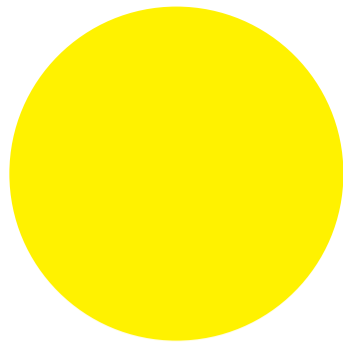


**Iran's FM:**  
Talk of  
dialogue  
dominate  
meetings with  
Europeans



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# Iran Daily

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## **President:** Iran seeks diplomacy from West to East

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### A major admission by Trump

By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

It has taken five years for former US president Donald Trump to come to terms with the fact that his policy of "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran has been ineffective. Since 2018, when Trump unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal with the 5+1 group (the US, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia) and imposed sweeping sanctions on Tehran, it has become clear that this approach has not yielded the desired results.

Although other US officials had previously acknowledged the mistake of pulling out of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, and the futility of the maximum pressure policy in changing Iran's behavior and policies, Trump himself, the architect of these sanctions, has now admitted that there is no alternative to dialogue and agreement with Iran.

"Sure, I would do that," the US presidential candidate, speaking to reporters Thursday in New York City, said when asked if he would make a deal with Iran. "We have to make a deal, because the consequences are impossible. We have to make a deal." These remarks coincided with the visit of an Iranian delegation, led by the President Masoud Pezeshkian, to New York to attend the UN General Assembly meeting. Pezeshkian, in announcing his government's stance, expressed readiness to engage in nuclear talks to lift sanctions, while also challenging the unconstructive positions of the US and Europeans regarding the nuclear deal.

Upon his return from New York, Pezeshkian stated, "European leaders agreed with us on the US's breach of the JCPOA and tearing it up. After the necessary explanations, it was decided to follow up on the issue of the sanctions in specialized sessions."

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## Pezeshkian Brings Home 1,100 Achaemenid Tablets From US

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An expert holds an Achaemenid-era clay tablet repatriated from the University of Chicago's Center for East Asian Studies following President Masoud Pezeshkian's return to Tehran on September 26, 2024.  
● TASNIM



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of Russian, Emirati,  
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**The 'brilliant'  
way Israel kills  
innocents**



In the minds of Israel's cheerleaders abroad, the child victims of its 'sophisticated' and 'complex' mass assassination plot in Lebanon are nothing but an inconvenience.

SPECIAL ISSUE

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## Turkey's BOTAŞ in talks with Iran's NIGC for gas supply

Turkish state energy company BOTAŞ said that it had held talks with National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), discussing issues of cooperation between the two companies, particularly the long-term supply of natural gas from Iran to Turkey.

Managing Director and Chairperson of the Board of Turkish Petroleum Pipeline Corporation (BOTAŞ) Abdolvahit Fidan paid a visit to Tehran with an accompanying delegation on September 25, the company said in a written statement, according to Reuters.

"In this context, talks were held with Iran's national natural gas company NIGC. In the meeting with NIGC representatives chaired by Iranian Deputy Minister of Petroleum and NIGC CEO Saeid Tavakoli, issues of cooperation between the two companies, particularly the long-term supply of natural gas from Iran to Turkey and the transportation of Turkmen gas to Turkey via Iran, were discussed," it added.

The two companies also discussed the transportation of Turkmenistan gas to Turkey via Iran, BOTAŞ also said, in its first public statement on talks for a potential extension of the deal with Iran.

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar previously said that his country can buy up to 2 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas per year from Turkmenistan via Iran's natural gas network.

"Fidan and Tavakoli affirmed their agreement to continue the cooperation between BOTAŞ and NIGC in the coming period within the framework of the deep-rooted relations between the two countries," the statement further said. Turkey consumes over 50 billion cubic meters of gas per year. It currently relies on a mix of pipeline gas from Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran, along with liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from various suppliers.

Long-term contracts for the supply of Iranian gas to Turkey, which is some 10 billion cubic meters of gas per year, expire in 2026.

BOTAŞ signed a 10-year supply agreement with France's TotalEnergies last week, in addition to LNG deals with Oman, ExxonMobil and Shell, inked earlier this year.

Boosting its supply and diversifying resources, Turkey looks to position itself as a major regional re-exporter, bolstering its hub aspirations and serving as a potential supplier to European markets in need of gas.

# Tehran floats linkage of Russian, Emirati, Saudi grids via Iran



Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi proposed the con-

nection of Russia's power grid to that of Saudi Arabia and the

UAE via Iran, as he attended a summit of energy ministers of

BRICS member states. Aliabadi on Thursday addressed the summit that Iran has an important geo-economic position as it shares sea and land borders with 15 countries, while it connects a key part of international transit corridors leading to the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf as well as Caucasus and Central Asian regions, with high security and at low economic costs, IRNA reported. Iran also intends to start electricity trade

and transit by connecting its electricity network to "all countries with a common land border," he added.

Aliabadi went on to say that, "Today, the energy ministers of BRICS countries are aiming to benefit from energy diplomacy as an efficient tool to achieve their goals and maintain and increase their national interests in the field of foreign policy with a humane approach." Referring to the accession of new mem-

bers to the BRICS group from the beginning of 2024, the minister said, "The joining of the five countries of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Ethiopia to this group is of strategic importance."

On the sidelines of the BRICS meeting in Moscow on Thursday, Aliabadi held talks with Deputy Head of China's National Energy Organization. The two sides explored avenues for

the development of bilateral relations in the energy sector, modern technologies and smarting the energy production chain.

Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali also attended the meeting, IRNA reported.

The energy ministers and officials of BRICS member countries, including Russia, Iran, China, India, Brazil, South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt and the UAE attended the meeting.

## Iran's economy minister meets Uzbek, Qatari counterparts

Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Abdolnaser Hemmati held talks with his counterparts from Qatar and Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

In the meeting, Qatar's Economy Minister Ali Ahmed al-Kuwari told Hemmati that Iran having valuable experiences in various fields, especially the financial sector, is important for Doha, IRNA reported.

Kuwari said his country is pleased

to host the Iranian president shortly and aims to activate the joint financial exchange committee of the two countries.

