



Iran-Venezuela trade could increase up to fivefold: *MP*

EXCLUSIVE

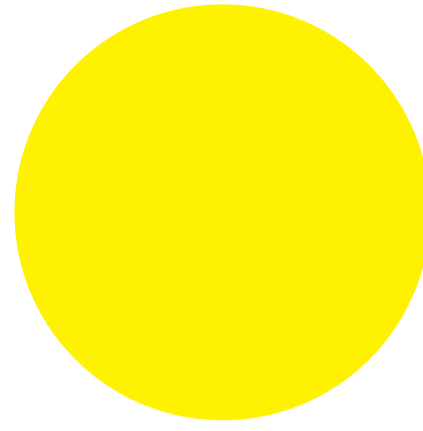
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# Iran Daily



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Palestinians walk amidst the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City on November 26, 2023. *OMAR EL-QATTA/AFP*



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## Iran breaks 10-year gas storage record: NIOC



The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) managing director said gas stockpiled in the first eight months of the current Iranian year (starting March 21, 2023) broke the country's 10-year record. Mohsen Khojastehmehr added that around three billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas have been stored in Sarajeh and Shourijeh facilities during the period, Shana reported.

The NIOC chief said the stored volume will be injected into the national grid in the upcoming winter.

Pointing to the recent meeting between President Ebrahim Raisi and Oil Ministry officials, Khojastehmehr added that NIOC's plan for carrying out studies and drilling operations in some fields were discussed and the company was assigned to conduct feasibility studies for developing the fields and stockpiling gas in the near future.

### Oil output, economic growth up

All oil and gas production projects implemented under the incumbent administration were aimed at increasing the country's revenues and economic growth, the NIOC CEO underlined.

Based on the statistics released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the oil and gas industry's economic growth in the spring of 2023 stood at 19.5 percent, the highest figure so far.

The country's oil output has jumped by some 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd) since the incumbent administration took office, showing a 60 percent increase, he continued.

The development projects of joint fields have contributed to the hike in domestic production, said Khojastehmehr, explaining that 60 new wells in South Azadegan field have become operational and drilling systems installed in shared fields have witnessed a 70 percent increase.

NIOC has given top priority to the development of joint fields, said the official, concluding the company's exports and collection of debts have also increased the country's revenues.

# Iran-Venezuela trade could increase up to fivefold: MP



By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou  
Staff writers

Trade between Iran and Venezuela could increase fivefold by next year, said a member of the Iran-Venezuela parliamentary friendship

group, adding that during his visit to Caracas in June, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi announced that the bilateral trade has surpassed \$3 billion per year.

A major part of Iran's exports to Venezuela pertains to techno-engineering services, Ahad Azadikhah told Iran Dai-

ly, noting that since all payments are not made in dollars, the total value is not accurately announced.

"Iran has implemented large projects and plans in the field of exporting techno-engineering services, mainly in overhauling petrochemicals, refineries and energy fa-

cilities in Venezuela," the Iranian lawmaker said.

Talking on the capacities of cooperation with Latin American states, he said "We have a lot of political and economic potentials for cooperation with Latin America, so we can implement a lot of joint production projects, especially in the field of agriculture." Venezuela enjoys very good capacities for cooperation with Iran in the field of extraterritorial cultivation, especially wheat production, the MP noted.

Considering that the two countries are under sanctions, they can collaborate more in the field of oil and its products exchanges.

Currently, Iran, Russia, Turkey, China, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Congo, the Balkans, Mali, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Sudan, Somalia, Cuba, Zimbabwe, Yemen, North Korea, Belarus, Burundi and the Central African Republic are on the US unilateral sanctions list.

Integrating the capacities of the sanctioned countries, especially the two BRICS member countries, namely China and Russia, along with economic powers such

as Iran and Turkey, and countries such as Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen, which form the axis of resistance, creates the ability to make the US sanctions ineffective or at least less effective.

Pointing out that, unfortunately, the capacities of cooperation between the two countries have not been fully exploited, he said Iran's sale of gasoline to Venezuela Republic is capable of managing the safety of exporting to Caracas, along the 12,000-kilometer water route.

The MP added that the import of gold shipments from Venezuela to Iran proved that we can do monetary and financial support in the central bank through cooperation with Venezuela.

All political and economic issues, including sanctions, monetary, banking issues together can strengthen Iran's relations with Latin American countries, he said, noting that according to the emphasis laid by President Raisi on the development of relations with other countries, Tehran can raise the level of ties with Latin American countries.

## Tehran, Baghdad have potential to boost annual trade to \$20b: TPO

Iran and Iraq have the potential to enhance mutual trade to \$20 billion, announced an official at the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

TPO's special trade envoy to Iraq, Farzad Piltan, made the comments in an interview with Mehr news agency, adding that the Arab country is not interested in launching a free trade agreement (FTA) with Iran due to the difference between imports and exports.

He noted that about \$4.5 billion worth of products were exported from Iran to Iraq in the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21 to September 22, 2023), while about \$150 million worth of products were imported to Iran from Iraq in this period.

Piltan pointed to the number of Iran's commercial attachés in Iraq and said that steps have been taken to dispatch three new commercial

envoys to Iraq to bolster the trade relations.

In line with developing the scope of its activities and expanding the level of services to the traders of the two countries, the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran is considering setting up a branch office of the organization in Iraq, the official added.

He reiterated that the two countries have high potential in all fields to boost their annual trade to \$20 billion.



## Role of steel industry in Iran's economic prosperity

The steel industry is a pillar of the economy of many countries, which has led to construction, development and progress in societies for centuries.

