



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces
Major General Mohammad Bagheri

‘Beyond Imagination’

Most senior Iranian military official says response to Israel’s October aggression will be unprecedented ▶ Page 3

OPEC Fund welcomes co-op with Iranian companies

TEHRAN - Iran’s Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnasser Hemmati, who has traveled to Riyadh to participate in the 28th WAIPA World Investment Conference, met and held talks with OPEC Fund’s President Abdulhamid Alkhalifa on Monday, in which the Alkhalifa said the fund is ready to provide services to Iranian companies.

During his meeting, Hemmati stated that organizing a workshop is essential to further introduce the OPEC Fund to the Iranian companies.

Stating that the participation of Iranian contractors in the fund’s projects will be very effective, Hemmati added: “We welcome the presence of the OPEC Fund’s president and experts in Iran, and Iran will fulfill its obligations to the OPEC Fund.”

The president of OPEC Fund, for his part, said that Iran is among the most valuable member countries of the OPEC Fund, and Iran’s presence in this fund has multiplied Iran’s values.

Alkhalifa added that OPEC Fund will be one of the largest financial institutions in the future, noting that the fund is ready to accept technical and engineering services from Iranian companies. ▶ Page 4

7 Iranian films to attend Muslim International Film Festival in Canada

TEHRAN-Seven films from Iran will take part in the 5th Muslim International Film Festival (MIFF) that is to be held in Canada from November 29 to December 3.

The Iranian films in the festival include six short films and a feature film by young filmmakers produced in the past two years, ILNA reported.

“Ahmad” directed by Amir Abbas Rabei is the only feature film from Iran participating in the event. It recounts the untold story of the first 18 hours of the 2003 Bam earthquake, in Kerman Province, and a heroic action by the late army brigadier general Ahmad Kazemi.

One of the most notable soldiers in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Ahmad Kazemi (1958-2006) mobilized the IRGC AF fleet to rescue the Bam earthquake victims by preparing the Bam Airport in such a way that, a plane and a helicopter flew in every 13 minutes and a total of 30,000 wounded were moved by the IRGC AF fleet. ▶ Page 8

U.S. ‘maximum pressure’ on Iran: road to repeated failure

By Mohammad Khatibi

TEHRAN - As the U.S. presidential inauguration approaches, speculation mounts regarding Donald Trump’s approach to Washington’s “adversaries.”

Western think tanks and international relations scholars suggest Trump’s foreign policy may largely continue the trajectory of his first term.

An article in The Economist, titled “Get ready for Maximum Pressure 2.0 on Iran,” argues that the Trump White House may “bomb and penalize Iran into a deal.”

To assess whether a second Trump term would succeed with a continued “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran, we must first evaluate its effectiveness during his first term. A policy’s success is measured by whether it changes the target’s behavior—in this case, whether Iran curtailed its nuclear program and reduced support for Resistance groups. ▶ Page 3

Displaced people in Lebanon face deliberate government’s negligence

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BNEIRUT- The Israeli aggression on Lebanon has caused about 21% of the displaced to seek refuge in 1,016 shelters set by the Lebanese government. However, most of these educational buildings are unfit for habitation. 90% of these centers have reached their maximum capacity and this poses serious health risks that are difficult to control if the government’s deliberate negligence persists.

So far, the Lebanese government has not published any data on the health conditions of those in the shelters. Though it was expected that 1.5 million citizens would be displaced, the government has failed to provide enough shelters and equip them with basic services, knowing that a small percentage of the displaced have not sought refuge in those places in fear of health problems and other resulting problems.

Indeed, the Israeli aggression on Lebanon has completely changed the face of the capital Beirut, especially its commercial center, as thousands of displaced people have headed there. For example, in the Azarieh center in Beirut Governorate, the number of displaced people is estimated at 3,000.

Hezbollah’s damage to northern Israel revealed

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Israeli media has published partial data showing the extent of damage Hezbollah has inflicted on northern Israeli settlements.

According to the Hebrew newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, which has only published partial data, Hezbollah has damaged at least 9,000 buildings and at least 7,000 vehicles.

Other Israeli news outlets explained that property tax data indicates more than 9,000 buildings and more than 7,000 vehicles in northern Israel have been destroyed.

The settlements most affected are Manara, Shtula, Kiryat Shmona, Zar’it, Nahariya, and Shlomi, according to the tax authority’s data.

The full extent of the damage caused by Hezbollah has not been revealed.