Hemmati, for his part, called the Persian Gulf Arab country a strategic partner and expressed hope that Tehran and Doha would ink agreements to facilitate the use of mutual capacities in the upcoming meetings of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Also, on the sidelines of the AIIB meeting, the Iranian minister met and discussed bilateral relations



with Djamshid Anvarovich, the deputy prime minister and economy minister of Uzbekistan. Both sides followed up on agreements signed by the previous government and discussed ways to solve banking and monetary problems between the two countries, boosting transit, and increasing bilateral trade by up to one billion dol-

lars. The Uzbek minister stated the purpose of hosting the AIIB meeting was to introduce the culture of his country to the world community.

The approach of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to deepen relations and one of the goals of cooperation with Iran is the development of economic corridors, he added.

## Iran voices readiness to cooperate in Tajik energy projects



Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad (L) and Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma walk into a conference room for talks in Tehran, Iran, on September 26, 2024. **SHANA**

Iran's oil minister said that Iranian oil exploration and production companies are ready to cooperate in upstream and downstream sectors of Tajikistan's oil and gas industry.

Mohsen Paknejad made the remarks on Thursday as he hosted Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma in Tehran, IRNA reported.

The Iranian minister noted that the devel-

opment of economic relations, especially in the field of energy, with the friendly and brotherly country of Tajikistan is of great importance to his country.

He also emphasized that effective steps have already been taken to develop relations between the two countries on economy, and Iran hopes that this process will be strengthened under the Pezeshkian administration.

For his part, Tajikistan's minister emphasized that his country pays special attention to the development of economic cooperation, especially in the field of oil and gas purchases.

Juma added that the ceiling of trade between Iran and Tajikistan reached \$300 million in 2023, and according to forecasts, it seems that this amount will grow by 60% this year.

## Customs revenues up 39% in H1: IRICA



The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said its revenues rose significantly in the first half of the calendar year that started in late March.

IRICA chief Mohammad Rezvanifar said Iran's customs revenues increased by 39% year on year in the six months to September 21 to reach a total of 1,120 trillion rials (\$1.9 billion), Press TV wrote. Import tariffs, including taxes imposed on commodities, cars, expensive mobile phones,

machinery and equipment, accounted for 648.71 trillion rials of Iran's customs revenues in April-September, said Rezvanifar, adding that the figure marked an increase of 74% compared to the same period last year. He added that the Iranian government had also earned 467.62 trillion rials from the value added tax imposed on commodities and products processed in the customs in the six months to late September, up 8% from the same period in 2023.

Iran has sought to rely more on tax and customs revenues in recent years amid sanctions that have restricted its oil exports. The country earned more than \$6.88 billion in tax revenues in the five months to August 21, up 44% compared to the same period last year.

That comes as Iran earmarks tens of billions each year to subsidize imports of basic goods and commodities, including grains, medicine and animal feed, to ensure food security and to stabilize prices in the local market. Figures released by the Central Bank of Iran in mid-August showed that the lender had subsidized more than \$27 billion worth of imports into the country in the five months before that.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iranica Desk

Hengam Island is one of the most beautiful and pristine islands in the Persian Gulf, located in southern Iran, near Qeshm Island. Covering an area of approximately 33.6 square kilometers, it is considered an attractive tourist destination due to its stunning natural scenery, unique beaches, and rich ecosystem.

The island lies two kilometers southeast of Qeshm Island and can be accessed by speedboats from Qeshm's piers. Historically, the local economy has been primarily based on fishing. Hengam Island is recognized as one of the most scenic islands in the Persian Gulf, having preserved its native character, which allows visitors to easily observe the traditions of the past, *chtn.ir* wrote. Attractions on this beautiful island include Silver Beach, Khomasi Beach, its traditional market, handicrafts, and wildlife, which features dolphins, hawksbill turtles, and gazelles. The best time to visit Hengam Island is from mid-autumn to mid-April.

## Khomasi Beach

Khomasi Beach is an ideal destination for swimming, diving, and observing marine life, thanks to its clear and calm waters. The pristine nature of the area allows tourists to easily appreciate the underwater beauty. This beach is especially suitable for nature enthusiasts, as various species of marine plants and animals can be found nearby, which can be observed during guided tours. A standout feature of Khomasi Beach is its tranquility. In contrast to the more crowded beaches on the island, this beach is less well-known, offering visitors the chance to relax in a serene environment away from the hustle and bustle. Its natural beauty also provides an excellent opportunity for photography enthusiasts to capture stunning landscapes and seascapes. Access to Khomasi Beach is possible via local boats. However, facilities at this beach are limited, so visitors planning to explore the area should bring their own necessary equipment.

## Silver Beach

Silver Beach on Hengam Island is

## Wonders of Hengam Island attract visitors



one of the island's most stunning natural attractions. Renowned for its bright, silver-hued sands that shimmer beautifully in the sunlight, the beach captivates visitors with its striking appearance. The unique mineral composition of the sand contributes to its silvery quality, reflecting light in a distinctive manner. In addition to its natural beauty, Silver Beach provides a serene environment perfect for relaxation, allowing visitors to fully enjoy the delightful Persian Gulf climate.

The unique mineral composition of the sand contributes to its silvery quality, reflecting light in a distinctive manner. In addition to its natural beauty, Silver Beach provides a serene environment perfect for relaxation, allowing visitors to fully enjoy the delightful Persian Gulf climate.

## Traditional market

The handicrafts market on Hengam Island serves as a vibrant cultural and economic hub, offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore local art and craftsmanship. Especially appealing to tourists and those interested in authentic cultural experiences, this market features a diverse array of products, including decorative items made from shells, coral, and marine stones. Crafted primarily by local artisans, these items showcase the artistic talents and creativity of the island's

residents.

In addition to the marine-themed crafts, visitors can find wooden sculptures and decorative objects made from locally sourced wood. Vendors often share stories and traditions related to their products, providing captivating insights into the island's culture.

Designed in a traditional style, the handicrafts market invites visitors to shop and wander in a culturally rich atmosphere. Engaging with friendly local vendors and the opportunity to bargain for unique items create an immersive and enjoyable experience that beautifully represents the local culture.