Most of the equipment and parts we use daily are made of steel. The steel industry, from the very beginning stages of extraction from the mine to production and consumption, leads to job creation. The exploitation of steel mines, transportation, purchase of machinery and equipment, project consulting, use of work force and training are some facets of

the steel industry in a country.

In general, steel and the steel industry can have a significant impact on the prosperity and progress of a country and play an important role in its economy.

The foundation of the steel industry in Iran, besides job creation, which is one of its most important advantages, has staked out a niche for the country in world markets and steel exports.

Steel is known as the mother of industries, which constitutes the basis of all economic activities, and brings about

growth and development. Job creation and recruitment is only one benefit of the steel industry. To produce a steel cross-section, manpower is needed from the initial stages, which lead to numerous occupations.

Throughout the extraction of steel from the mine, the process of production and casting of raw steel, the implementation of secondary operations and steel rolling, and the stage of consumption and sale, experienced and knowledgeable manpower is needed.

The steel industry can direct-

ly and indirectly create jobs. For example, the Mobarakeh Steel Industries in Isfahan takes pride in having over 350,000 employees.

Moreover, it has resulted in the training of specialists and experts familiar with the latest technical knowhow of the world.

Steel exports and presence in world markets are another advantage of the steel industry. Remaining in the global market requires the production of goods with diverse quality, in accordance with international standards, with competitive prices. The

economic prosperity of the country and the source of foreign exchange is another benefit of steel exports, which has a positive impact on the economy.

In Iran, two traditional methods of direct reduction and electric arc furnace are used for steel production in Isfahan Iron Smelter, Ahvaz Steel, and Mobarakeh Steel Company. It can be boldly stated that iron and steel smelting industries have shored up Iran's economy at a time of the most intensive restrictions. Hence, it is imperative to go above and beyond in efforts to pave the way for a sustainable presence of Iranian steel products in world markets.

Iran is capable of producing 25 million tons of steel per year but foreign sanctions

and duties are a big hurdle.

Iran's steel exports are already facing an increasingly hostile terrain in Europe where the bloc's executive body, the European Commission, has levied trade tariffs against Iranian products.

The US Treasury has also announced sanctions on Mobarakeh Steel Company, the largest steel maker in West Asia and North Africa, and one of the largest industrial complexes operating in Iran.

Over 50 industries in Iran are linked to the construction industry. The country plans to boost steel output to 55 million tons per year by 2025, of which 10 million tons would be earmarked for export.

Industry experts say even in the worst-case scenarios, Iran's steel industry will continue to grow.

Moreover, it is important to note that Iran's economic and industrial development is not limited to the construction and steel sectors, and the progress and prosperity of industries such as machinery production, mining, shipbuilding, automobile manufacturing, transportation, pipes and profiles, packaging and other industries related to energy production and transmission have also had a significant impact on the economic growth and development of the country.

The exchange rate is one of the most important influencing factors in determining the price of steel, along with other factors, such as the supply and demand market, which has caused the price of steel to increase and undergo fluctuations.





Taq-e Booshtan  
IRNA



Anahita Temple  
kojaro.com

# Path to UNESCO recognition for Kermanshah's historical sites

## Iranica Desk

The historical sites Taq-e Booshtan, and Anahita Temple in Kermanshah Province have been on the UNESCO World Heritage tentative list since 2006. However, there has been no progress in preparing the dossier for these sites and submitting it to UNESCO. The measure aims to encompass the 18 other significant historical sites in the region, highlighting the rich history and

cultural heritage of Kermanshah Province. Morteza Gharavand, an official who is responsible for preparing the dossier, explained that the decision to create a comprehensive dossier was made due to the fact that each country is only allowed to submit one dossier for world registration each year. The proposed dossier, "Sassanid-Parthian Landscape: From the Anahita Temple to the Taq-e Booshtan," aims to showcase the cultural

continuity and architectural marvels of the Parthian and Sassanid periods along the Silk Road. Gharavand also mentioned that the dossier is planned to be submitted out of turn and with the participation of Iraq. The preparation of the dossier has involved conducting archaeological and ethnographic studies, as well as collecting necessary information. However, there is a need for updated studies, which requires additional funding.

He noted that the ruins of Ctesiphon, as one of the most important capitals and architectural remains from the Sassanid and Parthian periods in the heart of Iraq, are very important to Iranians. Therefore, its joint registration with Iraq is important. Ctesiphon is part of the Diyala Province, and negotiations should take place with the governorate of that province. According to him, the Anahita Temple is an incredibly intricate

structure that poses significant challenges for restoration efforts due to the materials used in its construction. A significant portion of the temple's stones have been damaged or destroyed and require restoration to their original location. He added that, to date, the focus has been on acquiring the necessary properties and securing the surrounding lands, with much of the area now under the control of cultural heritage authorities.

However, despite significant investment in restoration efforts since 1968, the temple's significance warrants further attention and funding. The Anahita Temple has the potential to attract a large number of tourists, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to 200,000 visitors per year. With careful planning and execution, this monument could become a significant cultural and economic asset for the region.

# Embark on a breathtaking journey to Nakhjir Cave

## Iranica Desk

Nakhjir Cave is a breathtaking limestone cave that is situated in Markazi Province and is a popular tourist destination. It was initially discovered in 1987 after an explosion occurred near its entrance.

