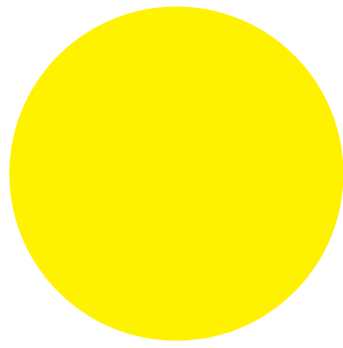


**Veep says Iran prioritizes greater economic relations with Africa**

3 >



## ***Nuclear chief:* Iran 'major player' in construction of nuclear plants**

2 >

### **On lost falsifiability of experts**

By Amir Mollaee Mozaffari  
Staff writer

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

Honestly, there are too many political analyses to go around. However, quantity is not my concern, rather it's the quality of some of the said analyses that worry me. The former feeds the latter, though; Since there's a fierce competition to make yourself known and have your voice heard, some political analysts fall in the trap of covering all bases. What is that trap? It's a futile attempt at making sure that your hypotheses and theories stand tall against any and all objections. Why it's futile? Because we're talking about human sciences, where there are innumerable, possibly unforeseeable variables at play for almost all outcomes. We cannot and would not put political figures and political situations in the lab to control unwanted variables from messing with the result. One may rightfully ask what is wrong with covering all bases? After all, most of us were raised thinking that it's the highest standard that any scientific theory can achieve: to never be proven wrong, to have something to say to anything. Why would this be a problem? It's only a problem when it's an ad-hoc explanation to objections, when you find that a base has slipped your mind that must be covered lest you lose credibility. If adopted, this strategy is a disservice to you and your audience as it kills queries just to kill them, not to answer them. [See page 4 >](#)

### **Trump's gamble on 'Mideast Riviera' plan**

By Navid Kamali  
Foreign policy expert

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

In reality, with this plan, Trump is gambling not only with the fate of millions of Palestinians but also with the future of the Middle East. US President Donald Trump has once again shaken the Middle East and the world with a controversial plan. The plan to forcibly displace the residents of the Gaza Strip and transform the area into a so-called "Riviera of the Middle East" has not only ignited the anger of Palestinians and Arab nations but also raised alarm bells for the future of peace and stability in the region. On the surface, this plan appears to be an ambitious project for the reconstruction of Gaza and its economic and tourism development. However, behind this deceptive facade lie layers of strategic objectives, political calculations, and economic interests that require careful and comprehensive examination. [Page 8 >](#)



## ***Pezeshkian:* Iran ready to forge local currency ties with Eurasia**

Tehran poised to negotiate but 'not at any cost'

2 >



**'Politically charged': Deputy FM rejects Grossi's nuclear remarks**

2 >



**A critique of Offensive Realism: Palestinians also (probably) human!**

**OPINION**

5 >



**26 rare pieces of Picasso to be unveiled in Tehran**

8 >



**Khaton secures 11th league crown, continues reign in Iranian women football**

6 >



**Arvand Free Zone's unique appeal for tourists**

7 >

# Tehran poised to negotiate but 'not at any cost'

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran has frequently announced that it seeks negotiations to resolve dispute over its nuclear program but not "at any cost."

Addressing a meeting of intellectuals in Tehran Province on Thursday, the Iranian president said that, "It is not acceptable to impose sanctions and say that you should have no missiles or weapons, and then talk about negotiations again." Pezeshkian underlined that negotiations must be conducted with dignity.

"If they come with dignity, we will negotiate, but we will not yield to coercion ... from the beginning, we have declared that we seek dialogue and negotiation, but not at any cost," the Iranian president said.

Iranian and American presidents have repeatedly expressed their countries' readiness for new negotiations on Iran's nuclear program in recent months. But the US president's bullying language has made it difficult to start negotiations. Iranian officials say the negotiations under pressure are not reasonable. Since taking office in January, US President Donald Trump has repeatedly expressed his eagerness for talks with Iran to strike a deal on Tehran's nuclear program.

At the same time, he has reinstated his so-called "maximum pressure" policy and has threatened military action against Iran. "He thinks that if he comes and threatens us, we will back down tomorrow and say, 'Alright, we accept whatever you say.' We are

human beings with dignity. If they come with dignity, we will have a dialogue, but we are not going to yield to coercion," Pezeshkian said, referring to his American counterpart.

On February 7, Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said experience has shown that negotiations with the US have no effect on solving Iran's problems. During his first term in office, Trump pulled Washington out of the UNSC-endorsed Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and imposed severe economic sanctions against Tehran while Iran was adhering to its commitments under the deal and even continued to do so for a year after the US withdrawal. Trump's move in 2018 left the future of the nuclear deal in limbo.



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a meeting of intellectuals in Tehran Province on February 20, 2025.  
● president.ir

## 'Politically charged': Deputy FM rejects Grossi's nuclear remarks



Rafael Grossi  
● AFP

## International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi rejected recent remarks by UN atomic agency chief Rafael Grossi on its nuclear program, calling them "unprofessional" and "politically charged."

Gharibabadi's reaction came after Grossi at a press conference in Japan's capital said Iran was "enriching (uranium) at 60 percent, so almost weapon level." He also described a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran as an "empty shell" that was "no longer fit for purpose."

Gharibabadi insisted that Iran's nuclear program was solely for peaceful purposes. Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) also reacted to Grossi's remarks, saying that his comments

could be used as pretext by the United States and other Western countries "to exert unjust pressure on Iran."

The AEOI in a statement warned the IAEA that with such unprofessional and politically biased comments the agency risks losing its credibility. "As the head of a major international organization, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is expected to always speak and act impartially, professionally, and free from political bias." "Unfortunately, some of Mr. Grossi's statements and positions, particularly his recent ones, lack these qualities, raising concerns that this important international organization, by straying from the path of neutrality and professionalism, may undermine its own credibility," the statement said.

In his remarks, Grossi said Iran had blown past the limits set by the 2015 deal, adding the goal currently was to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, or to help it "prove that they don't want to." The deal - known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - collapsed following Washington's withdrawal from it in 2018 during

the first term of US President Donald Trump, who returned to office in January.

Tehran continued to adhere to the deal for a year after Washington pulled out, but then began rolling back its commitments after remaining parties to the nuclear deal failed to fulfill their commitments under the agreement.

Iran has repeatedly expressed its willingness to revive the accord but efforts to that end have faltered. The IAEA nuclear watchdog, which Grossi leads, claims Iran has increased its manufacturing of enriched uranium such that it is the only non-nuclear weapons state to possess uranium enriched to 60 percent.

That level is well on the way to the 90 percent required for an atomic bomb, according to the IAEA. During his press conference, Grossi said that much of the 2015 deal was "no longer applicable," adding that the IAEA was ready to provide "technically sound alternatives to eliminate the possibility that Iran develops a nuclear weapon."

Tehran vehemently denies any intention of developing nuclear weapons.

