategy, President Donald Trump's war took it to its logical end, seeking to undermine Iran by force in one fell swoop. As American leaders did before the 2003 invasion of Iraq and Israel has done in its wars against Hezbollah and Hamas, the architects of this war vastly exaggerated what military power could achieve, underestimated the capacity of adversaries to adapt, took for granted that allies would fall in line. Washington's misadventure was not an aberration so much as the ultimate expression of the inherent vice of its Middle East strategy.

At first, it may not look as though the war has had much effect on the alliances that form the American order. Facing an inconclusive war and an empowered Iran, the Persian Gulf states may ramp up their arms purchases and their demands for renewed security guarantees, creating the illusion of continuity. But the old order is in fact giving way to something new. The 1956 Suez crisis is remembered today as the last gasp of British and French imperial power in the Middle East, but it took years to reach that inevitable end. American primacy will not disappear immediately, either, but long-building doubts about American power and purpose

Piazza under pressure as Iran’s Olympic path narrows

TEHRAN - Iran’s silver medal at the 2026 AVC Men’s Volleyball Continental Championship should have been celebrated as a positive step. Instead, the defeat to Japan in the final has left head coach Roberto Piazza and the Iranian federation facing a much more complicated question: what exactly is the team building toward?

Japan’s 3-0 victory in Fukuoka did more than settle the Asian title. It also handed the hosts a direct ticket to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, while Iran lost their clearest route to volleyball’s biggest stage. The silver medal was respectable, but the timing of the defeat makes it a painful one.

Iran are not mathematically out of the Olympic race. Twelve teams will compete in Los Angeles: the United States as hosts, five continental champions, three teams from the 2027 World Championship and three more based on the world ranking after the preliminary phase of the 2028 Volleyball Nations League.

For Iran, the remaining routes are extremely demanding.

The World Championship route would require a top-three finish in 2027, an achievement that currently looks more aspirational than realistic. The ranking route is therefore likely to become the central target. Iran are currently around 18th in the world, while several potential Olympic rivals including Slovenia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Turkey, Germany, Finland, Argentina and Serbia, sit ahead of them.

That makes every match over the next 18 months significant. Wins matter, but so do sets and individual points, because the ranking system leaves little room for careless losses against supposedly weaker opponents.

The Piazza question

This is where the debate over Piazza becomes unavoidable. The Italian is an experienced and respected coach, and replacing him simply because Iran failed to beat Japan would be an overly simplistic reaction. Former Iran international and coach Mahmoud Afshardoust has argued that Piazza is not a minor figure in world volleyball and that the federation should judge him against the objectives established when he was appointed.

The more important question is whether Piazza’s Iran are developing an identity capable of competing with the best teams consistently—not merely producing competitive stretches in individual matches.

Against Japan, Iran stayed close deep into all three sets but repeatedly failed to turn those moments into victories. The problem was not a total lack of quality. It was the inability to make the decisive plays when the margin for error disappeared.

Piazza has also invested heavily in younger players, a strategy that carries both risk and potential reward. Iran cannot remain dependent forever on an ageing generation, but rebuilding while simultaneously chasing an Olympic qualification requires exceptional timing and execution.

The upcoming Asian Games and the 2027 World Championship will provide further evidence.

The Olympic door is still open. But after Fukuoka, Iran no longer control their destiny. Piazza’s challenge is to turn a team with potential into one that can win the moments that matter.

Iran defeat Tajikistan at 2026 CAFA U17 Women’s Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Tajikistan 4-0 at the 2026 CAFA U17 Women’s Championship on Thursday.

The Persian girls, who started the campaign with a 2-1 loss against Kyrgyzstan, will face Uzbekistan on Saturday.

Uzbekistan on Saturday.

The competition is being held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from Sept. 15 to 19.

The championship serves to develop young football players, prepares them for regional and global competitions, as well as showcase the best young talents in Central Asia.

Iran basketball lose to S. Korea in 2026 Asian games semis

TEHRAN – Iran failed to qualify for the final match of the 2026 Asian Games, losing to South Korea 77-51 on Friday.

In the match held at the Aichi International Arena, Mohammad Jamshidi of Iran scored 12 points, while South Korean player Lee Hyun-jung soared with 26 points, 14 rebounds, and 4 assists.

The Korean side ended 12-year final drought, by beating Team Melli.

South Korea’s advancement to the Asian Games final marks the first time since the 2014 Incheon Games, where they won gold. Their opponents in the final will be the winner between China and Japan. Iran will play for the bronze match on Sunday.

Ghalenoei calls up 18 players for Uzbekistan and Russia friendlies

TEHRAN - Iran football team head coach Amir Ghalenoei has called up 18 players from the domestic league for the national team’s upcoming FIFA international window, with Iran set to face Uzbekistan and Russia in friendly matches.

The initial squad contains no overseas-based players.

The squad also includes a few notable surprises, which could attract plenty of attention ahead of the two friendlies.