The cave is named after the region in which it is located, which is situated in the northeastern part of Delijan. In ancient times, hunters used to lead animals to the hollow area called Chal-Nakhjir for easier hunting. This cave, which belongs to the third geological period, was registered on Iran's National Heritage List by the Cultural Heritage Organization in 2005. The cave is divided into three



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levels, with its main entrance ranging from 10 to 40 meters in

height and 10 meters in width. Chal-e Nakhjir Cave had never been seen by humans before its discovery. Inside the cave, visitors can witness various formations resulting from sedimentary and dolomitic phenomena, making it one of the most beautiful caves in the world. The main branch of the cave has several sub-branches, with approximately four kilometers of it being explored by locals and experienced cave explorers. The depth of the cave is estimated to be between eight to 10 kilometers. Once inside the cave, visitors will be amazed by its magnifi-

cent halls, corridors, pools, and beautiful terraces. Additionally, crystal formations of calcite have formed due to natural factors, enhancing the cave's beauty with their reflective properties. Chal-e Nakhjir Cave includes several halls, with the Chehel Sotoon Hall being the most stunning, adorned with various stalactites, stalagmites, and mesmerizing colors. One can also witness decorative rocks that have formed in the shape of humans, deer, eagles, turtles, doves, and giant crystal statues. Most of these rocks are made of limestone.

The cave dates back approximately 70 million years; and

thus far 1,200 meters of it have been paved, secured, and illuminated for public viewing. Another unique aspect of the cave is its living nature, meaning that if any part of the cave is damaged, it will be naturally restored over the years. Visitors will also encounter a lake at the end of the cave, surrounded by mysterious rock formations, adding to the cave's beauty and wonder. Although the complete end of the cave has not yet been identified, the presence of natural ventilation inside the cave makes it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Visitors never face any problems related to oxygen deficiency inside the cave.





# Occupation familiar to American mind



**Mohammad Mohsen Rahemi**  
Journalist

**INTERVIEW  
EXCLUSIVE**

Mohsen Askari Jehaqi has translated works such as “On Palestine” and “Gaza in Crisis” from English to Farsi.

The two aforementioned books are a collection of articles and interviews by Noam Chomsky, an American thinker, in collaboration with Ilan Pappé, an Israeli historian. He discussed the war between Hamas and Israel as well as the intervention of the United States in the war in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, which follows.



**What is the policy of “incremental genocide” that Israel is pursuing in Palestine, and what historical background does it have? Is the carnage in the recent Gaza war a component of this very policy?**

Chomsky has thoroughly demonstrated in three books, “On Palestine,” “Gaza in Crisis,” and “Who Rules the World?”—and even in “Pirates and Emperors, Old and New”—that Israel is pursuing a policy of incremental genocide in Palestine. Supporting pieces of data like the one that indicates Israel has unjustly killed at least 10 to 12 children weekly over the past few decades have been documented in these books. If we refrain from labeling this as cruelty, genocide, or crime, then we must present new definitions for these wrongdoings.

I do not care about the counterarguments and justifications of the Israelis. Those who wish to counter these arguments are standing on shaky ground because statistics and figures are not something we can simply conceal.

What happened during Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and what has transpired since October 7 epitomize what has occurred over there in the past seventy years. It’s akin to having watched a seventy-episode series and now saying that you want to read its synopsis; look at what has happened in the past 45 days for a synopsis. So, I believe a genocide has occurred, and if anyone doubts it, they can read Chomsky’s books on this matter.

**Ilan Pappé discusses Israel’s strategy for transforming Gaza into a southwestern frontier. What is this strategy, and why is it being pursued? There have been**

**reports about the transfer of Palestinians residing in Gaza to Egypt or Jordan during the recent war. Is this also part of the same policy?**

That would also be in line with Israel’s other policies. There’s no denying that forced displacement is occurring in Gaza. Imagine someone telling you to move after forty years of living in Tehran to live in the peripheral regions of Pakistan. How would that make you feel? It’s tantamount to tearing an individual away from their roots, and undoubtedly, what gets separated from its roots ends up neglected and decaying, and eventually fades away.

What is happening now is that they are forcibly pushing Palestinians toward the southern part of Gaza and, from there, into Egypt. This issue is not merely a geographical matter; it has psychological, social, and cultural consequences. If you were compelled to leave behind what you cultivated in your family over the years and move on, you would realize that the displacement, abandonment, and disconnection it brings to your family makes it more than a geographical relocation. It’s more akin to a profound, painful, and generational separation from your roots that plants you in another society where you lack common roots and that society may look down on you. So, whether it’s direct killings through bombardments or showing the Palestinians the door out of Gaza, the Palestinian people are experiencing genocide.

One may also ask why the discomfort that Western leaders feel about this situation is mild, but for us Iranians, it’s much more severe. There’s a reason. If you tell Americans today that the Israelis have at-

tacked a country, occupied it, and established their own land, their minds won’t boggle. It’s not terribly different from what their ancestors did. Once a part of the English colonies, they later became colonizers themselves and eventually formed the United States of America. Even before that, their ancestors traveled from Britain, Spain, Portugal, and elsewhere in Europe to conquer and take the lands of the Americas for themselves. The American public might now say what Israel is doing is similar to what we did. From the American perspective, this issue is not strange, and they probably will say, “What other way is there for a country?”

We, Iranians, have never been like this. We have been in this region for over 5,000 years; hence, we have seen our fair share of occupations around us. That’s why we inherently have a problem with occupation, usurpation, and coercion. Our people almost certainly react to

seeing an instance of oppression in the street, unlike Westerners. In their political genes, it’s ingrained that we have taken whatever we could, even if it involves bloodshed and massacre; we have conquered lands and done a good job of making them ours. If it hadn’t been like this, could we even have had a country?

