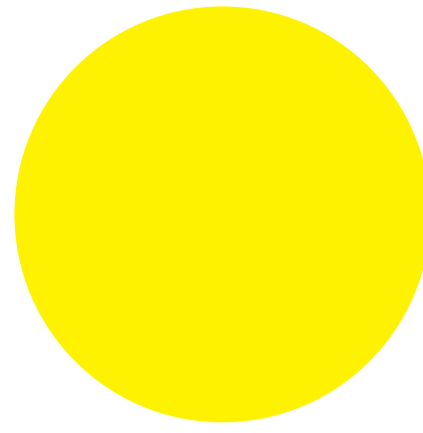


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Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian addresses a meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Middle East in New York on October 26, 2023. GETTY IMAGES



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Kyrgyzstan asks Iran to supply oil products, modernize refinery



Kyrgyzstan on Thursday requested Iran to supply oil products, particularly gasoline, gas oil, jet fuel, kerosene, and bitumen, and overhaul and modernize one of the Central Asian country's refineries. It made the request in a meeting attended by Kyrgyzstan's energy and transport ministers and Iran's oil and roads ministers on the sidelines of the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Kyrgyz capital city of Bishkek, Shana reported. Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji asked the Kyrgyz side to submit a list of products with quantity and quality details to help Tehran outline a plan for cooperation with Bishkek.

Tehran, Moscow invest \$38b on INSTC project

Iran and Russia have so far invested \$38 billion to boost shipping lines for the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which links Asia to Europe. Addressing a gathering in the opening ceremony of an international conference, dubbed "The INSTC; a New Concept," in the Russian city of Astrakhan on Friday, Daryush Jamali, the director of the Iranian-operated port of Salianka in Russia, named the corridor as "a key element of the Eurasian transport network," IRNA reported. He added Tehran and Moscow have almost equal shares of the investment, elaborating that 330 wagons as well as 54,000 containers have so far been purchased and negotiations are underway for the construction of 21 ships for the corridor. Iran's ambassador to Russia, the director of Afghanistan's railway, the director of the Iraqi railway, and the head of the North-South Integration Club were among the participants of the event. The 7,200-km ship, rail, and road corridor is planned for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and onwards to Europe to increase trade connectivity between major cities en route.

Iran, China stress accelerating execution of 25-year strategic agreement

Economy Desk

First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber and Chinese Premier Li Qiang emphasized on accelerating the implementation of the 25-year strategic agreement between the two countries while the two officials held a meeting on the sidelines of the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. There are many areas of cooperation between Tehran and Beijing, Mokhber said, adding: "If we focus on these areas and pave the ground for the private sectors of the two countries, we will reach a favorable point in realizing the goals of the 25-year agreement."

He underlined that China is a strategic partner of Iran, and the two countries enjoy a long history of friendship. Tehran appreciates Beijing's assistance for its economic and social development and is firmly committed to deepening Iran-China relations, Mokhber noted. Iran is also willing to work with China in the Belt and Road Initiative, strengthen connectivity and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, and deepen mutual coordination within multilateral frameworks, he said. For his part, Li said China stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Iran within the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, and other multilateral mechanisms, practice true multilateralism, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries.



Since the establishment of China-Iran diplomatic ties more than 50 years ago, bilateral relations have withstood the test of the fluctuating international situation and made steady progress, said the official, noting that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met twice this year and reached a series of important consensus. Li added that China is ready to work with Iran to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, enrich the connotation of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership, and bring more benefits to the two peoples. China will continue to firmly support Iran in safeguarding its national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national dignity and will strongly oppose any external forces interfering in Iran's internal affairs, he stressed.

The two sides should implement the comprehensive cooperation plan between the two countries, promote the Belt and Road cooperation, strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and people-to-people exchanges in such areas as education, culture, tourism, and think-tanks, as well as promoting new achievements in China-Iran cooperation, Li said.

Boosting gas transit

Also on Thursday, Mokhber voiced Iran's readiness to develop the exploitation of the gas transit potential of the country in line with its president's initiative, dubbed "Gas for Global Economic Recovery in Post-COVID Era". Addressing the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Mem-

ber States in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, he called for setting up a joint fund to finance upstream and downstream petrochemical projects, Shana reported.

The vice president also proposed the launch of a regional hub, dubbed "Shanghai Energy", with the aim of trading, swapping, and guaranteeing the security of energy resources, including fossil fuels, electricity, and renewable energies. In addition, Mokhber expressed Iran's readiness to export techno-engineering services and manufacture oil, gas, and petrochemical equipment.

Opening new air routes to Tajikistan

In another meeting in Bishkek on Thursday, Mokhber and Tajik Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda discussed the possibility of opening new air routes and expanding the num-

ber of flights between the countries.

It was noted that Tajikistan and Iran are keen on enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including boosting mutual trade, activating the private sector, and collaborating in banking, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare. Rasulzoda and Mokhber also discussed further strengthening the work of the intergovernmental commission. Meanwhile, during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September of this year, presidents Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan and Raisi of Iran expressed their support for simplifying visa procedures and increasing the number of flights between the countries. Currently, regular air traffic between Tajikistan and Iran is being operated by Iranian Vares Airlines and Tajik Somon Air.



First Vice President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber speaks at the Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on October 26, 2023. fvpresident.ir

Iran, India to finalize contract on development of Chabahar port

International Desk

A contract will be finalized with India on the development of Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar within the next two weeks, an Iranian deputy minister of roads said. Ali Akbar Safaei — who is also the CEO of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran — announced that the previously agreed details of the contract between Iran

and India on the development of Chabahar have changed, Tasnim news agency reported. The problems in the contract were all settled after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took office in August 2021, he said, adding that the only outstanding provision of the contract will be drafted in less than a month. India has undertaken an investment of \$85 million in the development of the

first phase of Chabahar Port on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, Safaei added, noting that the second phase of the project will be carried out with the investment of foreign companies. The deputy roads minister put the total investment made so far by India in the development of the Beheshti Port of Chabahar at \$25 million, which, he said, mainly includes gantry and coastal cranes.

The Indians are committed to supplying a set of equipment such as coastal, gantry, and yard cranes, as well as the equipment needed to load and unload cargo at the port, he continued. The long-term contract, which will be finalized soon, is expected to serve the interests of the country, Safaei concluded.