Goalkeepers

Alireza Beiranvand (Tractor) Hossein Hosseini (Sepahan), Payam Niazmand (Persepolis)

Defenders:

Mohammad Naderi (Tractor), Ehsan Haji Safi (Sepahan), Shoja Khalilzadeh (Tractor), Mohammadmehdi Zarei (Persepolis), Aref Aghasi (Esteghlal), Saman Fallah (Esteghlal), Saleh Hardani (Esteghlal), Ramin Rezaeian (Foolad), Aria Yousefi (Sepahan)

Midfielders:

Aref Hajjeidi (Sepahan), Omid Noorafkan (Sepahan), Mehdi Limouchi (Sepahan), Mehdi Mohammadi (Persepolis), Amirhossein Mahmoudi (Persepolis), Milad Sourgi (Shams Azar)

Iranian strikers Mehdi Taremi (Al Wasl), Sardar Azmoun (Shabab Al Ahli) and Alireza Jahanbakhsh (Excelsior) will be added to the national team.

Team Melli’s training camp officially started on Sept. 16 at the National Football Centre. The players will then leave Tehran on Sept. 22, heading for the Uzbek city of Fergana.

Iran will take on Uzbekistan in a friendly on Sept. 24. Following the match, the Iranian squad will travel to Kazan, Russia, on Sept. 26.

Isfahan Music Museum: A journey into Iran’s musical heritage

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Isfahan, one of Iran’s most celebrated historic cities, is renowned for its grand mosques, palaces, bridges and traditional arts. Once the capital of Iran during the Safavid era, the city remains one of the country’s most important cultural and tourism destinations. Beyond its better-known monuments, however, Isfahan also offers visitors a more intimate way to explore Iranian culture: through music.

Located in the historic Jolfa district, the Isfahan Music Museum is a distinctive cultural attraction dedicated to the country’s musical heritage. Established in 2015, the museum brings together more than 300 Iranian national and regional musical instruments.

For travelers interested in Persian culture, the museum provides an opportunity not only to see traditional instruments but also to hear how they sound, learn about the musicians who played them and observe how some instruments are made.

The visit is therefore less like walking through a conventional collection of static objects and more like an introduction to the living traditions of Iranian music.

The collection illustrates the extraordinary diversity of musical traditions across Iran. Some instruments are associated with the classical tradition, while others belong to the musical cultures of particular provinces, ethnic communities and nomadic groups.

One of the museum’s principal sections is dedicated to national musical instruments. Here, visitors can encounter familiar instruments of Persian music such as the tar, setar,



kamancheh and daf, among many others.

The displays help explain not only what the instruments look like but also how they are played and the role they have played in Iranian music. Audio-visual materials allow visitors to hear the characteristic sound of individual instruments, making the collection more accessible even to people with little prior knowledge of Persian music.

The kamancheh, a bowed string instrument, is particularly associated with Persian classical music, while the tar and setar are among the best-known members of Iran’s long-necked lute tradition. Percussion instruments, wind

instruments and other types of strings add to the breadth of the collection.

Many visitors may find the physical construction of the instruments as interesting as their sounds. Their wood, strings, skins and decorative details reflect generations of specialized craftsmanship.

The museum also devotes a section to regional and folk instruments, offering a broader picture of Iran’s musical geography.

Iran is home to numerous local musical traditions, and instruments can differ significantly from one region to another.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

The pomegranate: A fruit at the heart of Iran’s cultural heritage



TEHRAN – The annual pomegranate harvest feast, one of Iran’s oldest agricultural celebrations, brings together villagers, visitors and returning residents in a traditional ceremony that combines fruit picking with music, local customs and cultural activities.

Known as Anar in Persian, the pomegranate has long held a place beyond Iran’s agricultural and culinary traditions. It is associated with life, beauty, spirituality and artistic expression, and features prominently in Iranian cultural practices, including the ancient Zoroastrian tradition and Yalda Night celebrations.

The fruit’s cultural significance is reflected in poetry, handicrafts, festivals and traditional cuisine, making it an enduring symbol of Iran’s cultural heritage.

The pomegranate feast is held in various parts of the country

during the autumn harvest season, generally from September 22 to December 20. Among the villages known for preserving the tradition are Anbooh and Nowdeh, where the celebrations coincide with the gathering of the seasonal crop.

Anbooh, a historic village believed to date back around 3,500 years, is known for its natural landscapes, traditional architec-

ture and agricultural products. Located in a remote geographical setting, the village features stepped houses built with native materials, earning it the nickname “the second Masuleh,” in reference to the famous stepped village in northern Iran.

The village is included in a tourism development plan and offers attractions ranging from historical and anthropological features

to handicrafts, local products and traditional rituals. Its large, sweet and juicy pomegranates are among its best-known agricultural products.

The annual pomegranate feast is regarded as one of Anbooh’s oldest and most important local celebrations, preserving customs associated with the cultivation and harvesting of the fruit.

In Anbooh, the ceremony traditionally begins on the morning of the last Friday of Mehr, the seventh month of the Iranian solar calendar.