How did the US become the US? It was just like that. They killed and destroyed millions of Native Americans. That’s why they say, “The Israelis haven’t done anything strange.” While, for us Iranians, it is strange because our civilization’s history is, at least, against occupation.

**One of the aims set by Israel for the recent Gaza war was to eradicate Hamas. Pappé, in the book “Gaza in Crisis,” refers to this matter as the “age-old dream of eradicating Hamas”. What**

**perspective does knowing the history of this issue, especially from 2007 to the present, open up for us? Are the resistance groups in Palestine, in terms of sociological and historical aspects, susceptible to elimination?**

Hamas is a thought, and it is not confined to either its individuals or organization. Hamas has an intellectual structure deeply rooted in the nature of Palestinians. It even has a legal manifesto. Therefore, those who believe that they can eliminate Hamas by killing its members, destroying its organization, and eradicating its political or military structures have actually used this as a pretext to achieve their hidden agendas.

It’s like if I were to launch a political party called “Justice,” and you came and murdered the members of my party. Does that mean the passion for justice has been erad-







icated? No. There may be criticisms of the policies of Hamas, but what led to the formation of Hamas was the struggle against oppression and occupation. This idea of fighting and resisting oppression, occupation, tyranny, injustice, and cruelty has its roots in human nature. If they were to eliminate Hamas, knowing that its core ideas are inherent in human nature, what would they achieve?

In my opinion, the debate is neither religious nor political and is not related to any specific country or party. The same goes for the debate on justice. Thieves who steal but distribute the loot equally are at least committed to justice. So, it cannot be said that the debate on justice is religious or related to a specific class. Justice, as it is in human nature, is always associated with humans and human societies. Even if they eliminate Hamas, without a doubt, another Hamas will be born. After all, there will al-

ways be some Palestinians who ask, "What will be the fate of our homeland?" If we can erase this question from human nature, then yes, Hamas can be eliminated. Although Hamas is a name, it embodies a belief, and this belief cannot be eradicated.

If Israel gets to kill Ismail Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders, it would not mean that they have been able to eliminate the core idea behind Hamas. Those who advocate the destruction of Hamas have predetermined political ambitions they want to achieve, but they use the pretext of fighting against Hamas and its members and organization. If we look at this issue in the context of the Middle East, we can see that projects like the normalization of relations between Arabs and Israel under the Abraham Accords would make sense. The main goal is not what is stated, and, God willing, our policymakers will also be aware of that.

#### Can Russia and other countries affect the future of Gaza?

Looking back at the apartheid regime in South Africa, we see that the country thrived when it had international support, especially from the United States. As soon as the US withdrew its support, the apartheid regime crumbled. Israel is in a similar situation. As long as international support for this country continues and countries turn a blind eye to its wrongdoings, atrocities, and crimes, this situation persists. However, if the world can unite in its approach to Israel's behavior, the scenario will undoubtedly change. Now, if this unified approach is against the Zionist regime, it will undoubtedly lead to its destruction. But if the approach is in favor of this regime, it would certainly result in a tragic story for the region and the Palestinian people.

#### It seems that recording the historical experience of Palestinians has formed a strong foundation for the idea of resistance against the occupying enemy. Pappé discusses the issue in his book titled "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine". Is the complete elimination of resistance possible in Gaza without the complete eradication of humanity?

Even if this dehumanization takes place and the Palestinian resistance in Gaza crumbles, the resistance will undoubtedly emerge elsewhere because people feel humiliated. World War II happened due to the humiliation of the German people after World War I. That is, if the Versailles Treaty had not been concluded in such a hu-

miliating way and the people of Germany had not been humiliated, they would never have given rise to World War II. If you study the history of World War II, you'll see how the contempt and humiliation of a society can ignite the flames of anger, hatred, and resentment in the minds and hearts of its youth.

Now, add occupation, abduction, killings, and genocide to that kind of contempt. Look at the siege of Gaza, which they themselves call the "world's open prison". It's a land that is one-fourth the size of New York but has a population of two and a half million. When these things add up, what more can we expect other than an eruption of anger from a youth who lives there and has endured all this contempt and faced this level of suppression and tension?

Let's assume the Israelis can eliminate these youths with any weapons they can find and dehumanize them, turning the place into a wasteland. They better be sure that their behavior will cause anger to erupt from elsewhere several times over. We are seeing instances of this right now in the unprecedented protests that are popping up in the capitals of European countries, from London to Rome, and even reaching the hearts of American students who are angry and opposing suppression.

Since this issue is inherent in human nature, it is not eliminable. By killing people, this resistance will not disappear. This is a belief, and beliefs are not necessarily in the mind of one person. Some beliefs exist in the nature of all humans and define what it means to be human. No human in the world can endure suffering, oppression, occupation, plunder, and tyranny. Even if such a situation is in their favor, they know they are living in a glass house and cannot endure it for an extended period.





## Hamilton has 'Everest to climb' to beat Red Bull



PA WIRE

**THE GUARDIAN** – Lewis Hamilton issued a downbeat assessment of his chances of competing against Red Bull in the Formula One world championship next year after this season came to a close in Abu Dhabi. Hamilton's Mercedes team principal, Toto Wolff, also conceded the task that lay ahead was "a Mount Everest to climb".

Max Verstappen won at the Yas Marina circuit to secure his 19th victory in 22 races. He and Red Bull have been untouchable this season. Hamilton could manage only ninth and has now gone more than two full seasons without a win.