The figures only relate to northern settlements. Hezbollah’s missiles, rockets, and drones have inflicted significant damage to the Israeli industrial city of Haifa, the regime’s commercial hub, Tel Aviv, and other major cities.

ICC vs. Israel: A litmus test for European Union compliance

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant have shaken the regime and some of its Western allies, particularly the United States, to the core.

The ICC, which is made up of 124 countries, including all 27 members of the European Union, issued the warrants last Thursday.

The world’s highest criminal court has charged Netanyahu and Gallant with committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip in the wake of the Israeli army’s genocidal war in the Palestinian territory.

The ICC’s ruling has been widely welcomed across the globe.

On Tuesday, the EU foreign policy chief once again reiterated that the bloc must respect the ruling whether member states “like it or not”.

“This is not something you can pick and choose,” Josep Borrell said.

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Exploring Ferdows Garden: a historical gem in Tehran

TEHRAN- Nestled in the vibrant northern district of Tehran, Ferdows Garden, or Bagh-e Ferdows, is a hidden gem steeped in history and cultural significance. This beautiful garden, a remnant of the Qajar dynasty, is situated near Tajrish Square and has been transformed into the Cinema Museum of Iran, making it an essential destination for art lovers, filmmakers, and anyone seeking a peaceful retreat.

Ferdows Garden dates back to the reign of Mohammad Shah Qajar in the 19th century, specifically around 1840. Originally part of a larger estate, the garden was constructed by one of the courtiers of the Qajar era, Haj Mirza Aghasi, who served as prime minister. The garden was designed to include two main buildings and expansive grounds that spanned what is now the affluent area of Tajrish. ▶ Page 6



Iran FM attends UNAOC global forum, talks cooperation with counterparts

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi participated in the 10th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Global Forum in Lisbon, Portugal, on Tuesday.

The event, marking the 20th anniversary of the UNAOC, focused on the theme “United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future — Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity.”

The forum gathered diplomats and leaders from around the globe to discuss pressing global challenges, emphasizing the need for increased understanding and cooperation among nations, cultures, and religions. ▶ Page 2

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

The West's return to talks with Iran

In a note, Hamshahri addressed the upcoming negotiations between Iran the European trio of Britain, Germany and France. It wrote: The new negotiations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with three European countries are an opportunity to review the international interactions between Iran and the West. The West has repeatedly made strategic mistakes in dealing with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Imagining that Iran would be in a weak position at home and abroad, these countries abandoned negotiations and intensified political and economic pressures on the Islamic Republic. The West's return to the negotiation table with Iran is a reflection of their increasing concerns about the impact of the Axis of Resistance and Iran's technical advances. Although the path of negotiations will be challenging, Iran has shown that it can maintain the atmosphere of diplomacy in its favor by relying on rational policies and authority. In the meantime, strengthening the Axis of Resistance and emphasizing the rights of the oppressed nations will remain the priority of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic.

Iran: Why Europe and why now?

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper said there has been no change in Iran's foreign policy. It wrote: Some consider negotiations with Europe (the European trio of Britain, France and Germany) a new thing or at least a continuation of the policies of the Rouhani administration. But the negotiations which will start on Friday are not new. There are misunderstandings between Iran and Europe and they differ on certain issues. There are misunderstandings over the Ukraine war, differences over the Gaza war, and issues surrounding Iran's nuclear program. Experience in different governments shows that the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in reducing tension. That is why these negotiations do not stop despite the change of governments. So, what is happening now is neither new nor strange, only the time, place, and negotiator have changed. What has changed in the meantime is the approach of some figures, i.e. those who at one time approve of negotiation with Europe and at another time condemn it. Their position changes according to the type of government.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Consultation week in European capitals

In a commentary, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with the trip of senior diplomatic officials to three

European capitals of Oslo, Lisbon, and Geneva to exchange views on bilateral, regional, and international issues. It wrote: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized that dialogue is the most important channel to overcome problems and solve mutual concerns. Also, the dialogue should be based on mutual respect. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not welcome tension in relations with Europe. But if some people want to follow the path of confrontation, they will not be welcomed. It seems that in the planned meeting on Friday, the three issues of the Gaza war, Ukraine, and the nuclear program will be given more attention by the parties. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while re-emphasizing the need to preserve the territorial integrity of countries, has denied the false accusations of the West regarding the export of strategic weapons to Russia (in its war with Ukraine). Iran also declares its readiness to exchange views with responsible European officials to clear up misunderstandings.