## Nuclear chief: Iran 'major player' in construction of nuclear plants 'Iran one of world's main heavy water producers'

## National Desk

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said Iran has become "a major player" in the knowledge of constructing nuclear power plants in the world.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the construction site of 300-megawatt Karun power plant in the southwestern province of Khuzestan on Thursday, Eslami said that the world knows that Iran is gaining the knowledge to construct nuclear power plants, noting that, "The enemies can't stand seeing this great achievement."

The Iranian official said that, "In order to achieve our goals, we don't care about the enemies' sanctions and pressure," adding that, "We will continue the path that we have drawn for ourselves to reach our goals."

He said that the United States tried to stop the construction of the nuclear plant twelve years ago, but it failed to do so.

"With the help of our youth and scientists, its construction continued," he added.

Pointing to the importance of nuclear know-how in various fields, including medicine and agriculture, Eslami said



Mohammad Eslami  
● AEOI

that the enemies can't prevent the Islamic Republic from achieving its goals by assassinating its scientists or imposing sanctions and exerting economic pressure on the country.

The construction of the power plant is one of the manifestations of the country's progress," he added.

According to reports, the power plant is of a pressurized water reactor (PWR) type and with the capacity of producing 300 megawatts of electricity is to be built on a land of approximately 50 hectares in the vicinity of the Karun River.

In the second day of his visit to the Khuzestan Province on Friday, Eslami said that Iran is one of the main players in the production of heavy water in the world - the issue that "the enemies cannot tolerate."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran's Army to hold military drills in Gulf of Oman

## National Desk

Iranian Army's Deputy Coordinator Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said the Army will hold naval drills today in the Gulf of Oman and northern Indian Ocean.

"The joint military exercise Zolfaghar 1403 will begin tomorrow (Saturday) on the Makran coast, the Sea of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean," Sayyari said on Friday. Saturday's exercises have the "objective of strengthening defense and deterrence capabilities against any land, air and sea threat," Sayyari added.

Sayyari said that the Army's ground, naval, air defense and air forces will participate in the military drills.

The purpose of the exercise is to enhance the defense and deterrence capabilities of Iran against any threat, he added. Sayyari also warned the country's enemies that Iran's Armed Forces are ready to confront any threat from land,



Habibollah Sayyari  
● IRNA

sea and air.

In recent weeks, Iran has conducted military exercises across the country, including near nuclear facilities in the west and center of the country.

# Pezeshkian: Iran ready to forge local currency ties with Eurasia

## Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian announced Iran's readiness to establish financial and banking agreements with Eurasian countries using local currencies, similar to the arrangement already in place with Russia. Speaking at the opening of the third International Eurasia Exhibition (Eurasia Expo 2025) on Friday, Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of multilateral cooperation in countering traditional unilateralism, according to [snn.ir](http://snn.ir).

Pezeshkian, accompanied by a delegation, also visited several booths and engaged with industry leaders and experts, highlighting the key role of developing trade ties with Eurasia.

The exhibition, held with the participation of over 200 Iranian companies and trade delegations from Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Belarus, showcases opportunities for strengthening international cooperation.

"Just as we easily resolved monetary and banking relations with Russia, and trade exchanges are now conducted in local currencies, we are prepared to establish the same relations with other Eurasian countries and sign monetary and banking agreements," Pezeshkian said.

He highlighted the role of unions like Eurasia in ending the dominance of unilateralism in global affairs, stating, "Unilateralism is unacceptable in the world we live in today, and Eurasia represents a rejection of unilateralism."

Pezeshkian stressed that international relations must be based on mutual respect. He also noted Iran's determination to expand cooperation with EAEU countries

in areas such as science, technology, and industry.

"Exchanging knowledge, technology, and industrial expertise are among the initiatives Iran is committed to developing with Eurasian Economic Union member states," he added.

## \$10b trade outlook

The minister of industry, mines, and trade, who accompanied the president, noted that the Iran-EAEU free trade agreement marks a crucial step toward increasing exports and bolstering international collaboration.

Mohammad Atabak, the industry minister, stated that Iran's current trade volume with the EAEU stands at \$3.6 billion, with a potential to reach \$10 billion.

He emphasized that the president's presence at the event underscores the government's commitment to expanding foreign trade. Atabak added that the EAEU, with a population of 200 million and a GDP of \$5 trillion, represents a major economic bloc, with trade volumes increasing by 71%.

Atabak highlighted the development of banking and financial relations between Iran and EAEU countries, noting that the participation of banks, institutions, and infrastructure at the exhibition reflects the establishment of a robust trade network. He also mentioned that 87% of tariffs on goods will be eliminated, fostering competition between Iranian and foreign traders in the vast Eurasian market.

The minister stressed that the agreement with the EAEU will enhance Iran's competitiveness by reducing tariffs and facilitating investment and added that the expansion of scientific and technological cooperation



is a key component of the agreement.

## Broad participation of foreign delegations

Mohammadali Dehqan-Dehnavi, head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, announced that 200 foreign delegations from EAEU member states are participating in the exhibition.

He noted that Iran's trade with EAEU countries has grown 2.5 times over the past four years, though there is still room for further growth.

Dehqan-Dehnavi revealed that the Iran-EAEU trade agreement has been approved by Parliament and is awaiting confirmation by the Guardian Council, signaling the importance of trade development.

He also announced the establishment of a secretariat for trade with Eurasia and the creation of five Iranian trade centers in neighboring countries to support businesses.

The third edition of the exhibition spans 12,000 square meters and features 180 domestic and 160 foreign companies. It hosts 230 visiting companies and hundreds of specialized panels and negotiations.

Dehqan-Dehnavi described trade with EAEU countries as Iran's largest trade experience, emphasizing that the agreement with the five EAEU members is rich with opportunities.

He identified free trade and deepening relations with neighboring countries as top priorities for trade development.

## SCI reports 4.1% monthly increase in CPI



## Economy Desk

The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) announced that the consumer price index (CPI) for the month of Bahman (January 20 - February 18) increased by 4.1% compared to the previous month, Dey (December 21-January 19).

In Bahman 1403, the CPI for households across the country reached 305.5, reflecting a 4.1% rise compared to the previous month, a 35.3% increase compared to the same month last year, and a 32.0% increase over the 12-month period ending in Bahman compared to the same period the previous year.

## Point-to-point, monthly, annual inflation rate

Point-to-point inflation measures the percentage change in the CPI compared to the same month in the previous year. In Bahman 1403, point-to-point inflation for households was 35.3%, meaning households spent an average of 35.3% more than in Bahman 1402 to purchase the same "basket of goods and services." This represents a 3.5 percentage point increase compared to the previous month.

Monthly inflation measures the percentage change in the CPI compared to the previous month. In Bahman 1403, monthly inflation for households was 4.1%. The monthly inflation rate for the major category of "food, beverages, and tobacco" was 6.7%, while for the category of "non-food goods and services," it was 2.9%.