The seven-time champion believes the advantage Red Bull hold will be hard to overcome, especially given how early they stopped working on this year's car and shifted resources to next year's model.

"Red Bull won by 17 seconds and they have not touched the car since August or July," Hamilton said. "So you can pretty much guess where they're going to be next year."

The British driver was clearly despondent at the end of a trying season in an uncompetitive car. "It's not been a great year in general so there's not a lot to take from it," he said. "The fact that I survived it. That's probably about it."

Despite claiming second in the constructors' championship in Abu Dhabi and with the team adopting a new design philosophy for next year, Wolff was similarly blunt in his assessment of Red Bull's advantage as the teams go into the close season.

"There is a Mount Everest to climb in order to catch up with Red Bull," Wolff said. "Red Bull started the new regulations in 2022 with a massive advantage and they have been able to maintain it."

"We have a lot of respect for their achievements, from the engineering side, and the driver. Beating them under the current regulations is against the odds."

Verstappen, who has enjoyed the most dominant season in F1 history, acknowledged it had been an unparalleled success but one he was not sure could ever be repeated.

"It's been an incredible season, it was a bit emotional on the in-lap, it was the last time sitting in the car which has of course given me a lot," he said.

"It will be very hard to have another season like this, we know that."

# Iranian Rahmani on journey to become a professional darts player



Mahdiah Qazvinian  
Staff writer

For the best part of the Iranian people, darts is nothing but a typical leisure activity during the vacations.

And that is how it all started for Mozghan Rahmani, when she was just a teenage girl, before she embarked on a fascinating journey to become the first Iranian to be inducted into the Professional Darts Corporation (PDC) and compete in high-profile events of the sport.

The 34-year-old recently recovered from a shoulder injury setback, which had kept her out of action for a year, to add a precious bronze medal at the Malaysian Open to her trophy cabinet.

"The company that my father worked for held a multi-sport event in a vacation camp for its employees in northern Iran and that is where I first saw a dartboard. I was just 13 at the time," Rahmani told Iran Daily.

"When I made my first throw, everyone was surprised to find out that it was the first time I was holding a dart in my hand. All my three efforts hit the bullseye and I won the competition," added the Iranian girl, who received a dartboard as the winner's prize, though it proved to be a pivotal point in her life.

"I hung the board on the wall at home and kept throwing darts at it without any specific instruction and knowledge of the sport. Time wore on until I saw a banner of a darts club in our neighborhood in 2015 and



MOHAMMAD NASIMI

that's when I started my professional career," said Rahmani, who joined the national team two years later after winning the Shiraz Open.

Rahmani says her appearance at the international tournaments has drawn attention from the global media.

"I'm the only member of the Professional Darts Corporation who wears hijab at the competitions and when Sky Sports conducted an-

interview with me in 2020 it led to prominent companies wanting to sign sponsorship deals with me," said Rahmani, now playing for Malaysian DURY team, who has a Chinese-made darts equipment brand named after her. However, the Iranian has come a long way to find her way onto the highest levels of the sport.

"England is the birthplace of darts. The Netherlands is also a major pub for the sport and most of the top

players in the world are from these two countries. The Japanese are also among the high-profile champions in the women's event. In Iran, though, darts is more or less played for fun, rather than being considered as a competitive sport," said the two-time Malaysian Open champion in 2017 and 2019.

"The Malaysian Open is the most prestigious darts event in Asia and has a silver grade in the world rankings.

I also took part in the Dutch Open – held by the World Darts Federation – in 2020 and made it to the last 32," added Rahmani.

Asked about the attributes needed for a professional darts player, Rahmani said: "Darts requires a lot of concentration, precision, calmness and patience. You need to have inner peace to succeed as a darts player. Years of physical and mental training has helped me strengthen my hand mus-

cles and improve my aiming skills, so much so that I can hit the center of the board even with closed eyes."

Rahmani opened her own darts academy in Tehran last week, in which she will be looking to "begin a new era for the sport in Iran."

"I can promise you that I will introduce numerous top international players in the coming years," Rahmani told the attendees during the opening ceremony of her academy.

## Superb Sinner leads Italy to Davis Cup glory against Australia

**REUTERS** – Inspired Italian Jannik Sinner completed a perfect week by sealing his country's first Davis Cup title for nearly 50 years on Sunday, thrashing Australia's Alex De Minaur to complete a 2-0 victory for the Azzurri.

Italy's number one Sinner produced a devastating display to outclass a helpless De Minaur 6-3 6-0 after Matteo Arnaldi outlasted Alexei Popyrin in the first singles clash. Sinner, the world number four, ended the week with five wins out of five, including a heroic performance in Saturday's semi-final when he beat Novak Djokovic to keep his country alive against Serbia after saving three consecutive match points.

He then went on to beat Djokovic and the Serbian's partner Miomir Kecmanovic in the doubles with team mate Lorenzo Sonego to send Italy to the final against 28-time winners Australia and 24 hours later Sinner delivered the title in style.

Hitting the ball with relentless power from the baseline, the Italian dominated from the moment he broke serve early in the first set and there was nothing De Minaur could do.

Sinner's purple patch lasted until he claimed the winning point on his third match point, sparking celebrations amongst team mates, officials and a noisy Italian contingent inside the Malaga arena that has staged the week's captivating Final Eight.

"It helps a lot to play for the whole team and it's been an incredible feeling for all of us," Sinner said as Italy rejoiced at a first Davis Cup title since 1976 and only second ever. "Thanks to the Australian team for coming all the way here."

### 'Historic result'

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni celebrated on the social media platform X.