Following the gathering of villagers and prayers, the celebration features traditional music performed with instruments such as the dayereh, sorna and dohol, along with local games, competitions and the preparation of traditional bread and confectionery.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Second Announcement

2277641
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National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0540008

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS "EU" THREAD, RANGE 2, AS PER API SCT/ISO11960 SIZE(OD), WEIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED, MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API SCT, NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I: 1) "QCP/MPs DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM", "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION", 2-7/8 IN., 6.5 PPF	5,000LE
2	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS, "HYDRIL CS" THREAD, RANGE 2, AS PER API SCT/ISO11960, PSL: 2, SIZE(OD), WEIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED, MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API SCT, NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I: 1), "QCP/MPs DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM", "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION", 2-7/8 IN., 6.5 PPF	1000LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 28,530/04 EURO or 50,833,539,072 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., INCLUDING AN ADVANCE PAYMENT. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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Second Announcement

2277647
1



National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0440030

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING (USED AS TUBING), 4-1/2" , L-80, 13.5 PPF	20000 LE
2	PUP JOINT , TUBING 4-1/2" , 13.5 PPF , 7 FT & 10 FT	120 NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their" Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 92,331/17 EURO or 159,004,162,473 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., INCLUDING AN ADVANCE PAYMENT. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Iran joins global ‘100 Hours of Astronomy’ celebration

TEHRAN – As the global “100 Hours of Astronomy” celebration gets underway in countries around the world, Iran’s skies will also host a series of astronomical observation and public outreach programs from September 30 to October 3, coinciding with the event’s 2026 edition, which is being held under the theme “A New Perspective on the Solar System.”

Astronomy groups, enthusiasts, educational institutions and science communicators across the country have been invited to take part in the international event by organizing a variety of programs.

The 2026 edition of “100 Hours of Astronomy” will coincide with astronomy events being held in different countries, providing an opportunity for astronomy enthusiasts, educational centers and science outreach groups to engage the public through a range of activities.

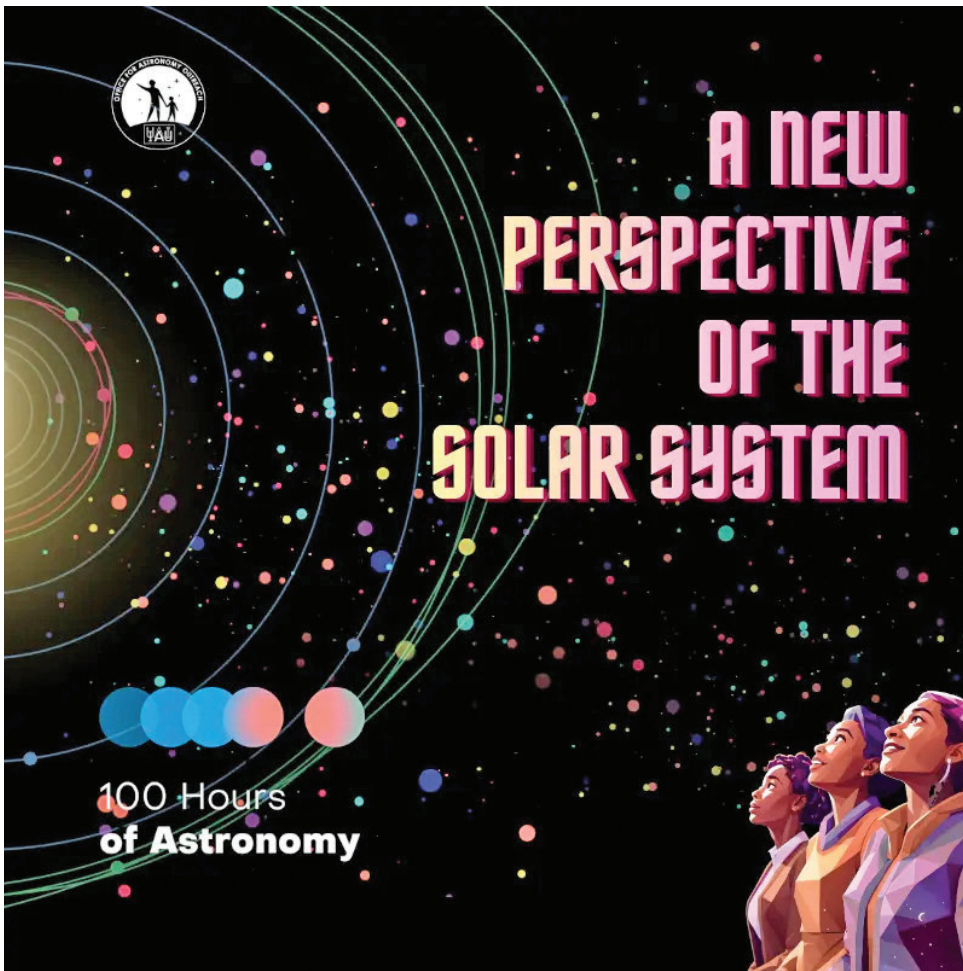
The celebration aims to bring astronomy closer to the public and provide people with opportunities to experience and learn more about the night sky. Activities may include public stargazing sessions, educational workshops, lectures, hands-on and interactive programs, as well as other astronomy outreach initiatives.