Arman-e-Emrooz: De-dollarization and its effect on the lifting of sanctions

One of the effective ways to deal with sanctions is de-dollarization. This approach allows countries to become more resistant to economic pressures and sanctions and distance themselves from dependence on the global financial and currency system dominated by the dollar. Considering the severe economic sanctions imposed by the United States and some Western countries, Iran is looking for ways to reduce dependence on the dollar and use other currencies in international trade. ACUMER (Automated Currency Management and Exchange Reporting) system is a comprehensive and automatic system designed to manage and monitor currency and financial exchanges at the international level. This system can help Iran establish and strengthen financial and foreign exchange networks with other countries, and in this way pave the ground for de-dollarization. De-dollarization not only helps Iran to reduce the negative effects of sanctions and expand its trade relations with other countries, but it can also lead to the strengthening of the national currency and the increase of the country's economic power. Entering BRICS is also a great opportunity for Iran, and it can lay the foundation for economic and commercial cooperation with big countries and reduce the effects of sanctions.

Foreign forces must leave regional waters: Iran navy chief



Iran's Navy chief Rear Admiral Shahram Irani speaks at a ceremony for renewing allegiance to Imam Khomeini on November 26, 2024.

TEHRAN – Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani has reaffirmed the Navy's commitment to intensifying efforts to remove foreign military forces from the region.

Speaking during a recent address, Irani highlighted Iran's strategic vision for maritime independence, emphasizing that the presence of foreign troops undermines regional security.

"We are committed to reinforcing our position in maritime security, ensuring that foreign troops leave this area permanently," he stated, underlining the Navy's ambition to establish regional autonomy over maritime affairs.

Irani also reiterated the Navy's unwavering commitment to maintaining a robust presence in high-risk waterways plagued by threats and maritime terrorism. The strategic importance of the Navy's operations despite facing significant challenges, including international sanctions and persistent adversarial plots.

"Our forces continue to stand firm in waters rife with danger, ensuring security where maritime threats and terrorist activities are prevalent,"

said Irani. He emphasized that this steadfastness has not only safeguarded Iran's interests but has also captured the attention of global powers, showcasing the country's resilience and strategic capabilities. The admiral attributed this strength to the unity and dedication of Iran's naval personnel. "The undeniable achievements of our Navy are the result of tireless efforts by my courageous comrades and the effective utilization of national resources and expertise. It demonstrates to the world that neither Iran nor its people can be isolated or undermined," he declared.

In recent years, Iran's Navy has reached significant milestones in achieving self-sufficiency, particularly in the development of advanced surface and sub-surface vessels. The Navy has expanded its operations into international waters, focusing on protecting vital naval routes and securing commercial shipping, including merchant vessels and oil tankers.

Additionally, the Iranian naval forces have enhanced their operational readiness through joint military exercises with international partners such as Russia, China, and Pakistan.

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The forum gathered diplomats and leaders from around the globe to discuss pressing global challenges, emphasizing the need for increased understanding and cooperation among nations, cultures, and religions.

Before the forum officially began, foreign ministers and heads of delegations posed for a commemorative group photograph, symbolizing their shared commitment to the forum's mission. During the high-level sessions, Minister Araghchi delivered a comprehensive address outlining Iran's stance on international peace and security. He also highlighted regional developments, such as ongoing conflicts and the necessity of global cooperation to address shared challenges.

The forum, which concludes on Wednesday, is expected to adopt a final statement underscoring international priorities, including fostering cultural and religious harmony, combating hate speech and racism,

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addressing Islamophobia, and promoting peace as a universal value.

On the sidelines of the forum, Minister Araghchi held several bilateral meetings to reinforce Iran's commitment to constructive diplomacy and regional stability.

Tehran, Sarajevo hold bilateral talks

In his first meeting, Araghchi engaged with Elmedin Konakovic, the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The discussions focused on shared interests and the potential for enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Araghchi emphasized Iran's ongoing dedication to fostering stronger ties, particularly with Islamic nations, and highlighted Iran's readiness to expand collaborations across various sectors.

Addressing the region's current crises, Araghchi condemned the actions of the Zionist regime in West Asia, including its aggression against Lebanon and the ongoing plight of Palestinian Muslims.

He stressed the urgency of mobilizing international efforts to halt these violations and ensure justice and security for affected populations. Since October 2023, the Gaza Health Ministry reports that the death toll in Gaza has reached 44,249 Palestinians, with over 104,746 others injured.