"A historic result ... congratulations to our players for the talent and commitment they have shown, and also to all the staff," she posted. Arnaldi was recalled to Italy's singles lineup after missing the semi against Serbia and repaid captain Filippo Volandri's faith by defeating Popyrin 7-5 2-6 6-4 in the first singles.

With Sinner in the form of his life, having reached last week's ATP Finals title match which he lost to Djokovic, it was always a tall order after that for Australia, especially as De Minaur had lost to Sinner in all five of their previous matches.

Initially it was tight as De Minaur dug in but Sinner's superior firepower soon earned him a service break and from that point on the outcome looked inevitable.

"Jannik is riding this amazing wave of confidence," De Minaur said. "He's playing in indoor conditions with some heavy balls where he can hit

the absolute crap out of it.

"Today I just didn't have enough."

Lleyton Hewitt's Australia have now been beaten in the final in successive years having lost to Canada in 2022.

Italy and Australia qualify automatically for the 16-nation Finals next year across four cities with the ITF announcing on Sunday that the Final Eight will again be hosted in Malaga.

Italy's Jannik Sinner (blue) celebrates with captain Filippo Volandri after winning his singles match against Australia's Alex de Minaur in the Davis Cup final in Malaga, Spain, on November 26, 2023.

JON NAZCA/REUTERS







## Calls growing for permanent truce in Gaza

↑ Palestinians walk amidst the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City on November 26, 2023.  
● OMAR EL-QATTAA/AFP

### International Desk

Calls are growing for a permanent cease-fire between the Hamas resistance group and Israel to stop attacks on the Gaza Strip and the killing of more people in the Palestinian territory. The four-day cease-fire, which expired on Monday night, let the civilians take a breath and saw dozens of captives held by Hamas freed, with over 100 Palestinian prisoners released by Israel in return.

The Palestinian group took at least 240 captives during an Oct. 7 dawn raid carried out from the Gaza Strip.

A total of 63 captives and 117 Palestinian prisoners have now been released since Friday under the truce agreement.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that the dialogue that led to the current "humanitarian pause" in Gaza should be continued and transformed into a "full humanitarian" cease-fire.

Iran on Monday also demanded a permanent cease-fire to stop Israel's "crimes" in the territory, which have left nearly 15,000 people dead – most of them women and children.

"As the Islamic Republic of Iran, we want and expect... that the crimes of the Zionist regime

against the Palestinian people will be stopped completely," said Nasser Kanaani, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman. Many other countries and officials from international bodies have also demanded a permanent cease-fire or extension of the truce in Gaza.

### Truce extended

The humanitarian pause extended by two days, mediator Qatar said Monday.

"The State of Qatar announces that, as part of the ongoing mediation, an agreement has been reached to extend the humanitarian truce for an additional two days in the Gaza Strip," Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari said on X, formerly Twitter.

According to AFP, Hamas also confirmed the two-day truce extension in Gaza Strip.

The Israeli regime has faced mounting pressure to extend the pause mediated by Qatar, the United States and Egypt, though its leaders have dismissed any suggestions of a lasting halt to the offensive.

The terms of the truce agreement say it can be extended beyond its initial four-day term as long as 10 hostages are released for each extra day, with three times as many Palestinians freed

in return. As such, another 50 hostages would imply a five-day extension.

"The pause should be extended to make it sustainable and long lasting while working for a political solution," The EU's top foreign policy official Josep Borrell said on Monday in Barcelona. Borrell called for a "political solution that should allow us to break the cycle of violence once and for all."

### US role in crimes

US President Joe Biden, whose country is providing the Israeli regime with weapons needed for fighting in Gaza, is also among those urging for an extension of the truce as Gaza suffers a dire humanitarian crisis following weeks of Israeli bombardment and siege.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, in a phone call with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said on Sunday that Washington is an accomplice in the Israeli crimes.

Raisi stressed that the US is "the killer of the people of Gaza" and any intervention by Americans in determining the future course of developments in the Palestinian territory "would mean the continuation of this country's crimes against Palestinians."

The conflict in Gaza began on October 7 when Hamas fighters attacked Israeli cities near the Gaza Strip and killed at least 1,200 people during the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

In response, the Israeli regime launched its brutal attacks on Gaza and imposed a total siege on the territory. The strikes have killed more than 14,800 people, including about 6,000 children and 4,000 women.

### Legal action against Israel

Algeria is preparing to host an international symposium on Thursday, which will discuss the legal and judicial ways to hold Israel accountable for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people during the war on Gaza.

Delegations of lawyers and judges from Arab and European countries will participate in the international symposium.

An extension of the cease-fire would open the way to further releases of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Hamas has so far freed 39 Israeli hostages, and Israel has released 117 Palestinian prisoners under the terms of the four-day truce agreement.

A further 19 foreign nationals have been released from Gaza under separate arrangements.

## World should engage with resistance groups



Mohsen Baharvand  
Former ambassador to Britain

### EXCLUSIVE OPINION

During decades of activity against the occupation of their territory, and especially since the recent Gaza War, Palestinian resistance groups have found a good opportunity to make better and greater use of global diplomatic potential to secure their interests.

Following Israel's atrocities in the Gaza Strip and the nature of the regime, public opinion around the world has expressed sympathy for Palestinians in various ways. This is a new opportunity for the Palestinians that must be grabbed and pave the way for securing Palestinian rights by using new diplomatic methods alongside resistance.