According to the International Astronomical Union’s Office for Astronomy Outreach (OAO), the theme of “100 Hours of Astronomy” in 2026 highlights how observations, space missions, and new scientific discoveries have transformed and expanded humanity’s understanding of the solar system.

Under the theme, organizers can introduce audiences to the latest findings about the Sun, planets, moons, asteroids, and other solar system objects. Through observation and educational programs, they can also offer a fresh perspective on Earth’s cosmic neighbors.

Our understanding of the Solar System has never been static. Every new observation, mission, and discovery helps us refine our knowledge, challenge old ideas, and reveal a richer and more dynamic picture of our cosmic neighbourhood.

Throughout history, our view of the Solar System has transformed dramatically, from an Earth-centred universe to a heliocentric system filled with planets, moons, asteroids, comets, and countless other worlds. More recently, space missions have reshaped our understanding of the origins of water and the building blocks of life, the nature and diversity of Solar System bodies, and humanity’s



place within the cosmos.

100 Hours of Astronomy is a yearly global celebration organised by the Office for Astronomy Outreach that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and connect with the night sky — and with the science that helps us understand it.

From vibrant cities to the most remote corners of the world, this event brings astronomy closer to communities everywhere. Through public stargazing, workshops, talks, and hands-on educational activities, 100 Hours of Astronomy sparks curiosity, encourages shared exploration of the cosmos, and invites us all to reflect on our place in the Universe.

The International Astronomical Union’s Office for Astronomy Outreach was established in 2012 as a legacy of the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. This international year highlighted the profound impact that astronomy can have when shared with society, inspiring the creation of a dedicated office – the OAO – to strengthen the connection between the academic and scientific

community and the public.

The OAO works to break down barriers between professional astronomers and society, fostering inclusive engagement and encouraging dialogue about the Universe and humanity’s place within it. By opening the doors of the scientific community, we aim to make astronomy accessible to everyone, inspiring curiosity, discovery, and a sense of shared wonder.

Leveraging astronomy’s capacity to inspire awe, the OAO is dedicated to empowering learners of all ages to engage with science through astronomy, building up global science capital through localising resources and opportunities, fostering trusting community relationships, and building an international coalition of astronomy communicators. Through its National Outreach Coordinator network that spans more than 120 nations, and with the support of the IAU membership, the OAO connects diverse communities, bridging professional and amateur astronomers, citizen scientists, communicators, and the public.

Royan Institute achieves global milestone in regenerative medicine with WhartoCell

TEHRAN – Iran has taken a major step forward in regenerative medicine with the approval of WhartoCell, an allogeneic stem cell therapy developed by researchers at Royan Institute to treat osteoarthritis.

The achievement was also highlighted by MedPath, an international platform specializing in medical information, clinical trials, and healthcare technologies, putting the spotlight on Royan Institute’s contribution to this scientific and technological breakthrough.

According to Mehdi Lotfipanah, Director of Public Relations and International Affairs at Royan Institute, the therapy is designed to reduce inflammation, support cartilage regeneration, and improve joint function in patients with osteoarthritis. “The introduction of innovative cell-based therapies requires a scientific and evidence-based approach to ensure their appropriate integration into clinical practice,” Lotfipanah said.

Technical Profile and Mechanism of Action

WhartoCell is derived from Wharton’s jelly of the neonatal umbilical cord, a rich source of mesenchymal stem cells. These cells possess anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory properties while supporting tissue repair and regeneration. A distinguishing feature of the product is that it does not require genetic matching, or human leukocyte antigen (HLA) matching, between donor and recipient. This characteristic allows physicians to administer the treatment without

lengthy preparation procedures, positioning WhartoCell as an off-the-shelf therapy expected to improve patient access to advanced regenerative treatments.

Manufacturing and Quality Standards

Royan Institute has emphasized that WhartoCell is manufactured under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards, with quality and safety monitored throughout the production process. This adherence to internationally recognized manufacturing standards is intended to ensure consistent product quality and patient safety.

Broader Clinical Potential

Although WhartoCell was initially approved for osteoarthritis, researchers at Royan Institute suggest the technology may have broader applications in regenerative medicine. Potential future indications include cartilage repair, tendon and ligament injuries, bone fracture healing, avascular necrosis, and the management of inflammatory joint disorders.

Strategic Significance

Lotfipanah noted that the product represents an important achievement in developing indigenous biotechnology, reducing dependence on imported therapeutic products while expanding access for healthcare providers across the country. He added that greater awareness among physicians and healthcare providers would facilitate broader adoption of regenerative medicine technologies.

Royan Institute plans to increase scientific communication

around WhartoCell through specialized workshops, educational programs for physicians and patients, and scientific meetings, including activities tied to the upcoming 27th International Royan Congress. The institute, one of Iran’s leading centers for stem cell research and regenerative medicine, has developed several advanced cell-based therapeutic technologies over the past two decades as part of the country’s growing biotechnology sector.