Suleiman Prison: A mysterious natural wonder and historical enigma

Iranica Desk

Did you know that one of the scariest prisons in the world is located near the city of Takab in West Azarbaijan Province? It is called Suleiman Prison, where the Prophet Suleiman used to imprison disobedient demons. Even today, the piercing screams echo from the mountain's mouth, and their breaths escape from the abyss within the mountain.

Suleiman Prison is actually a natural wonder, a mountain located about three kilometers west of Takht-e Suleiman. It is approximately 300 kilometers from Urmia, and 40 kilometers from Takab.

Suleiman Prison is situated in a beautiful valley that belongs to the third geological period. This mountain, which is considered one of the natural and historical attractions of West Azarbaijan Province, attracts a large number of tourists every year. At first glance, this mountain, with its hollow and conical shape, appears quite terrifying. It has held special significance throughout history due to its deep cavity and the presence of a well. If you climb up this mountain, you will come face to face with a very deep and scary hole at its mouth, and looking down toward its bottom will make you dizzy. Over thousands of years, the



wikimedia.org

cavity inside the mountain has been formed by mineral deposits in water. The mountain has an elevation ranging from 87 to 108 meters, but the deep cavity inside it has expanded to approx-

imately 80 meters in height, and a mouth with an approximate diameter of 65 meters.

According to researchers, the prison was a sacred sanctuary during the 1st millennium BCE. It is highly likely that it was developed in the 7th century BCE and took the form of a strong fortress. It appears that this construction process was carried out rapidly, as the box-shaped feature in the northern part seems short and superficial, suggesting it was built without sufficient precision. Historians believe that the reason for this haste was the imminent threat from the Assyrians and Urartians.

The director general of the province's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization stated, based on studies conducted by Iranian and German archaeologists, that there are two types of architecture in the prison.

He explained that the first type is associated with a sacred complex comprising 63 rooms, constructed around the peak at an altitude of 85 meters. In the southern foothills of the mountain, there is a staircase that leads to a terrace and ultimately a sanctuary. This sanctuary represents one of the most notable architectural remnants of this complex.

Researchers believe that these artifacts were constructed in the first millennium BCE and during a later period, it is likely that this site lost its value due to the decline of the spring's water, transforming into a settlement complex.

Borzouyeh Javani, an expert from West Azarbaijan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, stated that in recent years, various artifacts such as jars and kitchen ceramics have been unearthed from the prison. The discovery of a scattered skeleton, along with several war weapons like an axe head during the excavations, further supports the likelihood that this settlement was abandoned due to invasions and destruction. In one of the excavations from the eastern slope of the moun-

tain, a partially broken jug was unearthed, inside of which the preserved body of a child was discovered. The presence of this ancient jug signifies the age-old history of Suleiman Prison, dating back thousands of years. It was customary in prehistoric times to place deceased children inside such jugs and then bury them.

After examining its prominent natural features, Suleiman Prison was registered as the first natural heritage of West Azarbaijan Province on Iran's National Heritage List in March 2001. This historical mountain was also inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on July 5, 2003.

In the mountains, there is a deep black hole which has no way out, and if you step into it, you will certainly lose your life.

The indigenous people of this region believe that Prophet Suleiman used this abyss to imprison disobedient demons - a prison with high walls that completely confined the demons. They say that the stone structure on top of the hill was also built to protect this prison.

The rocks constituting volcanic mountains with a crater at their summit, from which smoke rises, are of igneous and metamorphic origin; however, it is worth noting that the type of rock used in Suleiman Prison is sedimentary. Based on the observations of scientists in this mountain and its surrounding areas, it appears that the cone-shaped structure, which is currently empty of water, located at the mouth of the hill, was filled with water about 2,000 years ago.

The remains of the water reservoirs around the cone also indicate the unusable nature of the water in this cavity and the lake inside it. In fact, it can be said that a small spring has contributed to the formation of this tall mountain, and no sea or other agent has played a role in the formation of the mountain. This spring initially led to the formation of a lake similar to Takht-e-Suleiman Lake. It was full of mineral salts, lime, and sulfur. It should be noted that this mountain has an

underground connection with Takht-e-Suleiman Lake. Multiple hot springs can be seen around this mountain, which are rich in mineral salts. They have even caused changes in the col-

or and shape of the surrounding lands. Some of these springs have a constant amount of water, and it is only the pressure of gas that causes them to bubble in such a way that, at first glance, one may think that water is flowing out of these springs regularly. But that's not the case.

Capturing the unparalleled nature surrounding the mountain, hiking and enjoying the natural landscapes, as well as its proximity to Takht-e Suleiman, a UNESCO World Heritage site, have led to a large number of tourists visiting this mysterious area every year. So, if you are adventurous, one who enjoys exploring natural wonders, you are highly recommended to visit the prison during your trip to West Azarbaijan Province.

You can visit the region at any time of the year, but most tourists choose the spring and early summer seasons to travel to this area. This is because during this time of year, West Azarbaijan Province is at its most picturesque state, with lush green nature.

Although autumn lacks the joy and freshness of flowers, it presents a magical and distinct image of this area with its adornment of yellow, red, and orange colors.

Visiting Suleiman Prison in winter is not recommended due to the cold weather.



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Iran warns US will 'not be spared' if Gaza 'genocide' continues



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian warned that if Israel's genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip doesn't end, then the United States will "not be spared from this fire". "I say frankly to the American statesmen, who are now managing the geno-

cide in Palestine, that we do not welcome (an) expansion of the war in the region. But if the genocide in Gaza continues, they will not be spared from this fire," he told a meeting of the 193-member UN General Assembly on the Middle East, Reuters reported.

Israel has struck Gaza from the air, imposed a siege, and is preparing a ground invasion on Gaza in response to the October 7 Hamas operation in the occupied Palestinian territories. Palestinian authorities say more than 7,300 have been killed in the Israeli attacks.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian addresses a meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Middle East in New York on October 26, 2023.

GETTY IMAGES

Hamas has told Iran that it was ready to release civilian captives, adding that the world should push for the release of 6,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons, Amir-Abdollahian said.

Call for release of Palestinian inmates

"The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to play its part in this very important humanitarian endeavor, along with Qatar and Turkey. Naturally, the release of the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners is another necessity and responsibility of the global community," he maintained.

The Iranian diplomat urged the US "to work for peace and security, not war against people, children, and women".