The annual inflation rate measures the percentage change in the average CPI over the 12-month period ending in the current month compared to the same period the previous year. In Bahman 1403, the annual inflation rate for households reached 32.0%, unchanged from the previous month.

## Changes in CPI across income deciles in Bahman

The annual inflation rate for the country in Bahman 1403 stood at 32.0%, with variations across income deciles ranging from 30.3% for the first and second deciles to 32.4% for the ninth decile. The inflation gap between deciles narrowed to 2.1 percentage points, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous month (2.7 percentage points).

# Veep says Iran prioritizes greater economic relations with Africa



## Economy Desk

Vice President Mohammadreza Aref emphasized that the development of economic and trade relations with the African continent is a key priority of Iran's foreign policy.

Speaking at a meeting with African ambassadors in Tehran, Aref stressed that the natural resources of nations are their undeniable right and called for increased solidarity and cooperation among developing countries.

Aref criticized Western nations for their "unjust sanctions and actions" against Iran, stating that the reality of Iranian society is vastly different from what the West portrays.

Aref highlighted Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, asserting that the country's strategy is to ensure all nations have access to advanced technologies.

He noted that such technologies, developed with the help of scientists and experts, are essential for improving the welfare and quality of life for people worldwide.

The veep pointed to Iran's achievements in nuclear energy in health, technical, and agricultural fields, emphasizing that Iran seeks peaceful nuclear energy for all nations.

Aref reiterated Iran's stance against the non-peaceful use of nuclear technology, referencing the country's religious decree (fatwa) prohibiting such use and accused Western nations of misrepresenting Iran's peaceful intentions and creating unnecessary fear about its nuclear program.

## Strengthening comprehensive ties with Africa

Aref welcomed the African diplomats and described Africa as a continent with rich spiritual and material resources, holding a special place in Iran's foreign policy.

He acknowledged that while political relations with African nations have grown, economic, agricultural, cultural, and scientific ties have not kept pace and called for enhanced cooperation to achieve comprehensive and sustainable relations in all areas.

The VP outlined Iran's strategy to strengthen ties with African countries through bilateral, multilateral, and regional frameworks. He emphasized the importance of leveraging existing capacities and resources to foster development and serve the people of both regions.

Aref also highlighted Iran's active par-

ticipation in various international and regional unions, which he said contributes significantly to the development of these relations.

## Africa's economic potential

Aref expressed optimism about Africa's economic potential, noting its 54 countries, a population of 1.4 billion, and abundant natural resources.

He described Africa as a region with high economic growth, a young workforce, and vast markets, positioning it as a future global driving force and stressed the need to take relations with Africa more seriously to capitalize on this potential.

Aref also announced the revival of the Africa Task Force under President Masoud Pezeshkian's administration, which aims to evaluate and facilitate Iran's relations with African countries and organizations. The task force, chaired by the VP, will address obstacles to cooperation and oversee the expansion of ties in various fields.

He also mentioned the upcoming third Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit, scheduled for early next Iranian year, coinciding with Iran's Expo 2025. Aref expressed hope that high-ranking African delegations would attend the summit and exhibition, fostering greater awareness of Iran's capabilities and opportunities for collaboration.

## Addressing obstacles to expanding relations

Aref acknowledged challenges such as insufficient air and maritime transportation infrastructure and banking issues, which hinder the expansion of relations with Africa.

He stated that relevant bodies have been directed to address these obstacles and highlighted the role of joint commissions in advancing bilateral cooperation, noting that some commissions had been inactive for too long and

needed to be revitalized.

Aref identified new areas for cooperation, including trade, private sector engagement, science and technology, techno-engineering services, tourism, and agriculture.

He emphasized the private sector's role in driving economic and trade relations and pledged government support to facilitate private sector activities.

He also expressed Iran's readiness to collaborate on emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and to support joint projects in these fields.

Aref highlighted tourism as a key area for strengthening people-to-people ties and fostering sustainable relations, urging support for this sector.

Aref underscored the importance of agricultural cooperation, including the purchase of agricultural products, research programs, and cross-border farming initiatives with African nations. He expressed Iran's readiness to engage in these areas to enhance mutual benefits.

## Role of ambassadors

Aref praised the constructive remarks of African representatives at the meeting, interpreting them as a sign of Africa's determination to strengthen ties with Iran.

He emphasized the importance of ambassadors in promoting mutual understanding and addressing obstacles to cooperation.

The VP invited senior African officials to visit Iran, expressing hope for brotherly and friendly relations and called on African nations to adopt a similar approach in their dealings with Iran, aiming to overcome challenges and deepen ties.

During the meeting, African ambassadors in Iran shared their views and proposed strategies for enhancing comprehensive cooperation between Iran and the African continent.

# On lost falsifiability of experts

By Amir Mollaei Mozaffari  
Staff writer

OPINION

*Honestly, there are too many political analyses to go around. However, quantity is not my concern, rather it's the quality of some of the said analyses that worry me. The former feeds the latter, though; Since there's a fierce competition to make yourself known and have your voice heard, some political analysts fall in the trap of covering all bases.*

*What is that trap? It's a futile attempt at making sure that your hypotheses and theories stand tall against any and all objections. Why it's futile? Because we're talking about human sciences, where there are innumerable, possibly unforeseeable variables at play for almost all outcomes. We cannot and would not put political figures and political situations in the lab to control unwanted variables from messing with the result.*

*One may rightfully ask what is wrong with covering all bases? After all, most of us were raised thinking that it's the highest standard that any scientific theory can achieve: to never be proven wrong, to have something to say to anything. Why would this be a problem? It's only a problem when it's an ad-hoc explanation to objections, when you find that a base has slipped your mind that must be covered lest you lose credibility. If adopted, this strategy is a disservice to you and your audience as it kills queries just to kill them, not to answer them.*

Before we go any further, it serves to see how this manifests itself. Most commonly, we see this in action when the analyst suddenly jumps from the micro-level to the macro-level in response to an objection in the micro-level or vice versa. For example, I have one particular Iranian analyst in mind who's routinely guilty of using the first kind of jump — but I'm sure you can find more once you see the signs. In making sense of what the United States or Israel does, he sometimes gets cornered by his own hypothesis and micro facts on the ground. To get out of that corner, he has a last-ditch escape: "You have to see things over a longer period of time." So, he frequently says, in effect, that Washington and Tel Aviv never make mistakes; rather they take one step back to take three steps forward in the future. You just have to wait and see it pay off some time in the future.