Iran among top 10 countries in regenerative medicine

With the approval of six new advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs), Iran has showcased breakthroughs in regenerative medicine, improving the country’s global ranking from 12 to 7.

According to the latest global report, out of 148 ATMPs approved in 2025 under the supervision of 12 internationally recognized regulatory bodies, seven were made in Iran, placing it among the top 10 countries in the field, IRNA reported.

The number of licensed products in regenerative medicine has grown from one product in the Iranian year 1402 (March 2023-March 2024) to seven in Iranian year 1404 (March 2025 – March 2026).

These include cell therapy, tissue engineering, and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy products, which are used to treat different diseases such as vitiligo, graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), cerebral palsy (CP), burns, diabetic foot ulcers,

arthritis, and B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (B cell ALL). Some of these high-tech medical products have export potential.

In August 2026, the Royan Institute played host to the 17th International Summer School in Tehran to examine the growing role of the microbiome in regenerative medicine.

Bringing together researchers, physicians, faculty members and students, the event opened on August 15 and came to an end on 19.

Titled “The Symphony of Therapy: Unlocking Regenerative Potential through the Microbiome,” it focused on recent scientific advances and clinical applications of microbiome research, IRNA reported.

According to the Royan Institute, the program explored how the human microbiome influences immune regulation, chronic diseases, tissue repair and regeneration, while highlighting emerging therapeutic approaches and translational research.

The five-day event featured sessions on stem cells and the microbiome, intestinal stem cells and microbial ecology, reproductive health, inflammation and tissue repair, and microbiome-based therapies, including prebiotics and postbiotics.

Participants also discussed advanced research technologies such as organoids, omics platforms and co-culture systems, alongside the ethical and clinical challenges of translating laboratory discoveries into medical practice.

Iranian physician wins 2025 Kuwait Prize for control of cancer

TEHRAN – Amir-Ali Hamidieh, an Iranian professor at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, has won the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The Foundation for the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region was established in 2003. Based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee at its 72nd session in October 2025, the Regional Committee decided to award the Prize to Hamidieh for his significant contribution in the field of cancer.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the prize consists of a bronze medal and a sum of money; it will be presented in October during the 73rd session of the Regional Committee.

A distinguished physician, academic and pioneer in paediatric haematology, oncology and stem cell transplantation, Hamidieh earned his M.D. from Islamic Azad University, Tehran, and pursued postgraduate training in paediatrics and paediatric haematology/ oncology at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. He later completed advanced fellowships in haematopoietic stem cell transplantation at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, United States of America.

Hamidieh currently serves as Professor of Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, where he also directs the Pediatric Cell and Gene Therapy Research Center.

He is the founder of the Iranian paediatric stem cell transplantation programme and the

national stem cell donor network, which established the country’s first human leukocyte antigen (HLA) registry.

He chairs the National Council for Development of Stem Cell Sciences and Technologies under the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology and is a member of the executive boards of the Asia-Pacific Blood and Marrow Transplantation Group and the Iranian Food and Drug Administration.

His leadership has enabled the development of seven paediatric transplant centres across the Islamic Republic of Iran and the successful completion of more than 2100 paediatric stem cell transplants.

Hamidieh has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles on research spanning regenerative medicine, gene therapy, immunodeficiencies and paediatric cancers.

He has also led clinical innovations in CAR-T cell therapy and photopheresis across many countries. Through his academic leadership, clinical excellence and commitment to equitable care, Hamidieh has significantly advanced the field of paediatric stem cell transplantation in Iran and the broader Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Majid Ghayour Mobarhan, an Iranian professor at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Davood Khalili, an epidemiologist and professor at the Center for Research on the Prevention of Metabolic Diseases at the Institute of Glandular Sciences at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Afshin Ostovar, a professor at Tehran University of Medical Science, and Fereydoon Azizi, the director of Iran’s Institute for Endocrine Sciences, won the prize in 2024, 2023, 2022, and 2007, respectively.

World Patient Safety Day focuses on safe care for NCDs



TEHRAN – World Patient Safety Day is observed on September 17 every year and serves as an opportunity to raise public awareness, enhance collaborations among healthcare stakeholders, and expedite measures to reduce preventable harm associated with the delivery of health services.

Each year, the day is observed under a specific slogan. In 2026, it focuses on safe care for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), under the theme ‘Safe care for life!’.

NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases are among the most significant global health challenges, accounting for 74 percent of deaths worldwide; they affect people of all ages and require constant, lifelong care. Patients’ frequent interactions with the healthcare system can put their safety at risk. These risks are also influenced by health system challenges and the broader determinants of health.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 1 in 10 patients is harmed during health care, with around half of this harm being considered preventable. People living with NCDs are particularly vulnerable to harm due to the long-term nature of their conditions, ongoing treatment needs, and frequent interactions with health systems.

With some conditions, such as cancer, up to 1 in 3 patients experience adverse events during care. Many people also live with multiple chronic conditions, further increasing the risk of harm.