Instead of sending rockets, tanks, and bombs to be used against Gaza, the Iranian minister said, Washington must stop supporting genocide, according to Press TV. Amir-Abdollahian also pointed out the US is watching and supporting the killing of more than 7,000 civilians in less than three weeks by the Israeli regime in Gaza.

"The genocide in Gaza must stop immediately. The forced displacement of the people of Gaza must stop immediately."

Right to self-defense

Amir-Abdollahian also stressed the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has the right to self-defense, emphasizing that its large-scale attack against the occupying regime was a reaction to the continuation of the regime's occupation and aggressions against the Palestinians as well as its widespread crimes in recent months. However, he said, the US and several European countries refer to the occupying and war criminal regime as an entity that has the right to self-defense. "It is certainly not possible to change the places of the killer and the victim by misusing certain expressions."

"According to international law, as well as hundreds of resolutions approved by this very same assembly, the entire land of Palestine is an occupied land, and accordingly, the Israeli regime is recognized as an aggressor and an occupier," the Iranian diplomat stated.

The Palestinian nation, like any other nation under occupation, has the "legitimate right to resist the occupation using all available methods, including armed struggle".

"Therefore, the recent

hypocritical efforts to introduce the struggle of the Palestinian nation against the occupiers as terrorist actions will not mislead the free nations and the awakened minds around the world," the Iranian minister said.

In an interview with Morning Edition's Steve Inskeep that took place in New York City, Amir-Abdollahian said if the current situation continues, and women and children and civilians are still killed in Gaza and the West Bank, anything will be possible.

"Two weeks ago, I visited the region and I met with some leaders of the countries of my region and with the leaders of the resistance in Lebanon and also the Palestinian groups ... [From] what I gathered from the plans that they have, they have their finger on the trigger. You know, much more powerful and deeper than what you've witnessed."

"Therefore, I believe that if this situation continues and women and children and civilians are still killed in Gaza and the West Bank, anything will be possible ... They have their own calculations for their own security, and, as I've said, they decide for themselves," he added.

Iran Army launches massive drill in central region

Iran's Army Ground Force started a large-scale military drill in a central province of the country in order to boost deterrence against potential threats.

The two-day exercise, codenamed Eghtedar 1402, began on Friday in Nasrabad region of Isfahan Province with the participation of various units, Press TV reported.

Infantry regiments, armored divisions, missile and artillery units, airborne divisions, drone squads, electronic warfare units, and support teams are participating in the exercise, Brigadier General Karim Cheshak, spokes-

man for the military exercise, said on Friday.

These forces are deployed to the exercise area from seven different provinces after traveling an average of 1,100 km, he added. About 200 military helicopters performed different operations on the first day.

"This exercise will last for two days, and one of its main objectives is to improve the prowess and combat readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Force and enhance the country's level of deterrence against potential threats."

"The drill will also aim to

transfer relevant experiences to younger commanders and army forces and practice multiple predetermined defense scenarios," Cheshak added.

The first stage of the exercise, he maintained, involved the airborne and ground transfer of four combat brigades and other units to the drill area.

The second stage will involve surveillance and reconnaissance operations using unmanned aerial vehicles and electronic and detection systems, Cheshak said.

During the third and fourth stages of the drill, coastal defense scenarios and

night-time airborne operations will be practiced, while offensive operations aimed at destroying the mock enemy's targets will be carried out in the final phase, he added.

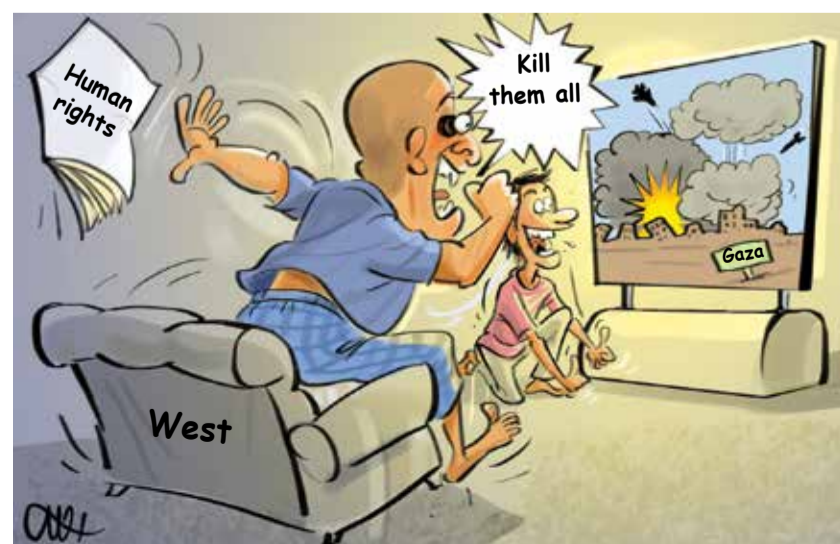
The drill came after US President Joe Biden on Wednesday warned Iran against hitting US personnel in the Middle East following a spate of attacks by regional forces allegedly affiliated with Iran on American forces in the region.

Following the Biden warning, the US military struck two facilities in eastern Syria that it claimed are used by groups linked to Iran.



HAMIDREZA NIKOOMARAM/FARS

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran court fines US \$420m for 1980 terror attack

An Iranian court ordered the US government on Thursday to pay \$420 million in compensation to victims of an abortive 1980 operation to free Americans held at the US Embassy, the judiciary said. Shortly after Iranians toppled the shah during the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iranian students stormed the US Embassy in Tehran and arrested more than 50 Americans, AFP reported.

In April 1980, Washington attempted to free the Americans in the top-secret Operation Eagle Claw, which ended in disaster after running into sandstorms and mechanical

problems. As the rescue force withdrew, two US aircraft collided, killing eight servicemen. In its Thursday report, the judiciary's Mizan Online news agency said that during the operation US forces had "attacked" a bus carrying Iranian passengers.

"Following the complaint filed by families of the victims of US Operation Eagle Claw, a court ordered the US government to pay \$420 million," Mizan reported.

Thirteen survivors of the terror attack as well as one of the hostages who was taken by the US forces in the desert filed a lawsuit against the US

government.

The court ruled that the US government must pay \$140 million for the "material and moral" damage it caused the plaintiffs and \$280 million in "punitive damages".

Five months after the crisis, Washington severed diplomatic relations and imposed an embargo on Tehran. The Americans were released in January 1981.