## Dolphins

The dolphins of Hengam Island are among the popular and remarkable tourist attractions in the Persian Gulf. These dolphins attract many tourists due to their interesting and playful behaviors, providing a unique experience for observing marine life. Hengam Island's dolphins naturally inhabit the waters around the island and are most common-

ly seen in shallow areas close to the shore. These waters offer an ideal environment for dolphins to live and hunt for food.

The dolphins typically swim in groups and engage in play and interaction throughout the day, making them appealing and exciting for tourists to observe. The best time to see the dolphins around Hengam Island is during the cooler seasons of the year, particularly in autumn and winter. During these seasons, dolphins frequently surface to showcase their activities.

Regular boat tours are available for dolphin watching around Hengam Island. These tours typically provide visitors with the opportunity to approach suitable areas to observe the dolphins up close and enjoy their behaviors.

Tourists interested in photography and videography can take advantage of golden opportunities to capture beautiful moments with the dolphins. The dolphins' captivating behaviors and graceful movements create extraordinary scenes to be captured on camera.



## Enduring legacy of chigh in nomadic culture

## Iranica Desk

Chigh is the traditional wall covering used by the nomadic people of Ilam Province. This handicraft is skillfully woven by the women of these communities. According to the Dehkhoda Dictionary, *chigh* is 'a Turkish word for a shutter-like weave made from common reeds and thin wooden branches, typically hung in front of

entrance doors.' However, it is known by various names in different regions.

The primary materials for chigh are a type of reed and goat hair, sourced from the nomads' own herds. The reeds, which grow wild in the nomads' natural habitat, are hollow. Weavers collect the reeds from the banks of nearby rivers. Depending on their diameter, the reeds are divided into three or four pieces,

each approximately ten centimeters wide. These pieces are then woven together using colorful spun wool yarn. The women weavers visualize the design in their minds and weave each piece separately before arranging them to create the intended pattern. Since nomads have traditionally lived in tents, chigh has a deep historical connection to the use of tent walls. Chigh is not only a beautiful and

captivating product, but it also serves practical purposes by blocking heat, cold, wind, and dust from entering the living space. The hollow nature of the reeds allows them to function as a natural filter. During rain or cold weather, the humidity causes the reeds to swell and bond together, providing insulation against the cold. Conversely, in hot and dry conditions, the reeds shrink, creating spaces that al-

low air to circulate. Additionally, goat hair provides strong shade, making chigh an ideal awning. An interesting characteristic of goat hair is its natural ability to repel insects and snakes. Traditional chigh is adorned with symbolic and diverse motifs and gazelles, crabs, eagle feathers, stars, ducks, and geometric patterns, all inspired by nature and the weaver's memories. The tools used to create

chigh are simple and primitive, including sickles, knives, grinders, scissors, needles, and stitching awls. It is the creativity and skill of the women weavers that elevate these products to a level of artistry. Today, given the versatility of chigh's design and the adjustable spacing between the reeds, it can also be used as shutters, dividers, wall coverings, and decorative elements in urban homes.



# The 'brilliant' way Israel kills innocents



Relatives mourn Fatima Abdallah, a 10-year-old girl killed after hundreds of pager devices exploded in a deadly wave across Lebanon, during her funeral in the village of Saraain in the Bekaa valley on September 18, 2024.

AFP



Andrew Mitrovica  
Al Jazeera columnist

**OPINION**

*In the minds of Israel's cheerleaders abroad, the child victims of its 'sophisticated' and 'complex' mass assassination plot in Lebanon are nothing but an inconvenience.*

“

Fatima was in the kitchen when a pager, resting on a table, began beeping. She picked up the device, intending to deliver it to her father. En route, it exploded.

“

Among Israel's legion of cheerleaders abroad is Artur Wilczynski, a former Canadian ambassador and senior security official, who promptly took to X to describe Israel's ruthless gambit that claimed the budding lives of Fatima Abdallah and Mohammed Bilal Kanjas "brilliant".

In 48 hours alone, 50 children have been killed in Lebanon – all casualties of the latest Israeli strikes.

By now, save her family and friends, the short life and dreadful death of 10-year-old Fatima Abdallah Jaafar will likely have been forgotten.

But the sick circumstance of how, where and why Fatima was killed requires remembering. It requires remembering because her sudden, disfiguring death stands a searing antidote to the almost giddy celebration of the "ingenious" ways Israel devises to assassinate its adversaries.

It is also a halting harbinger of the scores of other innocents who are bound to perish as the Middle East appears destined to be engulfed by an even wider war. In 48 hours alone, 50 children have been killed in Lebanon – all casualties of the latest Israeli strikes.

Fatima and an 11-year-old boy, Bilal Kanj, were killed during the first wave of Israeli attacks targeting Hezbollah fighters involving pagers housing explosives that detonated simultaneously at 3:30pm on September 17 throughout Lebanon and Syria. Fatima had just arrived home

from the first day of the new school year. She was in fourth grade. Her aunt remembered how eager Fatima was to learn English. "Fatima was trying to take courses in English," she said. "She loved English."

Fatima was in the kitchen when a pager, resting on a table, began beeping. She picked up the device, intending to deliver it to her father. En route, it exploded.

Fatima's small, cherubic face turned instantly into a mangled mess. The room was now awash in the schoolgirl's blood – an awful testament to the improvised bomb's lethal force.

At her funeral held in Lebanon's Bekka Valley, grieving classmates carried a large picture of Fatima aloft. Her mother, walking alongside a tiny flower-draped coffin, wept.

Mourners paused in the town square before heading to a nearby cemetery. There, they prayed while a religious elder appealed to God "for justice".

Fatima's death was of little, if any, consequence to the host of West-

ern journalists and so-called "security experts" who "marveled at the complexity" of Israel's covert "plot" to infiltrate Hezbollah on such a "colossal" scale.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement. Still, it is widely believed that its security services were responsible for organising and committing the attacks.

It is, of course, a familiar story. Children – whether they are orphaned, traumatised, dismembered or slain in Gaza, the occupied West Bank or Lebanon – are considered disposable fodder as Israel continues to vent, unchecked, its "killing rage".