It may be so that a world power has drawn a master plan that fools everyone, everywhere to think that they are on the back foot, while they are a few steps ahead of the others. But, realistically, how possible is that? While such maneuvers look good in movies, they have historically been proven to backfire long before the intended results are achieved, if ever. We're talking politics of the 21st century. It lives and dies by public opinion — in more or less democratic societies, at least, which is almost every society. A stunt like the one imagined by our big-brained analyst is bound to take a hit on the popularity of those political figures or parties that take the fall. Consequently, they may not stay long enough in the office to see their master plan pay off. Furthermore, any plan that encompasses even one year, let alone several years, is taking a higher risk of falling apart compared to those that encompass a few days, weeks, or months. Why is that? Because situations change, rapidly. The chess pieces



● CORINNE MUCHA/SANDBOX STUDIO

of politics move around so much that it's becoming less like chess and more like a full-blown sport such as football at this point. The improbability of this argument aside, my main gripe is this: to bet that a regional power is going to somehow eventually make something out of a mess for itself is unfalsifiable; it's a safe enough bet. You just have to expand the said period as much as needed to include the positive development you seek. If it happens within a year, great; if not, wait till it happens two, three, or more years. You can go another route and claim that your earlier argument was justified if the US or Israel can be interpreted to gain anything however small. Basically, you can't lose when you make that argument, but no one wins either — not in time when it matters, at least. Your argument is flexible enough both in its temporal and evaluation criteria that it's unfalsifiable.

Remember, when the objection jumps from the micro-level to the macro-level, it is acceptable to continue the conversation at the macro-level if you so choose. It's only problematic when it's the theorist who responds in macro to a question that is still in micro. One such objection in the case above may be this: "But the White House itself has admitted mistake and full responsibility here." Per the reasons above about the situation of 21st-century politics, this objection must figuratively be a "slam dunk." However, we still see experts try to wiggle out of it by broadening the temporal or spatial scales. I'm all for learning from history, but this feels more like finding a horse that performs reliably in horses, betting on its future, and being sure that you would win decisively at least half the time and win the other half if you move the goalpost. What about when the analysis

suddenly jumps from the macro-level to the micro-level? Consider that two experts are discussing the effectiveness of a country's economic policy. Expert A objects that the policy is not working and needs to be changed as it has specific detrimental long-term effects. Expert B responds, "What constitutes 'working' is subjective and depends on individual perspectives." Expert B is not wrong but his (probably intentional) lack of criteria for evaluation is killing the discussion. If he gets his way, we should stop talking about such issues altogether as there are always some who are benefitting from a policy or are oblivious to its effects.

This is, in effect, muddying the waters, and it's more prevalent than you think. Just look at how much Donald Trump cites anecdotes to prove his views and policies are correct and those of his predecessors' were horrible.

“

Your political arguments and analyses must be falsifiable; otherwise, you are just being egoistic to save your skin. There has to be a metric, a criterion, by which we could say that you were wrong. So, make some valuable observations, draw a line in the sand, and in the off-chance that you're wrong, let yourself be proven wrong. It's not the end of the world. The audience wants to get something out of reading your op-eds and interviews, not to be as lost among facts and views as they were before.

For example, on March 13, 2017, the US president held a White House listening session on the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and Republican efforts to repeal it. During the session, Trump stated, "The press is making Obamacare look so good... The fact is, Obamacare is a disaster." To illustrate his point, he invited around a dozen individuals who claimed to be negatively affected by Obamacare, including a woman from Arizona whose premiums increased, a Democrat opposed to abortion funding, and a man from Tennessee considering switching to his wife's insurance due to rapid premium increases.

One can debate the veracity of the claims of these people, but that would be hypocritical. If there's anything I would like to do is to promote believing in what the people say over what they may secretly intend. So, instead of debating that and getting stuck in an unconstructive and rather accusatory loop, I would point out that Trump's appeal at anecdotal evidence is unfalsifiable — not that it actually is, but that it is not the route that we would go and not the route that achieves anything. Why would it not achieve anything? Because by the same logic, the proponents of the said policy (Obamacare) could resort to anecdotal rebutting as well — and maybe even better.

You, as someone with certain views on politics, have to take a stance. You can't be undermining their own arguments just to make them watertight. Noticing and accounting for complexities and nuances is fine but don't overdo it and play both sides. To hear someone say, "I could be wrong" or "I guess we'll see," is to realize that the speaker does not have a way out of everything beforehand — and that is so rare and valuable these days.

Your political arguments and analyses must be falsifiable; otherwise, you are just being egoistic to save your skin. There has to be a metric, a criterion, by which we could say that you were wrong. So, make some valuable observations, draw a line in the sand, and in the off-chance that you're wrong, let yourself be proven wrong. It's not the end of the world. The audience wants to get something out of reading your op-eds and interviews, not to be as lost among facts and views as they were before.

And I'm not saying that you should go around insulting people and taking harsh stances. There's a happy medium. Sometimes, finding this medium seemingly boils down to this rule of thumb: don't assume (and convey) a sense of superiority over the audience. You, a human political (aspiring) expert, cannot possibly know everything. Your debater, your audience, and even the subjects of your analyses are human as well, and the same applies to them. Not only it's fine to allow the possibility of being wrong, but it's also unintuitively proper and laudable. So, don't go around finding a rebuttal to every objection; chances are you are testing the limits of what is falsifiable and ultimately, useful.



Then-chief of staff of Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Herzi Halevi acknowledges failures surrounding Hamas's October 7 attack, on October 12, 2023.

● IDF

## A critique of Offensive Realism

# Palestinians also (probably) human!



By Yasser  
Mirdamadi  
Expert on religions

OPINION

This piece delves into the Israeli genocide in Gaza and examines the various dimensions of structural injustice happening there. This injustice is explored in four areas: legal, political, moral, and judicial, with a particular emphasis on the concept of epistemic injustice, where the voices of victims are ignored and reality is distorted. By critiquing views such as Aggressive Realism, Mirdamadi argues that protesting genocide is not only a moral obligation but also a necessity for understanding the complexities of the contemporary world. We call upon the media, universities, and the general public to take responsibility by exposing the truth and breaking the silence surrounding this humanitarian catastrophe. Remaining silent in the face of crime is, in itself, a form of crime.

The Israeli genocide in Gaza and Palestine is not only a blatant violation of human rights but also an instance of structural injustice in various dimensions. This injustice can be examined in four areas:

**1. Legal injustice:** Systematic violation of international laws through the killing of civilians, attacks on hospitals and schools, and deliberate deprivation of access to water, food, and medicine is legal injustice.

**2. Political injustice:** The inability of institutions such as the Human Rights Council to hold emergency meetings and Israel's disregard for the orders of the International Court of Justice is political injustice.

**3. Moral injustice:** Global silence in the face of the killing of children and civilians, which amounts to passive complicity is moral injustice.

**4. Judicial injustice:** The lack of legal prosecution of those responsible for Israel's war crimes, despite the presence of extensive documented evidence is judicial injustice.

However, beyond non-epistemic injustice, epistemic injustice has also occurred in the Gaza genocide. Epistemic injustice, as a more subtle and profound form



• AYO WALKER/TRUTHOUT

of oppression, requires special attention but has been widely overlooked in genocide studies and Palestine research. This concept refers to the disregard for individuals' agency in producing and transmitting knowledge and plays a key role in denying the Gaza genocide.