In August, a Tehran court ordered the US government to pay \$330 million in damages for "planning a coup" in 1980 against the Islamic Republic. The suits filed against Washington in Iranian courts fol-

low a series of multi-billion dollar compensation awards made against Tehran by US courts. In 2016, the US Supreme Court ordered that Iranian assets frozen in the United States should be paid to victims of attacks Washington has blamed on Tehran, including the 1983 bombing of a US Marine barracks in Beirut and a 1996 blast in Saudi Arabia.

In March this year, the International Court of Justice ruled that Washington's freezing of funds belonging to several Iranian individuals and companies was "manifestly unreasonable".

Cease-fire calls mount as death tolls rise in Gaza

International Desk

Amid the escalating tensions in Gaza, calls for an immediate cease-fire have mounted as the United Nations warned Friday that “many more will die” as a result of Israel’s ongoing siege of the enclave.

Pressure is building on the international community to persuade Israel to allow desperately needed aid into Gaza. The UN and several countries in the region have called for an immediate cease-fire, while others advocate for a “humanitarian pause” in fighting.

But the world has so far failed to unite around a common position on the crisis nearly three weeks since the outbreak of the war, sparked by Hamas’ October 7 attacks, which killed over 1,400 people in Israel.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-governed Gaza said Friday that 7,326 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory since the eruption of war.

The latest death toll includes 3,038 children killed, a ministry statement said, while 18,967 people have been wounded across Gaza.

‘Soon, many more will die’

“As we speak, people in Gaza are dying. They are not only dying from bombs and strikes, (but also) soon, many more will die from the consequences of (the) siege imposed on the Gaza Strip,” said Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner general for the

UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

“Basic services are crumbling. Medicine is running out. Food and water are running out. The streets of Gaza have started overflowing with sewage,” AFP reported.

Humanitarian ‘pauses’

European Union leaders on Thursday stopped short of calling for a cease-fire in Gaza, instead appealing for humanitarian “pauses” to provide aid as the UN warned that its operations were being “paralyzed” by Israel’s bombardment of the besieged enclave. They said the EU “will work closely with partners in the region to protect civilians, provide assistance, and facilitate access to food, water, medical care, fuel, and shelter”. The communique, released after meetings in Brussels Thursday, follows several failed attempts by the UN Security Council to pass a resolution on the Israel-Hamas war, with member states preparing to vote on another draft resolution on Friday — this time put forward by Jordan on behalf of Arab states.

Jordan’s Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi told diplomats gathered at the United Nations Assembly Hall that “collective punishment is not self-defense.” Jordan’s proposed resolution calls for a “cessation of hostilities,” the release of Israelis captured during the Hamas attack, and the rejection of “any attempts at forced transfer of the

Palestinian civilian population,” CNN reported.

New phase of war

Israeli forces entered a new phase of their war against Gaza on Thursday, launching a substantial but limited raid into the coastal strip, in what was described as a probing action in preparation for a more sustained ground offensive. Israel says it is preparing a ground invasion but has been urged by the US and Arab countries to delay an operation that would multiply the number of civilian casualties in the densely populated coastal strip and possibly ignite a wider conflict.

The ground raid into Gaza was carried out for the second consecutive night, Israel’s military said Friday. The small raid was backed by fighter jets and drones, with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) saying it had struck dozens of targets on the outskirts of Gaza City.

An opinion poll published on Friday suggested almost half of Israelis now want to hold off on a ground invasion out of fears for at least 224 civilian prisoners that are reported to be held there.

Release of prisoners needs cease-fire

The Russian newspaper Kommersant quoted a member of a Hamas delegation visiting Moscow as saying that time was needed to locate all those who had been abducted by various Palestinian factions in the Hamas attack.

“They seized dozens of people, most of them civil-

ians, and we need time to find them in the Gaza Strip and then release them,” Abu Hamid said.

He said Hamas, which has freed four prisoners so far, had made clear that it intended to release “civilian prisoners”. The officials visiting Moscow were quoted by Russian media on Friday as saying the resistance group viewed all its prisoners as Israelis, whatever additional passports they held, and could not release any of them until Israel agreed to a cease-fire.

Iran’s priority

During the meeting with Hamas’ representative

Moussa Abu Marzouk, Iran’s deputy foreign minister Ali Baqeri Kani also emphasized the need for achieving a cease-fire, lifting the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and providing humanitarian assistance to Gazans, according to a statement Friday by the Iranian Embassy in Moscow, Mehr news agency reported.

IRNA said Abu Marzouk told Baqeri Kani that he appreciated Iran’s support for the Palestinian people.

EU’s stance

With the EU’s 27-nation bloc being split between relatively pro-Palestinian members such as Ireland

and Spain, and staunch backers of Israel including Germany and Austria, there was less consensus on urging any halt to Israel’s retaliatory bombardment of Gaza. Ahead of the Thursday talks in Brussels, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said, “All the fantasies of truces, cease-fires, etc. have the effect of strengthening Hamas in its determination to continue its action and perpetuate this terrible terror.”

In their statement, the EU leaders said they supported a Spanish proposal on “holding an international peace conference soon” to discuss trying to find a lasting, two-state solution.



Smoke plume ascends following Israeli bombardment over the northern Gaza Strip on October 27, 2023.
● MENAHEM KAHANA/AFP

Diplomats from some EU nations had warned that delays over finding the right words as the death toll mounts in Gaza were damaging the bloc’s global standing.

“We can feel that some in the world are using the circumstances to try to rally a part of the international community to attack the European Union,” European Council President Charles Michel said.



Israel’s war exposes West’s hatred of Palestinians

OPINION

The ongoing Palestinian-Israeli war has galvanised massive Western support for Israeli Jews coupled with genocidal calls to “finish” off the Palestinians from across the Western political spectrum.

Indeed, even voices sympathetic to the Palestinians condemned the breakout against their Israeli prison guards on 7 October. They also rushed to adopt Israeli

propaganda, including the outlandish claims of decapitated babies and rapes, which were later quietly retracted by the very same Western outlets like CNN and the Los Angeles Times that initially helped spread these fabrications.

This fanatical Western hatred of the Palestinians and adoration of Israel have shocked most Arabs, even those who already considered the West the main enemy of the Pal-

estinian people. Over the last four decades, there has been a prevailing misconception by liberal and pro-Western Arab intellectuals, businesspeople, and political elites that Western liberals, and even some conservatives, had changed their views of Palestinians and become less hostile.