Fatima and the thousands of children in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon who have already been killed and will be killed have been reduced to an inconvenient asterisk in the myopic minds of Israel's legion of cheerleaders abroad.

Among them is Artur Wilczynski, a former Canadian ambassador and senior security official, who promptly took to X to describe Israel's ruthless gambit that

claimed the budding lives of Fatima Abdallah and Mohammed Bilal Kanjas "brilliant".

"Today's targeting of Hezbollah operatives was brilliant. It struck a major blow against a terror group that has fired thousands of rockets against civilians all while the useless UN mission in Lebanon stands by. There is a price to pay," Wilczynski wrote.

That the deaths of Fatima and Bilal were a shocking measure of the "price" that Lebanese civilians had to "pay" did not deter Wilczynski from posting what the retired Canadian diplomat apparently considered a pithy GIF just hours after the deadly explosions began.

The GIF features two popular Looney Tunes cartoon figures. In the short scene, Road Runner frightens Wile E Coyote. The caption reads: "Beep beep."

Later, in response to a tweet by acclaimed Palestinian writer Mariam Barghouti, pointing out that the victims of Israel's "premeditated" attack included children, Wilczynski posted another GIF – this time, of a movie star in character, applauding.

Wilczynski's egregious posts triggered a fierce and sustained backlash – particularly given that, only months earlier, he had been appointed the University of Ottawa's "special advisor" on anti-Semitism.

In a cockeyed bid to explain away his damning posts, Wilczynski claimed that the cartoon GIF was, in fact, "a statement about persistent attempts to kill Jews over the centuries that fail".

No, sir. Posting a snippet of a cartoon to make "a statement" about the murderous pogroms Jews have endured "over the centuries" is an outrageous affront to the memory of millions of victims – girls and boys, women and men.

Remember, the author of this ob-



One of the coffins is carried during the funeral of the 11-year old Mohammed Bilal Kanj, Mohamed Hassan Nour al-Din, Abbas Fadel Yassin and Mohammad Mahdi Ammar, son of Hezbollah member of the Lebanese parliament, Ali Ammar, who were killed amid the detonation of pagers across Lebanon, in Beirut.

REUTERS

scene absurdity was a career and decorated civil servant promoting Canada's values and interests at home and overseas and was charged with confronting anti-Semitism on a university campus.

My goodness.

Not done embarrassing himself, Wilczynski turned amateur psychoanalyst by suggesting that his online detractors – who chastised

him for “joking” about children's deaths – were guilty of “morbid projection”.

Then, Wilczynski trotted out the predictable, exculpatory bromide that he found the “loss of innocent lives...abhorrent”.

“There has been significant misunderstanding of my use of the word “brilliant”, he wrote on X. “The loss of innocent lives in any conflict is abhorrent & must be

avoided. As a retired national security & intel leader, my use of that word was about the complexity & sophistication of an operation.”

Whether Wilczynski is prepared to admit it or not, the shadowy architects of Israel's “complex” and “sophisticated” “operation” are guilty of killing Fatima and Bilal.

They bear responsibility. They are to blame. The killings should

haunt their consciences since they will never be held to account. Instead, they may win medals and promotions. They will be praised by Wilczynski and callous company for their “service” and inventiveness.

Wilczynski's hurried and self-serving clarification did not work.

On September 18, he took, once again, to a social media platform renowned for its seriousness of

purpose, intelligence, and nuance, X, to announce his resignation.

“My posts on the Hezbollah/Israel war caused harm & affected my ability to help combat antisemitism at U of Ottawa. My intent in sharing is irrelevant when it is clear many were hurt by them. I apologize. I resigned as Special Advisor on Antisemitism,” he wrote.

Wilczynski's posts that caused

such “hurt” and “harm” remain, as of this writing, live on X.

Meanwhile, Fatima and Bilal have been buried. They will never graduate. They will never marry. They will never have families of their own to love.

And Fatima will never learn English.

*The article was first published by Al Jazeera.*

## Israel's attack on Lebanon using exploding electronics, part of a long history of targeting civilians



By Jonathan Ofir  
Musician, conductor  
and writer

### OPINION

*The massive unfolding attack in Lebanon targeting personal electronics belonging to members of Hezbollah, which has killed tens of people and wounded roughly 3,000, is already beyond doubt Israel's work. The attack that began last Tuesday has continued into a second day, with more reports of other personal communication devices exploding, killing at least nine people and injuring dozens of others at a funeral on last Wednesday for people who had been killed in the first attack the day prior.*

*The ongoing attack, which can only be described as terrorist in nature, is unprecedented in its scope and method, but the nature of its indiscriminate attack is far from unique for Israel. In fact, Israel's doctrine of inflicting massive harm to civilians is named after the area of Beirut, Dahiya, where this very attack was centered. The most recent development marks a shocking advancement in Israel's wholesale disregard for human life but it is not new, even if you would never learn that from reading the Western press.*

### Western media spin

The New York Times team of Patrick Kingsley, Euan Ward, Ronen Bergman, and Michael Levenson covered the attack, and while they did name Israel as the culprit, it worked to include Israel's blatantly false p.r. angle that it was a targeted attack.

The Times reported:

“According to American and other officials briefed on the attack, Israel hid explosive material in a shipment of Taiwanese-made pagers imported into Lebanon. The explosive material, as little as one or two ounces, was inserted next to the battery in each pager, two of the officials said. The pagers, which Hezbollah had ordered from the Gold Apollo company in Taiwan, had been tampered with before they reached Lebanon, according to some of the officials. According to one official, Israel calculated that the risk of harming people not affiliated with Hezbollah was low, given the size of the explosive”.

The Times also wrote that “the blasts appeared to be the latest salvo in a conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that escalated after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7,” giving this an aura of mere military activity, rather than a blatantly imprecise and deadly attack on a civilian population. American whistleblower Edward Snowden, cited on Sept. 17, correctly summarized the focus and impact of the attack:

“What Israel has just done is, via \*any\* method, reckless. They blew up countless numbers of people who were driving (meaning cars out of control), shopping (your children are in the stroller standing behind him in the checkout line), et cetera. Indistinguishable from terrorism.”