Therefore, protesting the Israeli

genocide is not only a moral obligation but also a necessity based on understanding the complexities of the contemporary world.

epistemic injustice is testimonial smothering. Self-censorship by victims due to fear of mistrust or political consequences is an example of testimonial smothering. For instance, journalists in Gaza are forced to withhold full reports of atrocities due to Israel's strict control over information.

The third, fringe example of

Then-Defense Minister of Israel Yoav Gallant referred to Palestinians as "human-like animals" and ordered a complete siege of Gaza.

4. Similarity to historical genocides: UN experts have compared Israel's actions to the Guatemalan genocide (1980), in which the

government, backed by the US, killed tens of thousands of Maya people.

Thus, all material and immaterial elements of genocide have occurred in Gaza.

### Denial of genocide to perpetuate dominance

Denial of genocide has three key functions:

### Legal definition, reality of Gaza genocide

But has genocide really occurred in Gaza? Yes. According to the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" (1948), genocide includes intentional acts to destroy, in whole or in part, a group. As we go over some of the signs, hopefully, it becomes clear that Israel's actions in Gaza fit this definition, and therefore, genocide has occurred:

**1. Killing of civilians:** Over 70% of those killed are women and children.

**2. Imposing deadly conditions:** Israel has deprived the people of Gaza of water, electricity, and medicine and destroyed or damaged 92% of Gaza's homes and 95% of its schools by January 2025.

**3. Statements by Israeli officials:**



A young girl walks through the rubble in Jabalya, Gaza, as displaced families return to their destroyed homes following the cease-fire between Israel and Hamas.

• UNRWA

of oppression, requires special attention but has been widely overlooked in genocide studies and Palestine research. This concept refers to the disregard for individuals' agency in producing and transmitting knowledge and plays a key role in denying the Gaza genocide.

### Necessity of protesting Palestinian genocide

Some, citing Aggressive Realism in international relations, believe that aligning with powerful countries like Israel and the US is in Iran's national interest. This theory claims that in an anarchic global system, countries must increase their power at any cost to survive. From this perspective, supporting Palestine, as a powerless group, is deemed irrational. However, this approach sacrifices moral and legal principles for short-term interests. For instance, justifying genocide based on national interests opens the door to violating human rights anywhere in the world.

Aggressive Realism overlooks the complexities of international relations. Aligning with major powers does not necessarily lead to security and may result in depen-

denance and loss of independence. This viewpoint ignores global public opinion. Support for Palestinian rights is increasing in many countries, and silence in the face of genocide can lead to moral isolation.

Dimensions, examples of epistemic injustice:

Epistemic injustice occurs in two main forms:

**1. Testimonial injustice:** When an individual's or group's testimony is ignored due to preconceptions based on identity (race, gender, religion, etc.).

For example, Palestinian reports of killings in Gaza are downplayed by Western media, while Israel's narrative is reflected without challenge.

In a letter from 230 media experts to the BBC, it was pointed out that the network uses neutral phrases such as "killed in clashes" without mentioning the main perpetrator, the Israeli army.

**2. Hermeneutical injustice:** This injustice, which is deeper than testimonial injustice, occurs when a group, due to oppression, lacks the linguistic or conceptual tools to express their experiences.

As a historical example, before the concept of sexual harassment emerged, female victims could not accurately describe the violence.

”

Beyond non-epistemic injustice, epistemic injustice has also occurred in the Gaza genocide. Epistemic injustice, as a more subtle and profound form of oppression, requires special attention but has been widely overlooked in genocide studies and Palestine research. This concept refers to the disregard for individuals' agency in producing and transmitting knowledge and plays a key role in denying the Gaza genocide.

**1. Distortion of reality:** Media outlets like the BBC, by using neutral language (such as "clashes" instead of "genocide"), conceal Israel's agency.

**2. Legitimization:** Denial provides a basis for continued violence. For example, the attack on Gaza's Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in October 2023 was initially denied, then justified with a false narrative of the existence of a "military base".

**3. Silencing victims:** The killing of over 200 journalists in Gaza and exerting pressure on networks like Al Jazeera and Haaretz are examples of silencing witnesses.

### Role of int'l community

Organizations like the Red Cross, by remaining silent in the face of Gaza's siege, have contributed to testimonial smothering.

The International Criminal Court has yet to take practical action to prosecute those responsible for the genocide.

We have a moral and epistemic responsibility to confront genocide. Each individual and institution is responsible for epistemic injustice:

1. Media outlets should reflect the narratives of victims without using biased language.

2. Universities and intellectuals should conduct independent research to critique the claims of genocide deniers.

3. The general public can break the cycle of silence by sharing credible information and pressuring governing institutions. Remaining silent in the face of genocide is not neutrality; rather, it's complicity with the mechanisms of dominance. History has shown that inaction in the face of crime paves the way for its repetition.

In conclusion, the Israeli genocide in Gaza is not only a human tragedy but also a laboratory for examining the deep connection between knowledge and power. Denying this catastrophe, by distorting reality and silencing victims, institutionalizes injustice. Our moral duty is to break the silence by exposing the truth and restoring agency to the victims. We must not forget that silence in the face of crime is, in itself, a form of crime.

The article first appeared in Persian on Din Online.



A man looks at the rubble of buildings destroyed during the Israeli war on Gaza, amid a cease-fire, in Rafah, the southern Gaza Strip, on February 4, 2025.

• HATEM KHALED/REUTERS

# Khatoon secures 11th league crown, continues reign in Iranian women football

## Sports Desk

Bam Khatoon defeated Malavan FC 2-0 on Thursday to secure a record-extending 11th title – fourth in a row – at the Iranian Women's Pro League.

Fatemeh Pasandideh found the net for the visitors in the 42nd minute and Fatemeh Geraeili doubled the lead for Marzieh Ja'fari's girls 10 minutes from normal time.

With one game to spare, Khatoon is top of the 10-team table with 49 points, thanks to 16 wins in 17 outings – scoring 67 goals, while conceding only five.

Thursday's triumph was Khatoon's 61st victory in a remarkable 69-game unbeaten run in the league. Having finished runner-up to Melbourne City in Group B of the AFC Women's Champions League last August, Khatoon will play away to South Korea's Incheon Red Angels in the single-legged quarterfinal of the inaugural competition on March 22.

It was a neck-and-neck race on top of the standings up until last week, before Khatoon walked away with a massive 2-0 win at Sepahan to steer clear of its nearest rival.

Sepahan was held to a 1-1 stalemate at home against fourth-placed Ista Kurdistan on Thursday to remain second with 43 points – nine points clear of Golgozar Sirjan.

Elsewhere, Ava Tehran fell to a 2-1 home defeat against Tam Isfahan to join Setaregan Salimi in relegation to the second division.