However, this change in the Western perception of Palestinians is limited to their being no more than victims of massacres. But

this has not translated into Western support for their right to resist their sadistic colonisers, and any sympathy they receive always co-exists with the undying Western support for Israel regardless of how many Palestinians it kills.

While some Westerners may sympathise with Palestinians as victims of Israeli oppression, they do not sympathise with any form of resistance the Palestinians adopt.

The underlying convictions governing where Palestinians fit in Western morality are derived not from what Palestinians do or do not do, but from how they relate to European Jews. Whereas in the West, European Jews are depicted as refugees fleeing the Nazis and the subsequent horrors of post-Holocaust Europe, survivors of a war of annihilation, and victims of British commitments to the Arabs, Palestinians view European Jews from their own direct experiences.

For Palestinians, European Jews did not arrive as refugees but as invaders whose sole purpose was to appropriate Palestine by any possible means to realise Zionist colonial aspirations, which began half a century before the rise of Hitler to power. This is why Palestinians view European Jews not as helpless refugees, but as armed colonists

committing massacres. It is this perspective that Edward Said wanted to convey in his classic essay “Zionism from the Standpoint of its Victims”.

While much of Israel’s violence is therefore “explained” in the West by the pre-Israel status of European Jews, Palestinian resistance is also viewed through the same status of those same Jews, and not through the history of the Zionist colonial conquest of the land of the Palestinians. Israel’s actions are presented in the West as stemming from the status of those Jews who arrived on the shores of Palestine after fleeing the Nazi regime, only to be confronted by yet another violent “antisemitic” campaign, this time by Palestinian Arabs and Arabs from neighbouring countries intent on expelling them from their last and only haven. Thus, Israel’s violence, regret-

table as it may be on occasion, is in effect viewed as always self-defensive in nature.

In the same vein, Palestinian resistance, peaceful or violent, which has always been and remains in self-defence against foreign invading colonists, is explained as part of an “antisemitic” campaign against Jewish refugees rather than resistance to Zionist colonists. This means that while some Westerners may sympathise with Palestinians as victims of Israeli oppression, they do not sympathise with any form of resistance the Palestinians adopt that could succeed in overthrowing the Israeli colonial and racist regime. The moment Palestinians did on 7 October, all the sympathy disappeared.

This is part of an opinion that first appeared on Middle East Eye.



Egyptian activist Zein Rahma (R) confronts CNN’s Clarissa Ward (L) on the network’s reporting of the Israel-Palestine war in Rafah, Palestine, on October 20, 2023.
● AIJAZEERA

Newcastle still in limbo over Tonali ban, says Howe



SCOTT HEPPELL/REUTERS

REUTERS – Sandro Tonali could be available for Newcastle United this weekend despite being given a 10-month ban for breaches of Italian betting rules, manager Eddie Howe said on Friday ahead of the Premier League clash at Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The head of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) said on Thursday that midfielder Tonali had been sanctioned with an 18-month ban, eight of which will be commuted to alternative treatment.

“It’s difficult because we haven’t had that official confirmation as a football club yet,” Howe told reporters on Friday.

“We’ve heard the news and speculation statement, but we haven’t had anything from the Italian authorities at the moment so we’re in limbo really waiting for that official confirmation. “There’s a high chance he could be available for us. There has to be a few things that have to happen before the ban is imposed so let’s see.”

Tonali’s ban is a huge blow to Newcastle who signed the international from Milan in July for a reported 70 million euros (\$74 million), a record sum for an Italian player.

Howe said Newcastle had no inkling of any potential betting breaches when they signed him.

“You make a decision at the time with the knowledge you have,” Howe said. “We really liked him as a footballer and had no idea that this was even a possibility.”

“Of course, there’s a frustration and a disappointment that we’re not going to have a quality player for a period of time.”

Tonali came on as a substitute in Newcastle’s 1-0 home loss to Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday. The defeat was made worse by injuries to forwards Alexander Isak and Jacob Murphy who will miss the Wolves match.

“Very different injuries, Alex is a groin which we don’t think is serious but it’s a recurrence of the groin injury he suffered playing for Sweden so we need to assess that,” Howe said.

“Jacob’s is totally different it’s dislocation of his shoulder. It’s not clear what we’re going to do and I think he’s going to see a specialist today. You can play with these injuries or the other side is he needs an operation and he’ll be out for some time.”

Asian Para Games:

Nemati, sitting volleyball men continue Iranian gold rush in Hangzhou



Iranian archer Zahra Nemati won her second gold at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, on Friday after a victory in the women’s individual recurve open final.

IRNA

Sports Desk

Another gold-laden day for Iran at the 4th Asian Para Games saw Zahra Nemati and the men’s sitting volleyball team finish their campaigns on high in Hangzhou, China.

Saman Pakbaz, Erfan Bondori, Alisina Manshazadeh, Gholamreza Rahimi, and Ali-Akbar Gharibshahi were also among the Iranian gold medalists on the penultimate day of the Games as the country remains in a tight race with Japan for the runner-up spot in the medals table.

Archery

Iranian archery sensation and three-time Paralympic champion Nemati bagged a third medal in Hangzhou when she defeated China’s Wu Yang 6-4 to walk away with the ultimate prize of the women’s individual recurve open.

This was a fifth gold in the history of the Asian Para Games for the Iranian, who had claimed the doubles recurve open silver – alongside Somayeh Rahimi – before teaming up with Mohammadreza Arab for the mixed team gold earlier in Hangzhou. Meanwhile, Manshazadeh

came out on top against Rakesh Kumar in the men’s individual compound open final, while a 6-5 win against Japanese Tomohiro Ueyama secured the men’s individual recurve open gold for Rahimi.

Sitting volleyball

It was business as usual for the Iranian men, who eased to a straight-set victory (25-14, 25-16, 25-18) over Kazakhstan in the final showpiece as the eight-time Paralympic gold medalist remains unbeaten in the Asian Para Games since the event was first introduced in 2010.



Iranian men’s sitting volleyball team celebrates after defeating Kazakhstan in straight sets to win the gold medal at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, on October 27, 2023.

MNA

In the women’s competition, held in a round-robin format, Iran defeated Thailand 3-0 (25-11, 25-10, 25-7) but still had to settle for the silver medal – finishing second to China.