Al Jazeera's senior political analyst Marwan Bishara provided a reality check, perhaps most pertinent for Western audiences:

“For our viewers around the world, it is probably helpful to do some ‘role-play’ here. Imagine if 1,200 people, active in the Pentagon, State Dept. and CIA, had pagers explode in their faces, arms and abdominals. How would you think the U.S. would feel about that?”

The Times notes Israel's “long history of using technology to carry out covert op-



erations against Iran” as if it were some impressive technological achievement. But really, in order to understand what Israel is doing here, we must look at its track record of indiscriminate attacks. And this is, in fact, not only historically relevant but strategically and geographically relevant as well.

### The path from indiscriminate attacks to genocide

The name of the Dahiya Doctrine stems from the Dahiya quarter of Beirut that Israel targeted and leveled during the 2006 war, a quarter where many families affiliated with Hezbollah lived. In 2008, then military Chief of Northern Command Gadi Eisenkot (later chief of staff and centrist minister), coined the doctrine and outlined “what will happen” to any enemy that dares attack Israel: “What happened in the Dahiya quarter of Beirut in 2006 will happen in every village from which Israel is fired on... We will apply disproportionate force on [the village] and cause great damage and destruction there. From our standpoint, these are not civilian villages, they are military bases.”

Israel applied this method already in its 2008-9 Gaza onslaught. The UN ‘Goldstone Report’ of 2009 concluded that Israel had conducted a “deliberately disproportionate attack, designed to punish, humiliate and terrorize a civilian population”, and noted that the Dahiya Doctrine “appears to have been

A photo of the rubble in South Beirut in 2006 after massive Israeli air strikes targeted the Lebanese capital.  
● REUTERS

precisely what was put into practice.” Just to reiterate: “Punish, humiliate and terrorize.” That last word, “terrorize”, should give us all pause, especially in this particular context. The recent Gaza onslaught has in its way been the implementation of this doctrine into full-blown genocide. This is not surprising, since the vein of deliberate harm to civilians as a logic of “warfare” has been in the DNA of this doctrine to begin with. So now, Israel is blowing up pagers. The prospect of this being called an act of terror by Western media appears to be very low. That is still considered a radical notion, when it comes to Israel because terror is a political term that is only reserved for enemies of the West. For the readers of the New York Times, it is just a “latest salvo” and not a reflection on the nature of Israel itself.

*The article first appeared on Mondoweiss.*

Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Kham on September 25, 2024.  
● RABIH DAHER/AFP



So now, Israel is blowing up pagers. The prospect of this being called an act of terror by Western media appears to be very low. That is still considered a radical notion, when it comes to Israel because terror is a political term that is only reserved for enemies of the West.

## FIFA Futsal World Cup:

## Iran sent packing by Morocco in last-16 thriller

## Sports Desk

Iran's Futsal World Cup campaign came to a disappointing end in Uzbekistan after a 4-3 loss to African champion Morocco in the round of 16. Stepping into the game on the back of a perfect record in the group stage, Vahid Shamsaei's men started on the front at the Bukhara Universal Sports Complex and took the lead in the fourth minute through Mohammadhossein Derakhshani, who converted Moslem Oladqobad's quick pass. The bright start, however, was followed by lapse of concentration and a series of errors by the Iranians as the Asian powerhouse trailed by three goals at halftime. Khalid Bouzid drew the Atlas Lions level in the seventh minute, before a Moroccan's kick-in went in off Iranian Alireza Rafieipour's leg four minutes later. Soufiane El Mesrar doubled Morocco's lead in the 17th

minute and then Idriss Raiss El Fenni's volley rounded off a fine buildup play right before the interval for one of the goals of the tournament. A promising start to the second half for Iran saw Hossein Tayebi pull one back with a trademark finish less than 30 seconds in, before Oladqobad fired home into top corner one minute later. With the clock ticking down, Iran used the power play with Ali-Asghar Hassanzadeh coming on, though they still found it tough to make it through an organized Moroccan defense. The final buzzer sent the Africans into a frenzy, but their celebration was short-lived as the referee pointed to the second penalty spot following a video review, giving Iran a lifeline right at the death. However, Sajjad Yousefkhah hit the post with the last kick of the game and Iran failed to progress beyond the World Cup last-16 for the first time

since the 2012 edition. Meanwhile, Morocco, the first African team to beat Iran in the World Cup, headed into a second successive quarterfinal and will take on Brazil on Sunday. "The World Cup is over for us and there are no words to say," a devastated Shamsaei said after the game, adding: "We had two different halves today; very poor in the first but much in control in the second. That is what happens when you don't convert your chances. The luck wasn't on our side. All the best to Morocco." Elsewhere in the last-16 round, Dauren Tursagulov's last-gasp winner clinched a shock 2-1 win for Kazakhstan over defending champion Portugal. In an end-to-end encounter, Chingiz Yessenamanov's opener was canceled out by Portuguese Zicky before Tursagulov scored with 14 seconds remaining.



MOHSEN DAVOUDI/FFIRI

## World Junior Wushu Championships:

## Iranians win more medals on Day 3



IWUF

## Sports Desk

The third day of the World Junior Wushu Championships saw Iranians bag silver and bronze medals in the talou contests in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. Having won a nanquan gold on the opening day of the competitions, Ramtin Siahmoshtei tallied 8.856 points for a silver medal in the boys'

nandao contest. Tara Homafar, meanwhile, won a daoshu bronze, courtesy of an 8.710-point performance in the girls' event. Friday's result came after the Iranians had won four talou medals, including double golds, on the first two days of the event in the Brunei capital. Representing the country in the girls' nangun event, Sana

Chak scored 8.776 points to beat contestants from Indonesia and Turkey to the gold. In the men's draw, Arsham Khalilpour had to settle for a bronze medal behind Indonesian and Singaporean athletes with 8.500 points in the changquan contest. Sana Panahi finished runner-up in the women's event changquan with 8.503 points.