Various organizations and groups working in Palestine against the Israeli occupation and for the protection of Palestinian legitimate interests should engage in diplomacy. Although these Palestinian groups cannot be represented in international organizations because of the nature of international relations, they can play a role through regional organizations. For example, these resistance groups can or should have representatives in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and be a party to negotiations.

It is very natural that as long as there is an issue of occupation in Palestine, there should be those involved in decision-making or diplomatic processes related to the issue who represent the people under occupation. It is not right for resistance groups to bear costs and casualties in the battlefield, but when it comes to decision-making, other countries go to the negotiating table that has sometimes taken a stand against the interests of the Palestinian people and resistance groups.

It is therefore appropriate for resistance groups to have a greater presence in diplomacy themselves, or be represented by countries they trust to take advantage of diplomatic opportunities.

Western governments' view of diplomacy is based on the system of international relations established after World War II. This type of international relations is based on coercive methods and therefore in various crises they mainly use methods such as military attacks, sanctions and other types of pressure.

These practices may have worked in the early decades after the World War, but now they are no longer effective because the international climate has changed and new players have emerged. In the framework of the current international relations, governments and international organizations are the axis. But along with these official institutions, new organizations have stepped in that are non-state but influential in international relations. Therefore, these non-governmental organizations cannot be ignored. Western governments should also change course and instead of focusing on coercive methods, they move toward building mutual understanding and engagement with these organizations.

There are two approaches to solving a crisis: a short-term approach and a focus on addressing the problem temporarily, and the other way is looking for long-term solutions and trying to solve a crisis fundamentally.

Now, in the case of the Gaza war, some governments and international actors are mainly focused on solving the problem temporarily. But this approach is going nowhere, and there's no guarantee that the same problem won't happen again. Therefore, it is better to focus on effective solutions. While solving a crisis fundamentally, it should also be taken into account that the solutions are in the interests of everyone, not just one party.

The current system of international relations cannot serve Palestinian interests. Therefore, if the Western parties have the will to solve the Palestinian issue principally, they should recognize the resistance groups and instead of using force against them, they should engage with them and create mutual understanding.

## New destroyer joins Iran's naval fleet

Iran's new destroyer, dubbed Deylaman, joined the country's naval fleet in the Caspian Sea during a ceremony held in the northern port city of Bandar Anzali on Monday.

Deylaman is equipped with various types of domestically-manufactured defense systems and equipment. It has the capability to navigate for a long time, search,

discover, identify, monitor, confront and, if necessary, repel any air, surface and subsurface threats. Deylaman is also capable of carrying helicopters on its deck.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, who participated in the ceremony, said the destroyer sends a message of peace and friendship to all the neighbors of Iran, in particular the Caspian Sea countries. He noted, "The Caspian Sea is a sea of peace and

friendship, and Iran enjoys amicable military relations with all the Caspian Sea littoral states, so the navy has once again stressed on the message of friendship by building this destroyer, which is a great masterpiece in the history of the navy."

Chief Commander of the Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani and a number of top military officials were also present at the ceremony.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



### Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company Tender for Transformer

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase 500A transformer for IDEAL welding machine. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specifications mentioned in the attached files on our website. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to [commercial2@kswco.com](mailto:commercial2@kswco.com) by December 03 2023. For further information please contact Mr.Zanganeh:

Mobile: +989123162409



## Iranian actress dies at 79



IRNA – Iranian actress Parvaneh Masoumi, who was famous for starring in TV series, died at the age of 79 on Monday.

Masoumi was hospitalized for a few days due to intestinal rupture, and transferred to the intensive care unit due to a lung infection.

Born Sakineh Kabudarangani in 1944, Masoumi studied at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran.

She made her cinematic debut in 1971 with a short film titled 'The Journey'.

Her first appearance on TV was in Behrouz Afkhami's 'Jungle Commander', however, her role in 'Imam Ali' gained her a lot of fame.

She acted in several movies, including 'Heavy Rain' (1972), 'Story City' (1973), 'The Crow' (1977), 'Captain Khorshid' (1986), 'Suitcase' (1986), 'Toranj' (1986), 'Out of Range' (1987), 'The Gifts' (1987), 'The Call' (1989), 'Nasseraddin Shah Film Actor' (1991), 'Plans to Meet' (2003), and 'The Resident of the Wooden House' (2012).

Masoumi's roles in different movies won her three awards and several nominations. She won the best actress in a leading role award for her part in 'Chrysanthemums' (1984).

She also won an award for best actress in a leading role for 'Robab's Dowry' (1987). Her outstanding appearance in 'The Glory of Life' (1987) won her another award for best actress in a leading role.

Masoumi was a popular face on TV with different series, such as 'Imam Ali' (1991-1996), 'The Visitor of Rey' (2000), 'The Young Officer' (2001), 'Prophet Joseph' (2008), 'Like No One' (2008), 'Honeymoon' (2009), 'Hereafter' (2010), and 'The Hidden Secret' (2012).

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# Iranian conductor Rahbari to hold masterclass in Beijing

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian orchestra conductor Ali Rahbari is scheduled to conduct a masterclass for the National Youth Orchestra of China in the city of Beijing.

The event, aimed at promoting the skills of the young Chinese symphony musicians, follows Rahbari's recent collaboration with symphony orchestras in Hangzhou and Shenzhen, IRNA wrote.

Rahbari had previously been invited to lead the 130-member National Youth Orchestra of China in Beijing. Now, after a short hiatus, he has been invited back to Beijing to conduct a masterclass, having gained a lot of experience holding masterclasses worldwide,

including in countries such as Turkey, Ukraine, South Africa, and Slovakia.