Powerlifting

Reigning world champion Gharibshahi grabbed the men’s -107kg gold, thanks to a successful third lift of 251kg which saw the Iranian set a new record for the Games.

However, Gharibshahi failed with the 255kg attempt in his fourth lift, which would have seen him shatter his own world

record by one kilogram.

A bronze medalist at the Tokyo Paralympics, Iranian Saman Razi finished third in the category with 235kg – 10 kilograms adrift of Mongolian Sodnompiljee Enkhbayar.

Athletics

Bondori and Pakbaz continued Iran’s glittering run in the athletics competitions as they collected a couple of two more golds for the country.

Bondori registered a 28.28m throw in the men’s javelin throw F54 final for a new record in the Games, while Pakbaz finished atop the men’s shot put F12 con-

test with a final attempt of 16.15m, which also saw the Iranian shatter the Asian Para Games record, with Pakbaz’s fellow-Iranian Ali Shamschiri winning the bronze of the contest.

Elsewhere in the HSC Stadium, Vahid Alinajimi and Omid Zarif-Sanaei respectively took the silver and bronze medals of the men’s 400m T13 event, with Hadi Kaeidi claiming the men’s shot put F34 silver.

Vajihesh Houshmand was the Iranian female medalist in athletics competitions on Friday as a 28.83m attempt handed her the discus throw F64 bronze.

Yazdani undergoes surgery on injured shoulder

Sports Desk

Freestyle wrestling sensation Hassan Yazdani underwent a surgery on his injured right shoulder in Tehran on Friday. The operation came 10 months before the 28-year-old Iranian begins his quest for a third successive Olympic medal in Paris next summer.

A winner of a national-high nine world and Olympic medals – including the ultimate prize in Rio 2016 Games – Yazdani had to cope with the injury through September’s World Championships in Belgrade, where he settled for the 86kg silver after yet another setback against his familiar foe David Taylor.

The result in the Serbian capital saw the American take a 3-1 lead in the head-to-head battles with Yazdani in the recent four major finals.

However, Yazdani found a bit of consolation when he went on to march to the gold medal at the recently-finished Asian Games in Hangzhou, claiming four technical-fall victories without conceding a single point.



UWW

Iranian beaten by Australia in the Olympic qualifiers

Sports Desk

Iranian women’s national team got off to losing start in the second round of the AFC Women’s Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Perth, Australia, suffering a 2-0 defeat against the host.

Australia head coach Tony Gustavsson, who led his team to the World Cup semifinals in August before finishing fourth on home soil, benched a number of his star players – including Chelsea striker Sam Kerr – for the game against Maryam Azmoun’s side, but the Matildas still managed to find the lead through Ellie Carpenter, whose powerful drive went past Iranian keeper Zahra Khajavi with 19 minutes into the Thursday’s contest.

Despite having the lion’s share of possession, Australia had to wait until the 78th minute to double the advantage, when substitute Kerr tapped in from close range to se-



FFIRI

cure the maximum points for the home side.

Elsewhere in Group A of the qualifiers, the Philippines defeated the Chinese Taipei 4-1 to move atop the table on goal difference.

Iran will face the Chinese Taipei on Sunday before concluding the group fixtures with a game against the Philippines on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, South Korea routed Thailand 10-1 in Group B, with North Ko-

rea defeating host China 2-1.

Japan is the early leader in Group C thanks to a 7-0 thrashing of India in Tashkent, followed by Uzbekistan which edged out Vietnam 1-0 at the Bunyodkor Stadium later on Thursday.

The winners of the three groups will be joined by the best runner-up in the third round of the qualifiers, with two teams securing a berth at next year’s Olympic in Paris.

Immigration a 'double-edged sword'

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

While the issue of illegal and even legal immigration of foreign nationals to Iran has always been one of the country's problems, an Iranian lawmaker believes that the presence of foreign immigrants is like a "double-edged sword" and can be both beneficial and detrimental to the country. "The profit or loss, opportunity, and threat of immigrants depend on how we manage and handle this issue and, for this reason, the Islamic Council approved the plan of the Immigration Organization," explained Mohsen Zanganeh to Iran Daily. Pointing to the need to quickly review the details of the plan of the National Immigration Organization, the generalities of which were approved on the open floor of Parliament in November last year, Zanganeh said, "This organization can better control and manage the issues related to immigrants, and depending on the number of immigrants entering, their manner of entry into Iran, and the status of their residence, we should address and organize them." Ninety two years have passed since the approval of the Immigration Law in Iran, and during this period, the presence of foreign nationals in our country has brought many political, cultural, and economic consequences. Now, the Islamic Council is seeking to finally find a fundamental solution by implementing the plan of the National Immigration Organization to organize and manage foreign nationals. The law regarding the entry and residence of foreign nationals in Iran was approved in 1931. The



Afghans ride in pickup trucks along a desert road in southwestern Nimroz province toward the Afghanistan-Iran border, on 17 February 2022. AFP

law states that every foreign national must obtain the permission of the relevant officials of Iran in order to enter, stay, and leave Iran through legal procedures, and by obtaining the necessary permits. Iranian officials abroad should refuse to issue a visa if the presence of a foreigner in Iran is against security, public order, or against the interests of the country, or if the foreigner cannot prove that he earns his livelihood in Iran through his capital or skills. However, a large part of migrations that have been carried out to the country during these years have been illegal, and the immigrants basically



lacked such characteristics and conditions to enter Iran. Pointing out that the issue of immigration to the country has many positive and negative aspects, the MP explained, "When labor force enters a country, it definitely affects labor costs and leads to its reduction because an increase in the supply of labor automatically leads to a decrease in wages." Referring to the presence of Afghan immigrants and nationals in Iran, he explained, "Afghan immigrants have shown themselves to be very productive and hardworking people during their long stay in Iran. In addition, they do not have high expectations and usually receive lower wages." He continued, "Of course, Afghan immigrants do not have some of the expenses of Iranian residents,

and they can save more on their income and expenses." According to the official statistics published by the Ministry of Interior or Iran's Statistics Center, there are more than five million immigrants in the country, 95 percent of whom are Afghan nationals. Of course, unofficial statistics indicate that there is two to three times this number of immigrants in the country. According to statistics, Afghan immigrants, Iraqi immigrants, and Pakistani immigrants constitute the largest population of foreign nationals in Iran. Referring to the necessity of monitoring the situation of foreign immigrants, Zanganeh said, "If this issue is not closely monitored and the various aspects of the presence of foreign nationals in Iran are not controlled, of course, the increase in the number of immigrants in Iran can have negative consequences."