Addressing NCDs is a global priority, reflected in the United Nations political declaration on NCDs and mental health, which calls for strengthened prevention and long-term management of NCDs. Achieving these commitments requires access to safe and quality care.

Improving safety in NCD care requires addressing risks related to the complexity of care,

strengthening health systems through a primary health care approach and tackling wider determinants that can increase the risk of harm. The day also highlights the importance of engaging people with lived experience in the design and delivery of NCD services and in their own care.

The main objectives of World Patient Safety Day 2026 are as follows:

Raise global awareness of patient safety challenges associated with NCDs across the continuum of care through a primary health care approach while considering disease-related factors, health system challenges and determinants of health that may increase the risk of harm.

Promote the meaningful engagement of people living with NCDs and communities in identifying safety risks and co-developing solutions with health practitioners, organizational leaders and policy-makers. Awareness of the condition, understanding treatment-related risks, participating in treatment decisions, and raising questions and safety-related concerns can help reduce harm and improve the quality of health services.

Encourage stakeholders to integrate patient safety principles across NCD-related legislation, policies, strategies and programs, with an emphasis on strengthening PHC-oriented health systems.

Support health workers in strengthening patient safety practices such as safer diagnosis, medication safety and meaningful patient engagement.

World Patient Safety Day was established in May 2019 when the 72nd World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA 72.6 on ‘Global action on Patient safety’. This global campaign builds on a series of annual Global Ministerial Summits on Patient Safety initiated in 2016, as well as the high-level advocacy and commitment of major international and national stakeholders.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who constantly jests, exposes a part of his intelligence to destruction.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:58 Evening: 18:24 Dawn: 4:26 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:51 (tomorrow)

Franco-Iranian Center to hold photography festival “Times of War” in Paris

TEHRAN – This year marks the bicentenary of the Photograph; on this occasion, the photography festival “A Glimpse of Life in Times of War” will be held in Paris in the autumn, organized by the Franco-Iranian Center and the New Wave Institute.

Focusing on recent conflicts (the 12-day war and the 40-day war that the US and Israel imposed on Iran), the festival explores themes such as daily life and family, emotions and human relationships, the traces of war, historical and cultural heritage, urban spaces, social solidarity, the continuity of life, reconstruction, and hope for the future, Mehr reported.

Following the judging process, 50 selected photographs will be exhibited in Paris. The first exhibition will take place from November 5 to 18, and the second exhibition in Paris, along with the closing ceremony, will be held on December 15 and 16. An exhibition of the selected works in Tehran is also planned for the spring of 2027.

The festival's jury includes: French photographer and photojournalist Michel Steboun, Iranian documentary filmmaker and photographer Mehrdad Oskoui, French photographer and art historian Guillaume de Sard, Iranian photographer and visual artist Maryam Rahmani, and Iranian lawyer and international relations specialist Baktash Hosseini-Manesh.

The artistic director of the festival is Iranian film director and instructor Mohammadreza Keyvanfar and the executive director is Seyyed Vahid Yaghoubi.

Photography is an art that, over two centuries, has not only captured the world but has also become one of the most important witnesses to history, the memory of societies, and the narrator of decisive moments in human life. This occasion provides a special opportunity to return to the most fundamental missions of photography: to see, record, and narrate what a society experiences.

In this regard, and in continuation of the cultural and artistic programs of the Franco-Iranian Center, the second edition of the center's photography competition titled “Times of War” will be held in Paris in November.

The Franco-Iranian Center held the first edition of this series in June 2024 with the theme “Water in Iran” and will hold the second edition of these