Currently in his third consecutive artistic season as the permanent conductor of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, Rahbari performed on November 24 at the Mariinsky Theatre, staging works by Mozart and Beethoven for the 13th consecutive time.

He has already conducted over 120 prominent symphony orchestras worldwide, including those in Vienna, Berlin, London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Toronto, Tokyo, and Mexico. In addition, Rahbari has also contributed to recording approximately 250 classical music albums with some of the world's most renowned orchestras and operas.



## 106 films submitted for Nat'l Section of Fajr Int'l Film Festival

The Fajr International Film Festival received applications from 106 films seeking to participate in the National Section of the 42nd edition of the festival.

Simon Simonian, the festival's secretary, stated that during the one-month registration period, which concluded on November 21, filmmakers submitted for National Section (Iranian Cinema) of the upcoming festival, IRNA reported.

Referring to the special presence of

first-time filmmakers in this round, Simonian said that out of the registered films a total of 51 films belong to these directors.

Simonian announced that the submitted films would undergo a primary review process to ensure complying with the festival's regulations.

He added that films meeting the criteria would proceed to the next stage of evaluation by the selection committee.

He further elaborated, stating that the national competition's selection committee would begin the review of the films from December 6 and would announce the selected films for participation by January 5, 2024.

The International Section's lineup will be announced subsequently.

The 42nd edition of the event, under the supervision of Mojtaba Amini, is scheduled to take place from February 1 to 11.

## 'Soul-shattering' 'Prophet Song' wins 2023 Booker prize

Irish author Paul Lynch has won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song,' set in an imagined Ireland that is descending into tyranny. It was described as a "soul-shattering and true" novel that "captures the social and political anxieties of our current moment" by the judging chair, Esi Edugyan.

Canadian novelist Edugyan, who has twice been short-listed for the Booker prize herself, said the decision to award Lynch the £50,000 prize "wasn't unanimous" and was settled on by discussion and multiple rounds of voting that lasted "about six hours".

'Prophet Song' takes place in an alternate Dublin. Members of the newly formed secret police, established by a government turning towards totalitarianism, turn up on the doorstep of microbiologist

Eilish asking for her husband, a senior official in the Teachers' Union of Ireland. Soon, he disappears – along with hundreds of other civilians – and Eilish is left to look after their four children and her elderly father, fighting to hold the family together amid civil war, the Guardian reported.

"It is with immense pleasure that I bring the Booker home to Ireland," said Lynch, a former film critic, upon receiving the prize. "I had a moment on holiday in Sicily many years ago where I had this flash of recognition, I knew that I needed to write, and that was the direction my life had to take. I made that decision that day to just swerve, and I swerved. And I'm bloody glad I did."

His win comes days after violent protests broke out across central Dublin after a stabbing attack outside a primary

school that left three children injured. Police said the disorder was caused by a "complete lunatic faction driven by far-right ideology".

Asked about his reaction to the events, Lynch said that he was "astonished" and at the same time "recognised the truth that this kind of energy is always there under the surface".

"I didn't write this book to specifically say 'here's a warning', I wrote the book to articulate the message that the things that are happening in this book are occurring timelessly throughout the ages, and maybe we need to deepen our own responses to that kind of idea," Lynch said, later adding that he is "distinctly not a political novelist".

Edugyan said, when asked whether recent events had influenced the judges' decision, that "at some point in the dis-

cussions, maybe for a few minutes, this was introduced, this was discussed". However, she said that timeliness "was not the reason that 'Prophet Song' won the prize" – the judges simply felt it was a "truly a masterful work of fiction".

This is the second year in a row that a novel about political conflict has won the prize. In 2022, Shehan Karunatilaka won with 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida', set during the Sri Lankan civil war.

"Lynch's dystopian Ireland reflects the reality of war-torn countries, where refugees take to the sea to escape persecution on land," wrote Aimée Walsh in an Observer review. "'Prophet Song' echoes the violence in Palestine, Ukraine and Syria, and the experience of all those who flee from war-torn countries."

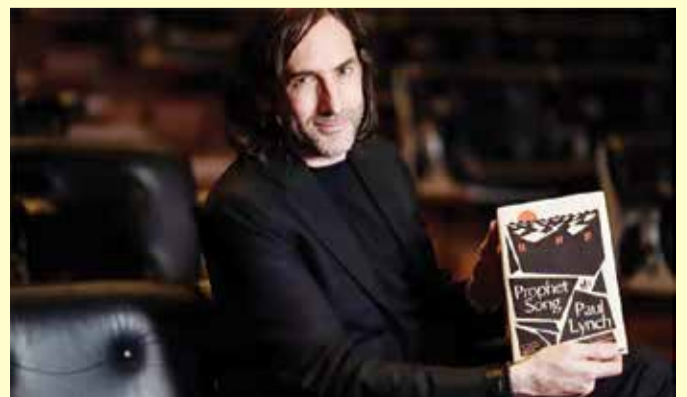
Melissa Harrison called the

novel "as nightmarish a story as you'll come across: powerful, claustrophobic and horribly real" in her Guardian review.

Lynch was born in 1977 in Limerick, grew up in County Donegal and now lives in Dublin. His other novels are Beyond the Sea, Grace, The Black Snow and Red Sky in Morning.

He is the fifth Irish author to win the prize, following in the footsteps of Iris Murdoch, John Banville, Roddy Doyle and Anne Enright. The Northern Irish writer Anna Burns won in 2018.

Asked what he would spend the prize money on, Lynch said that "half of it has already gone" on his tracker mortgage.



● DAVID LEVENSON/GETTY IMAGES