## IWF World Junior Championships:

## Iran's Emadi wins snatch bronze, misses out on total podium

## Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifter Hassan Emadi finished his campaign in the IWF World Junior Championships with a snatch bronze in the men's 109kg contests in León, Spain. The Iranian recorded 163kg to finish behind Russian Uladzislau

Sakovich (170kg) – taking part as a neutral athlete – and Turkey's Muhammed Emin Burun, who took the silver with 168kg. Emadi then registered a best effort of 191kg in the clean & jerk contest, though it wasn't enough for him to finish in the top three, as Sakovich bagged a second gold with 204kg, followed by Geor-

gia's Gurami Vekua (200kg) and Jordanian Asem Al-Sallaj (199kg). Emadi had to settle for a fourth-place finish in total with 354kg. Alireza Abbaspour had won three medals for Iran earlier in the competitions, collecting the snatch bronze before the C&J and total silvers in the in the men's 89kg contests.



IWUF

## Champions Leverkusen ready for 'full throttle' Bayern, says Alonso



**REUTERS** – Bayer Leverkusen are expecting Bayern Munich to go all out when the sides meet in the Bundesliga today and the champions will need to produce a perfect performance to take anything from the match, manager Xabi Alonso said. Leverkusen last season became the first team to finish a Bundesliga campaign unbeaten as they lifted the trophy and ended Bayern's run of 11 straight titles, but this time around, their Bavarian opponents are determined to reclaim their crown. League-leaders Bayern have won all four of their Bundesliga matches this season and sit top of the standings with 12 points, three more

than second-placed Leverkusen. "The anticipation is great and we want to show a good game. We need a perfect performance to take something home with us," Alonso told reporters on Friday. "FC Bayern have made a good start to the season, it will be a challenge tomorrow. We need to play at our highest level, with and against the ball for 90 minutes. Bayern will go full throttle, we have to be ready for that." Leverkusen have been defensively fragile this season, conceding nine goals in four league games, and they let in three in a roller-coaster 4-3 win over VfL Wolfsburg in their last match. After the match Alonso slammed his side's poor

defending and ahead of their game against Bayern, the Spaniard once again stressed the need for discipline in defence. "The team has to be compact, we have to defend together as a team. We have a clear game plan, we can't be too soft and we can't allow large gaps," Alonso said. "We have a clear game plan as to how we want to play. We will give everything... If we don't defend well, it's hard for the players to win. We want to be consistent. We don't want to be up and down." Following their league clash against Bayern, Leverkusen host Italian side AC Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday.

# President: Iran seeks diplomacy from West to East



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian disembarks a plane on September 26, 2024 after his arrival in Tehran from New York where he participated in the UN General Assembly annual session. [president.ir](#)

**International Desk**  
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said his

administration seeks to pursue political and economic diplomacy with the world from the West to the East, from New York to Samarkand. "As promised, we will interact with the East and

the West based on national interests," Pezeshkian said in a post on his X account on Thursday. Pezeshkian, who was in the United States to take part in the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, added that in line with such a policy and simultaneous with his meetings and those of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in New York, negotiations were underway in Uzbekistan

between Iran's economy minister and authorities from Asian countries. He noted that Iran's Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref will also travel to Pakistan and Armenia in the coming days as part of that policy, and expressed hope that the visits will have results that will benefit the Iranian people's livelihood. During his three-day stay in New York, the Iranian president delivered two separate speeches to the annual session of the General Assembly and the session on "Strengthening the United Nations Goals" and held meetings with authorities from more than 15 countries

and several other groups. During the meetings, he repeatedly emphasized Iran's readiness to open new chapter in relations with countries.

**Iran's prosperity**  
In meeting with Iranian nationals living in the US, Pezeshkian said he will spare no effort to bring prosperity for the country. The president said his goal is to make Iranians live with dignity inside and outside the country. He said that he will try to get help from all the elites and competent people on the path of building Iran. "If there was no love for the country, we would

have entrusted the presidency to others who are interested in it", the president said. Pezeshkian did not deny problems facing Iranians in the country but said how the Western media portray Iran is inaccurate and false and the reality in the country is far from what the Western media show. Pezeshkian was elected as Iran's president in July runoff election, beating his conservative rival Saeed Jalili. The election was called after Iran's late president Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash in May, in which seven others also died.

## Iran's FM: Talk of dialogue dominate meetings with Europeans

**International Desk**

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said talk of the opening dialogue between Iran and the European countries prevailed the atmosphere of his meetings with European sides on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's annual session in New York. In an interview with IRNA, Iran's top diplomat said that during his meetings with the European sides he discussed numerous issues including Iran's nuclear program, Israel's war on Lebanon, Iran's military cooperation with Russia and

accusations leveled against Iran regarding transfer of drones and missiles to Russia to be used in Ukraine war. He referred to negotiations on revival of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers as one of the main issues which was addressed during the meetings. "All of them know that there is no other way to ensure that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful, rather than negotiations," Araghchi called the negotiations, not sanctions, threats and pressure as the best way to ease their concerns over Iran's nuclear



program. Araghchi, who played a key role in the negotiations that culminated in the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers which has since unraveled, said, "In all the meetings I had with European countries, I said that you can choose the path of negotiation and you can also choose the path of sanctions." He underlined that sanctions are definitely not the solution to problems. The United States unilaterally withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran.

## Delegations walk out of UNGA in protest at Netanyahu

**International Desk**

Delegations of many world countries walked out of the UN General Assembly on Friday at the same time as Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began his address to the assembly. The regime's wars in Gaza and Lebanon have claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people over the past year. His presence in New York also sparked a massive demonstration outside UN headquarters. Israel has launched a devastating war on the Gaza Strip since last October and has

killed more than 41,000 Palestinians - mostly women and children. The regime has also launched a ruinous war on Lebanon where more than 1,500 people have lost their lives in Israel's attacks since October. Since Monday alone, the regime's strikes have killed more than 700 people in Lebanon. The Israeli attacks have also sparked an exodus of around 118,000 people. On Friday, Lebanon's National News Agency said an Israeli strike killed a family of nine in south Lebanon. Hours later, Hezbollah



lah fired rockets into the north Israeli city of Tiberias, saying it was responding to "savag" strikes on Lebanese towns and villages. Addressing the UN General Assembly, Netanyahu said Israel is to continue Lebanon strikes "until we meet our objectives." In his speech, Netanyahu sought to pin blame for the conflict on Iran. He claimed that Israel was defending itself against Tehran on seven fronts, including against Hamas in Gaza.

### SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

#### Invitation for one stage Bidding

Islamic Republic of Iran  
FARS Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project  
Invitation for Procurement of:  
DESIGN, BUILD, INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF SEPIDAN  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
IsDB Financing No. IRN-0107

The Government of Islamic Republic of Iran has received financing from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) towards the cost of the Fars Six Cities Sanitation Improvement Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts for Sepidan wastewater treatment plant. The Fars Water and Wastewater Company (FWWC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procurement of: Remaining Works of Design, Build, Installation And Operation Of Sepidan Wastewater Treatment Plant as described in the following table:

No	City	Description of Package
1	Sepidan	Remaining Works of Procurement of Design, Build And Operate Sepidan Wastewater Treatment Plant with capacity 4,400 M <sup>3</sup> /day

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures using Post-Qualification as specified in the IsDB's Guidelines for the Procurement of Goods, Works and Related Services under IsDB Project Financing (April 2019), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guideline and Bidding Documents. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.18 -21 setting forth IsDB's policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the Fars Water & Wastewater Company (address below) as from the date of SPN Publication.

A complete set of the Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Applicants (a) on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of

### آگهی تدارک خصوصی

#### (فراخوان مناقصه یک مرحله‌ای)

جمهوری اسلامی ایران  
پروژه بهسازی بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس  
دعوت برای باقیمانده تدارک طراحی، ساخت، نصب تجهیزات و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان  
شماره اعتبار سرمایه بانک توسعه اسلامی: IRN-0107

دولت جمهوری اسلامی ایران اعتباری از بانک توسعه اسلامی (IsDB) جهت اجرای پروژه ارتقای بهداشت ۶ شهر استان فارس دریافت داشته و در نظر دارد بخشی از این اعتبار را به منظور پرداخت‌های قراردادها و تصفیه‌خانه‌های فاضلاب شهرهای مربوطه به مصرف برساند. شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس هم اکنون از پیشنهادات تک‌لک و مهر شده پیمانکاران واجد صلاحیت جهت باقیمانده طراحی، ساخت، نصب، بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان که در جدول زیر تشریح شده است، دعوت می‌کند.

ردیف	نام شهر	شرح کار
۱	سپیدان	باقیمانده کارهای طراحی، ساخت، نصب تجهیزات و بهره‌برداری تصفیه‌خانه فاضلاب شهر سپیدان به ظرفیت ۴۴۰۰ متر مکعب در شبانه‌روز

مناقصه از طریق فرآیند پس ارزیابی تعیین شده در دستور العمل تأمین کالا و اجرای کار بانک توسعه اسلامی (آوریل ۲۰۱۹) برای مناقصه رقابتی داخلی (NCB) انجام خواهد شد و در دسترس تمامی پیشنهاددهندگان از شرکت‌های واجد شرایط خصوصی که در دستور العمل بانک مذکور تعریف شده، می‌باشد. علاوه بر این، لطفاً به پاراگراف ۱۸، ۱۹-۲۱ که سیاست IsDB را در مورد تعارض منافع ارائه می‌دهد، مراجعه کنید.

مناقصیان علاقه‌مند واجد شرایط می‌توانند برای بررسی و کسب اطلاعات بیشتر، اسناد مناقصه را در ساعات اداری از شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس به آدرس زیر از تاریخ انتشار آگهی دریافت نمایند.

مناقصیان می‌توانند مجموعه‌های کامل، از اسناد مناقصه به زبان انگلیسی و فارسی (نسخه فارسی هر فاجت اطلاع) با درخواست کتبی در مقابل پرداخت هزینه انتشار آگهی به عهده برنده مناقصه خواهد بود.

# Pezeshkian brings home 1,100 Achaemenid tablets from US

President Masoud Pezeshkian returned to Tehran from New York after participating in the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, bringing with him 1,100 historical clay tablets from the Achaemenid era. The tablets were repatriated following intensive consultations of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Iranian Vice President for Legal Affairs Majid Ansari with the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago (CEAS), Press TV reported. The Achaemenid tablets dating to the sixth century BC are among the most important works of Iranian art and history. They contain vital insights into road resource management, social relations, basic necessities of life, wages, and the economy of Achaemenid society. The tablets constitute records of "the rituals and the way of life of our ancestors," said Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ali Darabi. The tablets, inscribed in cuneiform, Elamite, and Aramaic languages, provide a unique window into the world of one of the most powerful empires in history. They are mainly about the management of natural resources, roads, social relations, basic necessities of life, wages and the economy of the Achaemenid society during the rule of Darius I, commonly

known as Darius the Great. The Achaemenid Empire was the largest of the empires of the ancient Near East and extended from the Balkans and Egypt to India and Central Asia. This is the sixth batch of Achaemenid-era artifacts returned to Iran, with a total of 6,868 artifacts recovered so far. The fifth batch, which included 3,506 artifacts, was returned to Iran last year, Darabi said. The artifacts, which include ancient clay tablets and inscriptions, will be transferred to the National Museum of Iran and will undergo a 72-hour quarantine before being examined by a team of experts, Darabi said. The artifacts had previously been studied by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, but Iranian experts will re-examine them to verify their authenticity. "The American side undertook to return the rest within a set timeframe," Darabi said. The clay tablets, numbering about 30,000, were discovered by archeologists affiliated with the University of Chicago in the 1930s while excavating in Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire. About 90 years ago, they were transferred to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago on a three-year loan. However, the US has repeatedly resorted to excuses to put off repatriating the tablets to Iran,

according to officials. In 2006, a US federal court ruling sought to seize and auction the invaluable collection of ancient clay tablets. However, an appeals court later overturned the ruling, and in 2018, the US Supreme Court affirmed the subsequent ruling that the collection cannot be taken away. Several batches of the tablets and related fragments have been delivered to Iran in recent years, but thousands of parts are still held in the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Last year, late President Ebrahim Raisi brought home 3,500 tablets from the US after attending the UN General Assembly. Iran says the tablets are part of its culture and history and belong to the people of Iran, and that all of the loaned articles must be delivered to the Iranian government intact. "The United States postpones this every time under a pretext, while the Americans themselves acknowledge that these tablets came to the United States on loan but were not fully returned," Iran's then ambassador to the UN Majid Takht-Ravanchi said in January 2022. According to the Oriental Institute, the tablets illustrated the "support of the king and court, deployment of workers, practice of religion, the development of seal art, the interplay of languages, and more."