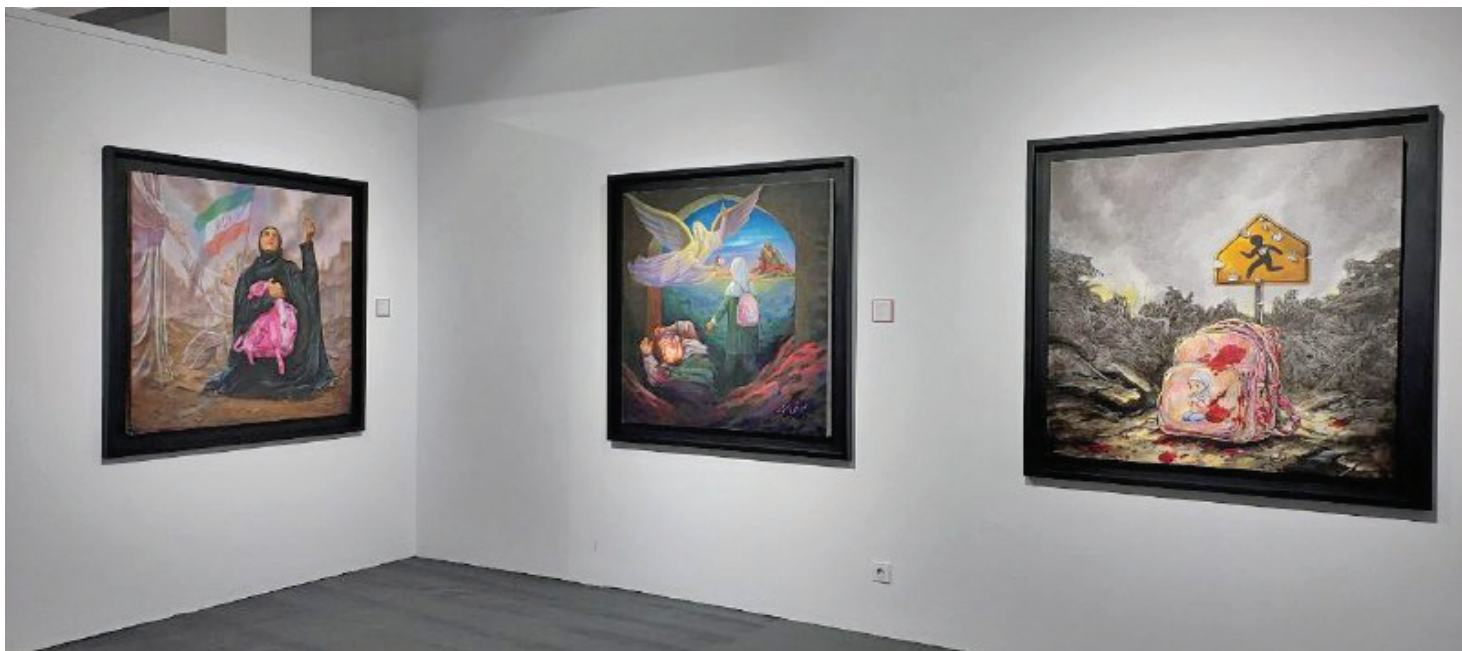
events in the fall of 2026 with a look at the war and its reflection in Iranian life and society; a visual narrative that, beyond scenes of war and destruction, focuses the gaze of Iranian photographers on humans, daily life, the effects and memories of war, social solidarity, the continuity of life, and hope for the future.

Thus, in the year that Paris celebrates two centuries of photography, this event attempts to once again emphasize the power of the image as a witness to history and a carrier of human memory through the lens of contemporary Iranian photography.

The Franco-Iranian Center was created in 2016, to deepen and develop Franco-Iranian relations in all areas (institutional, economic and commercial, cultural and artistic, sporting, academic, etc.) and work to strengthen ties of friendship between the two peoples of France and Iran, and the two countries.

The Franco-Iranian Center organizes a wide-ranging program of conferences, speeches, and meetings in partnership with other organizations and partners. In 2023, this non-political association was considered to be the most active in Franco-Iranian relations, receiving extensive media coverage.

Minab children's unfinished dreams live on in paintings



By Samaneh Aboutaleb

TEHRAN – There are exhibitions that can be visited, and there are exhibitions that stay with you long after you have left. The group painting exhibition dedicated to the martyred children of Minab belongs to the latter.

Walking through the gallery, the first impression is not of an ordinary art show. The walls are filled with paintings that speak of children, schools, dreams and lives that ended before they had the chance to fully begin. The colors, faces and empty spaces in the works carry a sadness that is difficult to separate from the reality behind them.

The paintings do not simply tell the story of a tragedy. They create an atmosphere of absence — the absence of children who should have been preparing for another school day, another lesson and another ordinary morning.

Held at the Art Bureau in Tehran, the group exhibition brings together works by contemporary Iranian artists in memory of the martyred children of Minab School. The exhibition has turned a painful event into a visual narrative, allowing each artist to approach the tragedy through a different image and artistic language. The works recall the attack on the Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab, Hormozgan province, where a school building was struck during the Israeli-US aggression against Iran in Febru-

ary, killing and injuring students and school staff.

Walking through the gallery, it is difficult not to think about the approaching new school year in Iran. In just a few days, schools will once again fill with children carrying backpacks, wearing uniforms and meeting their friends after the summer break.

The beginning of a school year is normally associated with new beginnings. At the Minab exhibition, however, the same idea acquires a different meaning. The children portrayed in these paintings will not return to their classrooms. Their school days ended, while their dreams — and the futures their families imagined for them — remained unfinished.

For Iranian families preparing their children for a new school year, the thought of children who will never walk into their classrooms again becomes particularly painful.

One visitor described the exhibition as a reminder of “dreams that were cut down before they could blossom.”

The phrase seems to echo through the gallery. Behind every painting is the question of what these children might have become: what they might have studied, whom they might have met, what professions they might have chosen and what lives they might have built.

Another visitor said the exhi-

bition represents a reminder of the vulnerability of children in war and oppression, and of the suffering of innocent children caught in violence.

For a third visitor the significance of the exhibition goes beyond remembering the victims. He expressed hope that exhibitions of this kind could create greater international empathy, raise sensitivity toward the suffering of children and encourage people around the world to pay closer attention to such tragedies.

In this sense, the paintings are not merely records of grief. They are also attempts to make grief visible to people who did not experience the tragedy themselves.

