

TEHRAN – The Iranian national high school physics team has won five silver medals at the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) held in Paris, marking another proud achievement for the country's scientific community.

The five-member team—comprising Muhammad-Hassan Sadeghi-Nejad, Arya Zarabi, Elia Ghazaei, Muhammad-Hassan Golabdar, and Milad Mohammadi—secured silver medals in a highly competitive field of participants from over 90 countries.

With this performance, Iran ranked 11th overall in the prestigious global event, which is regarded as one of the most respected academic competitions for students worldwide. Last year, Iran successfully hosted the 53rd edition of the Olympiad in the city of Isfahan, showcasing its strong presence in the international scientific arena.

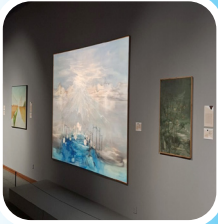
TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in a phone call with his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan on Friday, called for mobilizing all regional and international capacities to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza.

Highlighting the humanitarian catastrophe caused by Israel's siege—particularly the denial of food and medicine—he urged urgent action through the OIC and other mechanisms to halt the genocide and deliver aid. Araghchi also condemned Israel's annexation plans in the West Bank, calling them illegal and expansionist.

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Houthi:
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In Talks With E3 in Istanbul, Iran Reaffirms Enrichment Rights, Warns Against Snapback

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Iranian and European diplomats convened in Istanbul on Friday for the first face-to-face nuclear talks since last month's Israeli and U.S. aggression against Iran.

The meeting, described by Iranian officials as "serious, frank, and detailed," focused on Tehran's nuclear program and the looming threat of renewed sanctions under the so-called snapback mechanism.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi, who led the Iranian delegation alongside Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi, emphasized that the talks were an opportunity to clarify Tehran's principled stance.

Writing on X after the meeting, Gharibabadi said the Iranian side "seriously criticized the European parties' stances regarding the recent war of aggression against our people" and elaborated on Iran's position concerning the snapback mechanism.

"Both sides came to the meeting with specific ideas, the various aspects of which were examined. It was agreed that consultations on this matter will continue."

The meeting comes against the backdrop of heightened tensions following Israel's June 13 airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear facilities and military sites, followed by U.S. strikes on several nuclear locations including Fordo, Isfahan, and Natanz. These military aggressions, which Iran has condemned as violations of international law, derailed ongoing nuclear negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

Iranian officials have consistently maintained that the attacks constituted blatant aggression and a violation of the UN Charter.

Takht-Ravanchi stressed in a post-meeting briefing that the strikes were "contrary to all international norms and the United Nations Charter," urging the international community to condemn them.

Tehran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei also expressed sharp criticism of Europe's "biased position" in supporting or failing to condemn the Israeli and U.S. aggression, calling for the European parties to "reassess their unconstructive attitude" and restore credibility in the negotiation process.

The looming threat of reim-

posing UN sanctions under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains central to the talks. The so-called snapback mechanism would automatically reinstate sanctions lifted under the original deal if Iran is found to be non-compliant. However, Iranian officials argue that the E3 (France, Germany, and the United Kingdom) no longer have legal standing to invoke the mechanism.

In a letter to the UN Secretary-General and Security Council members, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi underscored that the European powers had "halted their commitments" under the JCPOA, especially in light of their support or tolerance of military attacks on Iran.

"They lack both legal and moral authority to trigger snapback sanctions," Araghchi wrote, reinforcing Tehran's rejection of any attempt to extend UN Security Council Resolution 2231 beyond its scheduled expiration.

Baghaei further dismissed discussions about extending Resolution 2231 as "meaningless and baseless," reiterating Iran's position that the European parties' violations "disqualified" them from taking action under the agreement.

"We oppose any attempt to prolong or revive mechanisms that have been breached by those who do not uphold their own commitments."

Iran also firmly maintains its right to uranium enrichment under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), describing it as a "non-negotiable" sovereign right essential to its peaceful nuclear program.

Gharibabadi emphasized that "enrichment within the framework of the NPT is a right of Iran, which must be respected." Tehran remains open to discussing technical details such as the rate and level of enrichment but rejects any restriction on its fundamental enrichment capabilities.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently reported that Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to 60 percent purity had grown to over 400 kilograms, a level close to weapons-grade material.

Tehran, however, has repeatedly denied any intention to develop nuclear weapons, with President Masoud Pezeshkian stating in a recent interview that Iran's nuclear program is for "civilian and peaceful

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Nahid-2 Sends Signals for a Nation Unbowed



A Soyuz rocket booster carrying Iran's Nahid-2 blasts off from its launchpad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome on Friday.

TEHRAN — Iran on Friday successfully placed its domestically designed and manufactured communications satellite, Nahid-2, into orbit aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket, marking another significant achievement for the country's growing aerospace program.

The launch took place from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russian Far East at 9:54 a.m. Tehran time on Friday. The Nahid-2 satellite, weighing approximately 110 kilograms, was carried alongside two Russian

Earth observation satellites and several smaller payloads.