## Iran, Georgia discuss tourism, archaeology cooperation



Iranian and Georgian officials met in Tbilisi to discuss ways to boost cooperation in tourism, archaeology, and cultural heritage. Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi Amiri, met with First Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia and Economy Minister Levan Davitashvili, on Friday to explore areas of cooperation between the two countries, ILNA wrote. Salehi Amiri, who was in Tbilisi to attend the World Tourism Day ceremony at the invitation of the UN World Tourism Organization, emphasized the importance of cultural and historical ties between Iran and Georgia. The meeting was attended by around 40 tourism officials from UN member states. He highlighted the new government's approach to opening up new horizons in relations with neighboring countries. The Iranian minister pointed to his country's expertise in restoring ancient monuments, handicrafts, and health tourism, and expressed Iran's readiness to share knowledge and experience with Georgia in these areas. Davitashvili, in turn, thanked Iran for its support for Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. He expressed his country's willingness to expand cooperation in tourism, cultural heritage, and health tourism.

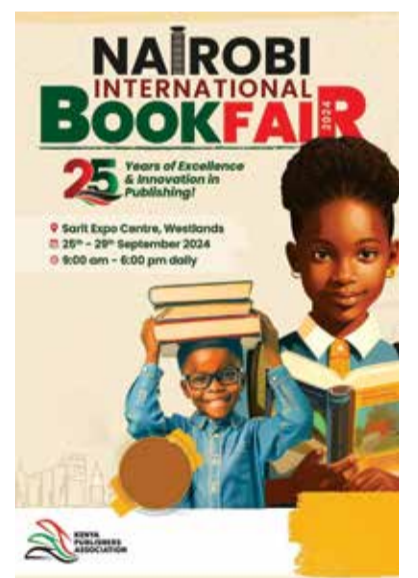
## Iranian books on display at Nairobi Int'l Book Fair

Arts & Culture Desk

The 25th Nairobi International Book Fair is underway, with representatives from Iran's publishing industry. The five-day book fair, which kicked off on September 25, has attracted hundreds of publishers from Kenya and several foreign countries, including Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and India. The event is being held at the Sarit Centre, one of the largest shopping malls in Nairobi, covering an area of over 1,500 square meters, IRNA reported. Iran's Cultural Attaché to Kenya Ghorban Ali Pourmarjan, representing the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, has set up a booth at the fair, showcasing over 300 titles in various fields, including literature, religion, art, tourism, and children's books. The booth is providing information on the Tehran International Book Fair, the publishing industry in Iran, and the country's translation and publications schemes. In his opening remarks, Iranian Am-

bassador to Kenya, Ali Gholampour, emphasized the importance of books in preserving and promoting cultural heritage. "Books are the foundation of a nation's culture and a symbol of its civilization," he said. "Reading books increases concentration, awareness, and critical thinking in society, and it is the primary link between a nation's history and its people." Gholampour noted that despite economic pressures, many governments support their publishing industries, and Iran is no exception. "Iran has a thriving publishing industry, with over 8,000 publishers and an annual production of 70,000 book titles," he said. "We recently held the 35th Tehran International Book Fair, which attracted over 3,000 domestic publishers and hundreds of foreign participants, with over 5 million visitors and sales of over \$5 million." The ambassador expressed hope that the Nairobi book fair would be a catalyst for cooperation between Iranian and Kenyan publishers, particularly in

the areas of children's literature, fiction, poetry, and technology. He also announced that a memorandum of understanding had been signed between the Tehran and Nairobi book fairs, aimed at promoting cooperation and exchange between publishers, authors, and illustrators from both countries. Gholampour also highlighted the potential for cultural exchange between Iran and Kenya, saying that the Iranian market is eager to receive books on literature, culture, history, and other subjects from Kenya, both in print and digital formats. He invited Kenyan writers and publishers to participate in Iran's Top and Grant schemes, which support the publication of hundreds of titles abroad each year. The envoy concluded by emphasizing the importance of cultural exchange in promoting understanding and cooperation between nations. "The persistence and continuity of relations between nations depend on their fa-



miliarity with each other's culture and social norms, which can be achieved through books, films, illustrations, and art," he said.

## A major admission...

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who was also in New York, said in an interview with IRNA, "The request to enter into dialogue and negotiations is now the dominant theme in our talks with European countries." On the other hand, Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who is set to visit Tehran in less than a month to meet with the Iranian president, said the return to an agreed framework could be on the basis of the JCPAO but "it will have to be much, much stronger." The outcome of these various stances highlights one crucial point: the necessity of talks that takes

place within a logical, respectful, and non-exploitative framework. As has now been proven to Trump, deviating from the diplomatic path and resorting to costly and disrespectful measures and excessive demands not only fails to address Western concerns but also leads to Iran's natural reactions and the intensification of its nuclear activities. As Araghchi has pointed out, "The path of sanctions has taken Iran's nuclear program from 20 IR-1 centrifuges to thousands of advanced IR-6 centrifuges." Grossi has also emphasized the need to update the nuclear deal, citing Iran's technical nuclear advancements. In any case, past experiences are a reminder to all parties involved. Sanctions have undoubtedly

had detrimental effects on Iran's economy, but they have not addressed the concerns of the US and Europeans as expected. The election of a new president in Iran, with a slogan of engagement and a primary goal of lifting sanctions, presents an opportunity for Western countries to engage in talks with Tehran, share their concerns, and listen to Iran's concerns as well. Now that the policy of maximum pressure and sweeping sanctions has proven ineffective, it would be wise for Western parties to give more credibility and speed to diplomacy. Addressing concerns and ensuring mutual interests could provide a real framework for resuming negotiations between Iran and the West.