Setaregan suffered a 3-0 loss to Golgozar – a 17th defeat in as many games for the bottom club – while Palayesh Gas shared the spoils with Taran Alborz in a 1-1 draw at home to sit third from bottom with 14 points – four above the relegation zone.



● parsfootball.com



● ikfir

## Karate 1 Youth League: Iranians grab nine U21 medals in Fujairah

### Sports Desk

Iranians collected nine kumite medals – including triple golds – in the under-21 age group at the first series of the Karate 1 Youth League in Fujairah, UAE, on Thursday.

Abolfazl Hamdamjou came out on top against Saudi Arabia's Sultan Al-Qahtani in the final to walk away with the ultimate prize of the men's -60kg contests. Hamdamjou's fellow-Iranians Mohammad Shirsefat and Sepehr Arabi joined him on the podium

after winning the joint-bronze medals of the podium.

In the women's draw, Fatemeh Yousefi won the -55kg gold, thanks to a final victory over Polina Lavrova – participating as a neutral athlete – while Hannaneh Salehi also finished her +68kg campaign on a high, defeating Arika Gurung of Nepal in the final showdown.

Elsewhere, Paria Alizadeh had to settle for a silver medal in the women's -61kg event, following a final setback against Altana Basangova – also a neutral par-

ticipant – with Iran's Mehrnegar Ahmadi and Belgian Amel Bougrine taking the bronze medals. There were further bronze medals for the country in the men's competitions, with Mohammad-Javad Safari and Siavash Dehqani sharing the third podium in the -75kg class.

The inaugural Karate 1 Youth League will continue with junior and cadet competitions until Sunday, with the event returning with the second series in the Spanish city of Guadalajara on April 3.

## Bakhtiarzadeh walks out of Esteghlal interim job

### Sports Desk

Interim coach Sohrab Bakhtiarzadeh parted ways with Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal on Thursday – less than 48 hours after leading the Tehran Blues to the round of 16 at the AFC Champions League Elite.

Needing a draw in the final league phase game to secure a knockout spot, Esteghlal walked away with a 2-0 win at Al Rayyan on Tuesday – thanks to second-half goals from Mohammadreza Azadi and Alireza Koushki – to finish sixth in the west zone's 12-team table with nine points.

As if Esteghlal fans needed more reason to celebrate only a second victory in eight outings at the competition, Tuesday's

result saw their city rival Persepolis – eighth in the table prior to the game – drop to ninth and miss out on the knockout phase.

Next for Esteghlal in the revamped tournament is a two-legged tie against Saudi Pro League heavyweight Al Nassr, with Cristiano Ronaldo and co. visiting Tehran's Azadi Stadium on March 3, before the two sides square off in Al-Awwal Park in Riyadh a week later.

Speaking the post-match press conference on Tuesday, Bakhtiarzadeh said: "Esteghlal's future is most important to me and I think now is the right time for the club to bring in a decent manager and coaching staff."

Esteghlal has been reportedly in talks with Italian Walter

Mazzarri for the permanent role in recent weeks with club CEO Mohammad Nazari Jouybari confirming on Friday that the Blues "are nearing agreement" with the former Napoli boss.

Bakhtiarzadeh took the interim role for a second spell this season when former South African head coach Pitso Mosimane walked out the job in late January.

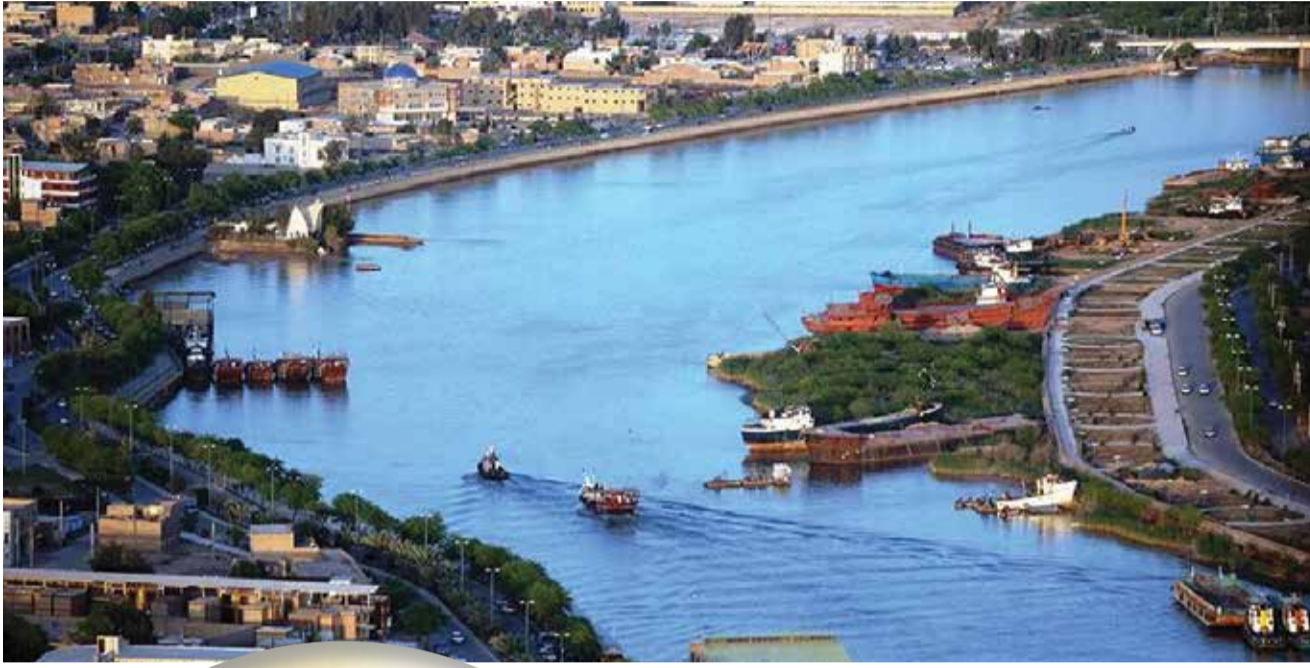
Esteghlal won three games and drew two during Bakhtiarzadeh's second stint – including an extra time 2-1 win at Shams Azar in the Iranian Hazfi Cup last 16.

The Blues are ninth in the Iranian top-flight table with 23 points – trialing the tip by 18 points – ahead of today's home game against Nassaji Mazandaran.



● MOJTABA SALEH/MIZAN

# Arvand Free Zone's unique appeal for tourists



● donya-e-eqtasad.com

## Iranica Desk

The managing director of the Arvand Free Zone Organization described the development of tourism projects as a key economic goal for the region and expressed readiness to attract foreign tourists in collaboration with both domestic and international investors, emphasizing the area's exceptional potential.

Ali Zarei stated, "In the Arvand Free Zone, which encompasses the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, we regard tourism as an industry. Therefore, we have integrated the development of tourism projects into the economic objectives of the free zone, as tourism not only generates economic benefits but also shares local culture with visitors."