He added, "In other words, as the presence of foreign labor can be useful for the country and the labor market, its lack of control can also have adverse and negative results on the country's market and economy." The MP went on to note that the presence of foreign immigrants in the country cannot be assumed as a definite threat to the country. "Of course, immigration is not seen as a threat in any other country and with proper policy and management, its adverse and negative consequences can be prevented." Zanganeh pointed to the recent new wave that was formed by some media against Afghan immigrants in Iran and stated, "Some of the problems caused by the presence of Afghan nationals in Iran are exaggerated, and in my opinion, they seek to overshadow Iran-Afghanistan relations."

When bureaucracy fails the public

By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

Last Thursday, in a bid to defend public rights, Tehran's Prosecutor General visited the Iran Customs Administration's warehouse in West Tehran and paved the way for the clearance of 27 ambulances that were deposited there for a long stretch of time. Considering the country's dire need for these ambulances, the customs office cooperated to provide the vehicles to the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education to be used in helping patients. According to IRNA, the ambulances, which were back then donated by international institutions to Iran, had been held in customs due to "a lack of order registration by the Health Ministry". This piece of news, although inherently positive, comes with a few negative implications. It is, first and foremost, deeply troubling that these ambulances were kept in warehouses for a long period of time instead of being utilized for their intended purposes. Why was there a need for order registration in the first place? Isn't it obvious that an ambulance donated to the country is public property and should be cleared without any need for bureaucratic red tape? The long delay in clearing and utilizing these ambulances has no doubt tampered with the country's healthcare system and potentially compromised the availability and efficiency of emergency medical services. The piece of news serves as a prime example of when bureaucracy fails the public and shows its inhumane side. Bureaucracy, although necessary and beneficial, turns inhumane and destructive when it lacks compassion, empathy, or consideration for the well-being and dignity of individuals and the public. Such cases result from a rigid, callous adherence to bureaucratic protocols without taking into account the unique circumstances, needs, or rights of the people involved. In this case, the arbitrary decision regarding the ambulances and the unnecessary delay in their clearance proved to be a direct violation of public rights and an indicator that there is a need for bureaucratic reform in our country.

Spanish clergy sexually abused over 200k children

More than 200,000 minors are estimated to have been sexually abused in Spain by the Roman Catholic clergy since 1940, according to an independent commission. The report did not give a specific figure but it said that in a poll of more than 8,000 adults, 0.6 percent said they had been sexual abused by members of the clergy when they were children. This figure equates to about 200,000 of Spain's adult population of about 39 million, The Guardian reported. The proportion rose to 1.13 percent - equating to more than

400,000 people - when including abuse by lay members of the church, Spain's national ombudsman, Ángel Gabilondo, said at a news conference called to present the findings of the report. The Roman Catholic Church has been rocked by a series of sexual abuse scandals around the world, often involving children, over the past 20 years. In Spain, a traditionally Catholic country that has become highly secular, clerical abuse allegations are only now gaining traction, leading to accusations by survivors of stonewalling. "Unfortunately, for many years

there has been a certain desire to deny abuses or a desire to conceal or protect the abusers," said Gabilondo, a former education minister. The report is critical of the attitude of the church, calling its response to cases of child abuse involving the clergy "insufficient". It recommends the creation of a state fund to pay reparations to victims. Just before the report was presented in parliament, the Spanish bishops conference said it would hold an extraordinary meeting on Monday to discuss its findings. Spain's parliament in March 2022 overwhelmingly approved the



creation of an independent commission led by the ombudsman to "shed light" on allegations of sexual abuse of "defenseless boys and girls" in the Catholic Church.

Spain's national ombudsman, Ángel Gabilondo, addresses a press conference in Madrid. GETTY IMAGES

Second Announcement

Tender invitation

Invitation to public tender for: MAGNESIUM STEARATE (S32)

Tabriz Petrochemical Company intends to procure the amount of 110,000 kg of magnesium stearate (S32) it needs for the ABS production plant from the reliable and reliable manufacturer and supplier of the mentioned product.

In order to receive tender documents, interested suppliers should send their request to the following email within 7 days after the second printing of the advertisement.

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Tender	No	Quantity
MAGNESIUM STEARATE (S32)	PVS-0241036	110000 KG

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

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Maine shooting suspect still at large

A huge manhunt is being carried out in Maine for the US Army reservist suspected of murdering 18 people and injuring 13 others in a mass shooting. Hundreds of police officers and FBI agents are searching for Robert Card, who is said to be armed and dangerous, according to BBC. Schools and businesses have closed and people have taken shelter as far as 80 km away from the scenes of Wednesday's shootings in Lewiston. On Thursday night, police raided a property in neigh-

boring Bowdoin. Part of the search played out on live TV as police executed warrants in the town, which is around a 20-minute drive from Lewiston. Over a megaphone, police were heard yelling for Mr. Card to surrender and to come out of a house "with your hands up." After a few hours, police departed the scene. It is unclear what prompted the search, and an official said police were "simply doing their due diligence by tracking down every lead in an effort to lo-



cate and apprehend Card." Wednesday's bloodshed marked the worst mass shooting in the US this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive, which counts those where four or more people are killed or injured, excluding the gunman.

Iran's 'Temple' nominated in Philadelphia festival



IRNA - The Iranian film 'Temple,' directed by Adel Tabrizi and produced by Hanif Sarvari and Mirali Allah-Modini, has been nominated for the Best Film Award at the 15th Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, scheduled to take place from November 2 to 12, in Philadelphia, the US. 'Temple,' which was Tabrizi's directorial debut, has already achieved international recognition by winning awards at the 40th Milano International FICTS Fest in Milan, Italy, and the 16th Cheboksary International Film Festival in Russia for the Best Screenplay Award. The film has also been selected to participate in the 9th International Film Festival of Shimla in India, the 9th Cine a la Vista! in Argentina, and the 43rd Paladino d'Oro Sport Film Festival in Italy. The international distribution of this cinematic work is managed by Madakto Pictures, led by Mohammad Towrivarian.