The satellite is now orbiting the Earth at an altitude of around 500 kilometers, with a planned operational lifespan of two years.

The mission is the latest milestone in Iran's steadily expanding space program, which continues to demonstrate the country's ability to design, build, and operate advanced satellite technology.

The Nahid-2 satellite, developed entirely by Iranian engineers, represents a new generation of tele-

communications infrastructure that will enhance the country's capabilities in space-based communication.

Over the past several years, Iran has made remarkable progress in aerospace technology, achieving several successful satellite launches and developing indigenous satellite carriers.

The Nahid-2 mission follows earlier successes such as the launch of the Chamran-1 research satellite aboard Iran's domestically produced Ghaem-100 carrier,

as well as other key satellites like Kowsar, Hodhod, and Khayyam.

Iran's commitment to advancing its space capabilities reflects a broader national strategy to develop scientific knowledge and technological self-sufficiency. The country has invested heavily in aerospace research and infrastructure, supported by talented engineers and scientists who have worked diligently to build a competitive space program.

Iran's space program encompasses a variety of satellite applications, including telecommunications, Earth observation, and scientific research.

By deploying satellites like Nahid-2, Iran aims to improve communication networks, enhance data transmission capabilities, and support national development in fields such as agriculture, environmental monitoring, and disaster management.

While Iran continues to develop its own satellite carriers such as Safir, Simorgh, and Zoljanah, it has also strategically utilized reliable international launch vehicles to deploy critical satellites.

The Russian Soyuz rocket, renowned globally for its reliability and precision, has played a key role in several of Iran's satellite missions, providing the necessary support for complex payloads and multi-satellite launches.

The Soyuz launch vehicle is capable of delivering heavy payloads

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Study: U.S. Sanctions Kill Over 500,000 People a Year

WASHINGTON (The Cradle) – Broad economic sanctions, often portrayed as a less violent alternative to war, are responsible for an estimated 564,000 deaths each year – most of them children under the age of five – according to a new study published Friday in the Lancet Global Health.

The research analyzed data from 152 countries over a 10-year period and found the mortality toll of sanctions to be comparable to that of armed conflict.

Authored by economists Francisco Rodriguez, Silvio Rendon, and Mark Weisbrot, the study underscores the devastating impact of sanctions on public health and essential infrastructure.

By targeting key economic sectors such as finance and energy, sanctions restrict access to critical imports like medicine, food, and parts for water and electrical systems, causing widespread suffering without the visible devastation of bombs and missiles.

The U.S., which imposes more sanctions than any other country, has increasingly turned to these measures as a tool of foreign policy. While often justified as a nonviolent means of pressuring

adversaries, experts argue that the resulting human cost is anything but peaceful.

"Sanctions are becoming the preferred weapon of the United States and some allies – not because they are less destructive, but because the toll is less visible," Weisbrot wrote in a commentary for the Los Angeles Times. "They kill silently, without the political cost of war."

The case of Venezuela illustrates the lethal impact of sanctions. After the U.S. imposed sweeping economic restrictions in 2017 and further escalated them under the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, the country plunged into a historic depression. Between 2012 and 2020, Venezuela's economy contracted by 71 percent – three times the depth of the Great Depression in the US – with tens of thousands of deaths directly linked to the sanctions, according to multiple studies.

Children under five are especially vulnerable. Sanctions increase rates of malnutrition, making children more likely to die from otherwise treatable illnesses such as measles, pneumonia, and

diarrhea.

The study's findings are consistent with prior research from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and other institutions that show sharp rises in mortality during economic recessions.

Critics argue that U.S. sanctions violate both international and domestic law. They are considered collective punishment under the Geneva and Hague conventions and are illegal under the Charter of the Organization of American States. U.S. law also requires that sanctions be imposed only in response to a "national emergency" caused by a foreign threat – criteria rarely met in practice.

Despite the grim statistics, researchers believe that public awareness could force change. "The invisibility of sanctions is their greatest political asset," Weisbrot noted. "But once exposed, they become indefensible."

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the UN, heavily influenced by the U.S., imposed sweeping sanctions on Iraq beginning in August 1990 and lasting until the 2003 U.S. invasion.

Iraq's economy collapsed. Its

infrastructure – particularly water, sanitation, and health systems – could not recover from war damage without access to foreign parts and supplies blocked by sanctions.

UNICEF reported that by the late 1990s, sanctions contributed to the deaths of over 500,000 Iraqi children under five due to malnutrition, disease, and lack of medicine.

After the beginning of the covert U.S.–Israeli war to topple the Syrian government in 2011, the U.S. imposed successive waves of sanctions targeting the former Syrian government of president Bashar al-Assad, including the Caesar Act in 2020, which extended penalties to foreign entities dealing with Syria.

Consequently, the Syrian pound lost most of its value. Prices for basic goods skyrocketed, and subsidies on food, fuel, and medicine eroded.

As of 2025, 90 percent of Syrians live in poverty.

At the same time, sanctions discouraged international investment and desperately needed reconstruction efforts after 14 years of war.