He added that the Arvand Free Zone possesses significant potential for attracting foreign tourists and is equipped with essential infrastructure for air, water, rail, and road transportation. This capability has positioned Abadan and Khorramshahr among special cities, *chtn.ir* wrote. Zarei noted the strategic advantage of Abadan and Khorramshahr's proximity to Iraq and their water connection with the Persian Gulf, calling it an excellent opportunity for tourism development and foreign tourist attraction. He emphasized the importance of leveraging this opportunity to introduce Iran and combat anti-Iran sentiment, stating, "Abadan and Khorramshahr host some of the oldest oil and petrochemical industries in the country and are linked to several pioneering developments in Iran's modern history."

He further highlighted that this region has welcomed people from various countries for approximately 70 years. Citizens from India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, England, Scotland, the United States, Japan, South Korea, and others have traveled to or settled in this area due to its significant oil and petrochemical industry since the late 12th century to the mid-13th century in the Iranian calendar.

Zarei pointed out that the Arvand Free Zone hosts the largest population among all free zones in the country, stating, "Almost half of the inhabitants of Iran's free zones reside within the Arvand Free Zone. This demographic is crucial for the tourism industry." He noted that the ethnic diversity of the Arvand residents is another social advantage, aptly referring to the area as "a small Iran."

He regarded the Tehran tourism exhibition as a valuable opportunity to showcase recent initiatives, stating, "The 18th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition, held from Feb.11-14, was an excellent platform to present the measures implemented for providing services to health and pilgrimage tourists, as well as the facilities offered to tourism companies and accommodation establishments. The exhibition was a highly educational and practical experience, allowing attendees to gain valuable insights that can be leveraged to effectively promote tourism."

Zarei emphasized that achieving the slogan "Tourism, Peace, and National Cohesion" requires collaborative efforts from multiple sectors, stating, "We cannot expect the public sector to achieve this alone; the community sector must also align with this vision. The presence of various Iranian ethnic groups in Abadan, which have shaped the culture of being 'Abadani,' exemplifies how tourism can promote peace and national cohesion."

"Today, the Arvand Free Zone is more prepared than ever for extensive cooperation with domestic and foreign investors. Our goal is to create a sustainable ecosystem in the tourism sector that will not only contribute to the economic development of the region but also enhance the quality of life for its residents and improve the health and medical industry both nationally and beyond," he concluded.

● kojaro.com

# Tracing footsteps of history in Chardavol of Ilam Province

## Iranica Desk

Archaeological studies and cultural evidence indicate that humans inhabited Chardavol in Ilam Province during the prehistoric period, according to a faculty member of the Islamic Azad University of Ilam. Habibollah Mahmoudian told ISNA that Chardavol is situated in the northeastern mountainous region of Ilam Province, characterized by relatively high mountains such as Qalajeh and Khormeh in the north-east, as well as Bankol Mountain, whose peak, Manesht, rises over 3,000 meters above sea level, forming the western heights of the area. Chardavol has had settlements since ancient times, influenced by these geographical conditions, and numerous remains from various historical periods can be found in the region.

Khormeh Mountain, and several kilometers of its wall, along with numerous remains found in the Zanjireh and Shabab regions.

He added that historical documents reveal Chardavol's importance during the historical period, owing to its strategic position on the Shahi Road (the ancient highway) that connected Persepolis and Shush to the western Zagros Mountain regions and present-day northern Iraq, extending to Sardis, the capital of the Lydian Empire, as well as its connections to the cities of Seymareh, Sirvan, and present-day Ilam.

The faculty member stated that, from one perspective, the Khavaran Road — connecting Central Asia and the central plateau of Iran to Mesopotamia and the regions of North Africa — extended from the western areas of this county.



● ilamtoday.com

He emphasized that the presence of numerous caves and rock shelters on the slopes and heights, including the prehistoric Holeylan and Zardalan caves, archaeological sites, and cliff shelters along the historical Seymareh River, along with dozens of ancient sites and mounds throughout the county, underscores the archaeological significance of the area in the western Zagros.

The historical events of Chardavol during the early Islamic centuries are also intertwined with the histories of other regions in the province.

Today, Chardavol is recognized as one of the cities in Ilam Province, holding a significant position in terms of history, economy, and tourism.

Ilam Province itself has a rich and diverse history, influenced by vari-



● hotelchy.ir

The faculty member further explained that remnants from settled locations, including ancient mounds, cemeteries, and historical buildings, indicate that the intermountain plains of Chardavol, Aseman Abad, Holeylan, and the banks of the Seymareh River have been inhabited from the Bronze Age and Iron Age through historical times.

Mahmoudian elaborated that the area's favorable geographical conditions — particularly its water resources, forest and pasture coverage, and other natural benefits — have ensured the continuity of settlement. Numerous ancient sites and historical buildings remain in this region, highlighting its rich historical depth.

The archaeologist noted significant features of the area, such as the ancient bridge in Bijnavand village,

ous civilizations over the centuries. It has been home to numerous ethnic groups, each contributing to the cultural tapestry of the region. The province is characterized by its unique geographical features, including mountains, valleys, and rivers, which have played a crucial role in shaping its historical development.

Throughout history, Ilam has served as a crossroads for trade and cultural exchange, linking the Iranian plateau with neighboring regions. Its archaeological sites, ancient ruins, and historical landmarks attract researchers and tourists alike, offering insights into the rich heritage of the area. The province's natural beauty, combined with its historical significance, makes it an important destination for those interested in exploring Iran's past and present.

● License Holder Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)  
 ● ICPI CEO Ali Motaghian  
 ● Editor-in-chief Mostafa Shirmohammadi  
 ● Int'l & National Desk Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi, Amir Mollae Mozaffari  
 ● Economy Desk Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan  
 ● Sports Desk Amirhadi Arsalanpour  
 ● Iranica Desk Leila Imeni  
 ● Arts & Culture Desk Hamideh Hosseini  
 ● Language Editor Mehdi Ebrahim

● Editorial Dept. Tel +98 21 84711411  
 ● Address 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran  
 ● ICPI Publisher +98 21 88548892-5  
 ● Advertising Dept. Tel/Email +98 21 88500601/irandaily@iranagahiha.com  
 ● Website www.irandaily.ir/newspaper.irandaily.ir  
 ● Email irandaily@icpi.ir  
 ● Printing House Iran Cultural & Press Institute



# 26 rare pieces of Picasso to be unveiled in Tehran

## Arts & Culture Desk

A special exhibition featuring over 60 works by Pablo Picasso from various stages of his career will open in Tehran in early March. According to the public relations office of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, the exhibition will include 26 aquatint pieces from La Tauromaquia (The Art of Bullfighting) collection, which have never before been displayed in Iran, according to IFP. La Tauromaquia collection is

a significant artistic portfolio consisting of 26 aquatint prints and is housed in major museums worldwide, including New York's Museum of Modern Art. The artist's passion for bulls began during his childhood, and in a recurring way, we can find in the work of Picasso numerous references to the bullfighting ritual and various illustrated books. Picasso worked on the project regularly around 1960, beautifully recreating animated scenes from his life-

long passion for bullfighting. The publication also enabled him to re-examine a variety of engraving print methods, including etching, dry-point, and aquatints, as well as pen and ink. Aquatint uses acid in the etching combined with stopping techniques so that darkening degrees of tone can be achieved. The process allowed Picasso to concentrate on capturing a moment with more realistic detail. This exhibition is being organized with the cooperation and approval of Iran's Minis-

try of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, as well as the Niavaran Palace Museum. It is a collaborative effort between various Tehran museums and will be held in the galleries of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. The museum, with the participation of art specialists, researchers, and documentary experts, is preparing this exhibition as part of its cultural programming for the upcoming Persian New Year celebrations.