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Iran to attend 40th Istanbul Book Fair

An opportunity to exchange ideas

Arts & Culture Desk

In a bid to develop international literary dialogue and expand its presence on the global stage, Iran is slated to participate in the 40th Istanbul Book Fair, scheduled to run from October 28 to November 5, in the TÜYAP Istanbul Fair Center in Istanbul, Turkey. This year's book fair holds particular significance as it coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Republic, distinguishing it from previous editions, IRNA wrote. Reza Haji-Abadi, the director of Hezarehe Ghoghnoos Publications, expressed optimism about the opportunity to engage in negotiations with publishers from various countries during the event. He emphasized the potential of the book fair to serve as a suitable platform for in-person meetings

between publishers and translators from different nations. Haji-Abadi announced that the invitation to the fair was extended to select publishers from Iran, with Hezarehe Ghoghnoos Publications being the sole Iranian representative at the event. Beyond the main exhibition, the fair will feature a hall for international publishers dedicated to copyright exchange, providing a forum for discussions and collaborations. The Istanbul Book Fair's importance is emphasized by the fact that the previous edition attracted approximately 700,000 visitors, with the International Publishers Hall facilitating copyright transactions rather than individual book sales. Haji-Abadi talked about his publication's recent efforts to translate six Turk-



ish works into Persian and facilitate reciprocal rights agreements, as evidenced by their collaboration with Kapı Yayınları to translate and publish Sadık Yalsızuçanlar's 'Şey:

Bir Ömer Hayyam Anlatısı' (Narratives of Hakim Omar Khayyam) into Persian. He expressed the desire to organize joint meetings with the author, translator, publisher, and editor of the

book during the fair, emphasizing the importance of accurate translation. Moreover, Hezarehe Ghoghnoos Publications aims to introduce its books to international publishers

and book fairs and has entered into an agreement with an international literary agency to promote and sell the copyrights of selected publications in other countries.

6th Tabriz national street theater festival kicks off



The 6th edition of a Tabriz national street theater festival began in Tabriz, with theater groups from various provinces across the country gathering at the

historical and cultural site of El Goli Park, in Iran's northwestern province of East Azarbaijan. The festival includes the participation of theater

groups from East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Zanjan, Ilam, Isfahan, Gilan, Kurdistan, Lorestan, Tehran, and Khuzestan provinces that compete in cate-

gories such as concept and idea, stage design, female and male acting, directing, costume design, makeup, and music. A total of 127 entries

were submitted from 17 provinces and 35 cities for the festival. Following the preliminary evaluations, 24 have been selected to take part in the

festival. These include 15 works in the competition section, six works in the special section for children and adolescents, and three works in the tradi-

tional section. The 5th edition of the event was held in 2018, and after a hiatus of nearly four years, the 6th edition marks its revival.

China, Iran share cultural heritage for shared tourism development

'Art Diversity: 2023 China-Iran Conference on Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development' was recently held at the Shanghai Art Collection Museum.

Supported by the Foreign Affairs Office of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, Chinese Embassy in Iran, Consulate General of Iran in Shanghai, and Bordbar Art Foundation, the conference attracted 20 experts, scholars and representatives of Chinese and Iranian cultural and tourism organizations, Chinese website Shine reported. Iran, as an important crossroads of the ancient "Silk Road", has a long history, rich cultural heritage and diverse art and tourism resources. Likewise, China, a country with a 5,000-year history of civilization is also closely linked with Iran through China's Silk Road. Today China and Iran are important partners of the "One



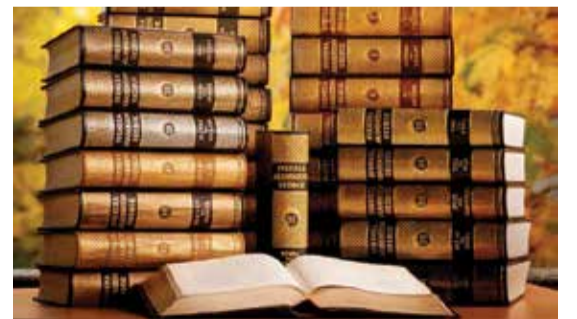
Belt One Road" initiative with cooperation in various areas. The two countries will not only enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples, but also effectively promote the revitalization and utilization of cultural heritage, and further the development of tourism. For example, under the theme of "Contemporary Sino-Iranian Cooperation in the Field of Cultural Heritage," Hasan Adib, head of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran's Ar-

dabil Province, introduced the rich cultural heritage and tourism resources of the region, as well as the initiatives to promote the tourism industry through international handicraft exhibitions and other forms. He also emphasized the importance of tapping into tourism resources and international cooperation. During the conference, the Shanghai Art Collection Museum also signed a cooperation agreement with the Malek National Museum and Library.

Official Swedish dictionary completed after 140 years

The final volume of a definitive Swedish language dictionary was sent to the printers a few days ago. This marks the end of a 140-year journey of linguistic dedication, according to its editor. The Swedish Academy, the prestigious body that awards the Nobel Prize in literature, has (finally) produced the Swedish Academy Dictionary, which contains 33,111 pages across 39 volumes. It stands as Sweden's answer to the Oxford English Dictionary, AFP reported. With only 200 printed versions issued, the text will primarily be utilized by researchers and linguists, though it is also accessible online. "It was started in 1883 and now we're done," said editor Christian Mattsson. "Over the years, 137

full-time employees have worked on it." However, more work lies ahead, as the older volumes, A to R, will need updating to incorporate new, modern words. Mattsson explained that the word "allergy", which was introduced to the Swedish language in the 1920s, does not feature in the A volume, as it was published in 1893. Words such as "Barbie doll", "app" and "computer" are among a list of 10,000 words that will be added to the dictionary over the next seven years. Asked on Radio Sweden why the dictionary took so long to complete, Mattsson said: "It's a very complicated work, because this is a very detailed analysis and description of the Swedish language starting from the 16th century up to to-



day's date." "That means that we have to cover all Swedish words that have been used under a period of 500 years," he added. "So that explains why it has taken nearly 150 years to complete this huge dictionary." While the Swedish dictionary has just been completed, producers of the Oxford English Dictionary are already halfway through completing a third edition, according

to Radio Sweden. "We have only about 15 staff, while English is such a big language, and they have more resources and money, and can employ more people," Mattsson said. Established in 1786 by King Gustav III, the Swedish Academy was created with the purpose of nurturing Sweden's language and literature, striving for the "purity, vigor and majesty" of the Swedish language.