Perhaps the most striking element of the exhibition, however, is not a painting at all. Among the finished works hangs an empty frame. A note beside it explains that the empty frame represents the continuation of the exhibition and is waiting for another work by an artist.

The blank space is simple, but difficult to ignore. In a gallery filled with images created to remember children who are no longer here, an empty frame becomes another kind of image — one that asks the viewer to imagine what has not yet been painted and what stories still remain to be told.

It also suggests that remembrance is not meant to end with

one exhibition or one collection of paintings. The empty frame leaves the story open, waiting for another artist to respond.

As visitors move from one painting to another, the exhibition gradually feels less like a collection of artworks and more like a collective act of remembering. The sadness comes not only from what the paintings show, but from what they cannot show: the years these children might have lived, the classrooms they might have entered, the friendships they might have made and the ordinary futures that will never happen.

The exhibition officially presents paintings. But after walking through the gallery, it becomes difficult to see them only as paintings.

They are memories given color and form.

They are artists' attempts to hold on to a painful moment and prevent it from becoming just another date in history.

And as the new school year approaches, the images seem to speak even more directly. While millions of Iranian children are preparing to return to school, the children of Minab remain in the memories of their families and in the works on the gallery walls.

Their desks may be empty, but their stories continue to occupy a space — in art, in memory and in the collective grief of those who refuse to let them disappear.

Iranian short film “Like a Miracle” wins at Italian festival

TEHRAN – The Iranian short film “Like a Miracle” directed by Abod Kazemi won the Best Short Film award at the 6th Son of a Pitch® Award, which was held from September 2 to 12 in Rome, Italy.

The film is about a boy who loves magic tricks and has a stick shaped like a gun. While playing, he pretends to shoot an old man, who suddenly falls to the ground. This is the beginning of the adventure. A children's game becomes the starting point for a story suspended between imagination, fear, and con-

sequences, Mehr reported.

Son of a Pitch® Award is an international film competition dedicated to directors under 30. Born in Venice in 2021, it celebrates new voices in contemporary cinema and gives emerging talent a real stage.

It invites young filmmakers from around the world to explore and express ideas about sustainable development — across themes such as humanity, work, technology, and the environment. The goal is to offer a personal and critical perspective on sustainability

through the language of cinema.

The point of view of young filmmakers is particularly valued for their openness to experimentation and innovative storytelling, as well as their ability to provide a subjective and forward-looking interpretation of society.

The Award was presented during the Venice International Film Festival and was judged by a professional artistic jury, led by Pierfrancesco Diliberto, known as Pif, a prominent figure in cinema and television.

Irish artists quit Ed Sheeran US tour in protest over Macklemore's removal after Gaza comments

Irish artists have dropped out of the remaining dates of Ed Sheeran's US tour after Macklemore was removed from the shows over comments he made about Gaza.

Irish singer Aaron Rowe and Irish folk band Beoga have joined US musician Finneas, who is Billie Eilish's brother, and Danish singer Lukas Graham in withdrawing from the tour.

Meanwhile, Irish folk band Biird, who supported Ed Sheeran on an earlier leg of his tour also spoke out in support of Macklemore.

Biird said they “stand unequivocally behind every word” Macklemore said at the MetLife Stadium, where he voiced support for people in Gaza and the West Bank. The band said their own stint on the tour had already ended but felt compelled to state their position.

Irish singer Aaron Rowe, who was due to open remaining US dates, announced he was stepping away, saying: “I cannot stand by and allow billionaires to use their position of power to silence the rightful voices of those who speak up against Israeli genocide and

who highlight the savage murder of children.

“I would lose all respect for myself to carry on as normal.

“I need to be true to myself and my ancestors who resisted colonisation, and fought for a freedom that I enjoy today in Ireland.”

In their post, Beoga said: “We have made the decision to depart as Ed Sheeran's band on the remaining US Loop tour, following the silencing of Macklemore by Zionist lobbies.”

The band added: “As musicians, playing to those crowds every night is the stuff of dreams but to play in venues that silence anyone advocating for a Free Palestine is simply not an option for us.”

During a show at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey last week, American artist Macklemore said he wanted people in Gaza and the West Bank to know they had not been forgotten.

This led to a petition demanding he be removed from the remaining dates.

On Monday, he posted on Instagram confirming Sheeran and his team had “made the decision to remove” him from the Loop Tour.

In a response on the social media platform on Tuesday, Sheeran said his departure from the tour was the promoter's decision and not his.

He said “upcoming tour dates had communicated that they would pull the shows if he was still supporting”, and added Robert Kraft, owner of the Gillette Stadium where he was due to play, was among them.

He said: “I am not complicit. I have my personal views on this devastating conflict.

“Just because I choose not to speak publicly, it doesn't mean I don't have them, and it doesn't mean I don't care.

“Nor does it mean I don't support causes in my own personal way.”

The Shape Of You singer said he was “appalled by the conflict between Israel and Palestine”, and added he respected Macklemore “as an artist”.

Cartoon of Day



Up!

Cartoonist: Daniel Boris from the US