## Over 1m historical artifacts held in Iran's museums

### Arts & Culture Desk

The deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts revealed that over a million historical artifacts are held within the storerooms of Iran's national museums.

Ali Darabi noted that out of these, "41,000 are identified, and around 30,000 are currently on display in museums," IRNA reported.

Iran's historical artifacts span from the Sassanian era to the Qajar period, according to the deputy minister, and the National Museum holds a portion of these treasures. "Among them are invaluable pieces such as the Arjan Bowl and other significant works," he pointed out. Darabi stated that currently, an exhibition of Iran's historical artifacts, titled "The Glory of Ancient Iran," is on display in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, and on the first day alone, seven thousand people viewed the artifacts. The deputy minister also announced that the right of discovery is stipulated in the Cultural Heritage Law. According to this law, after the authenticity of the discovery is verified, the rightful individual will definitely receive their due credit.

"There is no impediment to the right of discovery for those who find historical artifacts. However,



some individuals seek a share of the discovery before the authenticity of the find is verified or before the location of the artifact is even shown to us. This is an unreasonable demand."

In response to whether penalties are imposed on those who damage Iran's cultural heritage, Darabi stated: "The necessary provisions for dealing with those who damage historical and cultural artifacts are also stipulated in the law. Since these artifacts are invaluable, some individuals will face severe penalties."

Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ali Darabi (R) visits "The Glory of Ancient Iran" exhibition in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRAN

"Under the previous government, specialized courts were established to address these crimes, and we are striving to implement this measure," he said, adding that the head of the Judiciary has expressed readiness and that a joint task force has been formed between the ministry and the Judiciary.

## Trump's gamble on ...

The roots of this controversial plan can be found in the long history of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The idea of emptying Gaza of its Palestinian residents and turning it into an area under Israeli control has always been favored by the Israeli far-right. From their perspective, Gaza is not Palestinian territory but part of the "Promised Land," which must be "cleansed" of Palestinians.

In recent decades, this idea has been presented in various forms, suggesting the transfer of Palestinians to the Sinai Desert, Jordan, or even more distant countries. However, none of these plans have been implemented due to widespread opposition. Now, by reviving this idea and adding the "Riviera of the Middle East," Trump is playing with fire. He not only disregards the national and religious sentiments of the Palestinians but also exposes himself to serious accusations by ignoring international law and the basic principles of human rights.

The "Riviera of the Middle East," as Trump envisions it, is a seductive dream: an area with beautiful beaches, luxurious hotels, glamorous casinos, and tourist attractions that will draw wealthy visitors from around the world. This vision is reminiscent of the French Riviera and the Mediterranean coasts of Spain — areas that have become symbols of wealth, prosperity, and leisure in Europe. But this beautiful image is only one side of the coin. The other side reveals a bitter and dark reality: the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland, the destruction of their homes and infrastructure, and the annexation of Gaza to the Israeli-occupied territories, ending the Palestinian presence there.

Trump claims that this displacement will be "voluntary" and "temporary". But which rational Palestinian would voluntarily leave their home and accept an uncertain fate in another country? Can the "temporary" nature of this displacement be guaranteed, given Israel's decades-long expansionist policies in the occupied Palestinian territories? As is clear, Trump's plan, behind the veil of a seemingly peace-oriented development and tourism project, pursues important strategic and political goals. These include consolidating the Israeli occupation, weakening Palestinian resistance, creating divisions among Arab countries, securing American and Israeli economic interests, and redefining America's role in the Middle East.

By emptying Gaza of its Palestinian residents, Israel can consolidate its control over the area and fully annex Gaza to its territory. This would deal a fatal blow to the aspiration of establishing an independent Pales-

tinian state. On the other hand, Gaza has always been one of the main strongholds of Palestinian resistance. By displacing the residents of this area and dispersing them to different countries, Israel hopes to weaken the resistance's capabilities. Furthermore, this plan could fuel division and discord among Arab countries, weakening the united Arab front against Israel. In addition, Gaza has a strategic location and significant gas reserves that could bring substantial economic benefits to the US and Israel. And finally, with this plan, Trump seeks to transform the US from an ostensible mediator into a directly interventionist player in the Middle East.

The global reaction to Trump's plan has been widespread but insufficient. Palestinians consider this plan a "declaration of war" against them and are determined to resist it. Arab countries, the Arab League, European countries, human rights organizations, and the UN secretary-general have also condemned the plan, calling it a violation of Palestinian rights and international law, as well as a threat to regional stability. However, these reactions have so far failed to prevent the plan from moving forward. Trump and Israel, ignoring this opposition, are looking for ways to implement the plan and may use economic and political leverage against Arab countries.

Trump's plan faces serious legal and humanitarian challenges. The forced transfer of a population is a clear violation of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Moreover, this plan could lead to a new humanitarian crisis in the region. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes will need shelter, food, water, medicine, and basic services, and providing these necessities in host countries will be extremely difficult.

The future of Trump's plan for Gaza is uncertain, but one thing is clear: This plan is a dangerous gamble that could have catastrophic consequences for the region and the world. If implemented, it could lead to an escalation of conflict, increased violence, and greater instability in the region, destroying the hope for a just and lasting peace forever. The international community must stand firm against this plan and not allow Palestinian rights and international law to be trampled upon.

The time has come for the world's nations, especially those of Islamic countries, to seek just and lasting solutions to the Palestinian issue instead of imposing unilateral plans — solutions based on respect for international law, justice, and human dignity. Only then can we hope for a brighter future for the region.

**AUCTION SJSCO. B140305**

Sirjan Jahan Steel Company is pleased to announce the sale and export of 10,000 tons STEEL BILLET (Size 150 x 150 mm) on basis of FOB. Interested bidders are invited to get documents with send an email to sales@sjsco.ir All the documents will be sent VIA email. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than **Monday, March 03, 2025 (2025-03-03)**

For more information, please contact us at:  
 Tel: +2186084642  
 SIRJAN JAHAN STEEL COMPLEX