Israel, which has been engaged in military campaigns against Gaza and Lebanon, is now facing genocide allegations at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Additionally, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, accusing them of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Iran, Slovenia discuss international issues

Araghchi also met with Slovenia's Foreign Minister, Tanja Fajon, to discuss bilateral relations, regional developments, and broader international issues, including Iran-Europe relations.

He reiterated Iran's principled stance on engagement and multilateral cooperation, underscoring the importance of adhering to recognized international norms.

In his remarks, Araghchi criticized sanctions and unilateral pressures as both ineffective and contrary to the UN Charter.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran demands intl. action against Israel's chemical weapons use in Gaza, Lebanon



Iranian Deputy FM Kazem Gharibabadi addressing the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CSP-29) on Monday.

TEHRAN – The deputy head of legal and international affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, speaking at the annual conference of member states of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, called for global action against the Zionist regime for its use of prohibited chemical weapons in conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon.

German envoy makes discreet comeback to Tehran embassy

TEHRAN – German Ambassador Markus Potzel has reassumed his position at the German Embassy in Tehran after he was recalled to his country early this month, the Tasnim News Agency reported on Tuesday.

Potzel returned to his office in Tehran without public announcement.

Berlin recalled its ambassador to Tehran after a convicted terrorist with German citizenship died before he could face justice. Jamshid Sharmahd had been sentenced to death on several counts of terrorism.

Sharmahd orchestrated a 2008 terrorist bombing that claimed 14 civilian lives in the Iranian city of Shiraz.

As the leader of the Tondar ter-

rorist organization, he had gained notoriety for publicly claiming responsibility for civilian casualties through Western media outlets.

After his death, Germany also ordered all three of Iran's consulates to be shut down.

In an interview with Der Spiegel on November 9, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi responded to Germany's moves, saying that the government "should not have defended a terrorist who has trampled all humanitarian standards underfoot," adding that Europe's support for human rights is "selective."

The diplomatic reset mirrors a similar pattern from the mid-1990s when Germany's ambassador to Iran temporarily withdrew before eventually returning to post.

Additionally, the Iranian deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs condemned the use of chemical weapons and other hazardous materials, such as white phosphorus and depleted uranium, by the Zionist regime against the vulnerable populations of Palestine and Lebanon.

Gharibabadi called upon the director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to initiate a thorough investigation into these matters and to implement necessary measures to safeguard the victims.

The Iranian diplomat also urged member states to avoid any actions that would undermine efforts to address the crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the populations of Palestine and Lebanon.

Various rights bodies have reported that since October 7, 2023, the Israeli regime has deployed around 500 kilograms of white phosphorus in airstrikes over Gaza and Lebanon. These groups have raised red alarms regarding the possible risks to civilian populations.

Sanctions ineffective, Iran govt spox says ahead of talks with Europe



Government Spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani during a Tehran press conference on November 26, 2024.

TEHRAN – Iranian government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani stated during a Tuesday press conference that "Western sanctions and maximum pressure against Iran have failed," emphasizing that these measures have consistently fallen short of their intended objectives.

She also noted that it is the government's responsibility to mitigate and counteract the impact of these sanctions. With the upcoming meeting between Iranian and European deputy foreign ministers scheduled for Friday in Geneva, she highlighted that talks with France, Germany, and Britain would "proceed in accordance with the Leader's principles," adding that Iran will consider any proposal that protects its national interests.

"The Geneva discussions will cover a broad spectrum of issues," Mohajerani said, explaining that bilateral, regional, and international matters, including the situations in Gaza and Lebanon, would be addressed. She expressed her "sincere hope for regional peace and conflict resolution."

Iran has been facing numerous Western sanctions for its peaceful nuclear program for the past two decades. The sanctions were loosened for a while after Iran and the P5+1 signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015.

The bans, however, were reinstated and intensified in 2018 when former and incoming U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal. Iranian authorities have only expanded the country's nuclear activities through the years of pressure.

Concerning interactions with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Iranian spokesperson stated that Tehran engages with all parties, including the IAEA, while emphasizing that the country operates within the rights and obligations outlined in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

She further emphasized that Iran is activating a new set of centrifuges in line with its right to "use nuclear energy peacefully for medicine, agriculture, and similar purposes."

On November 22, Iran declared its decision to activate advanced centrifuges and boost its uranium enrichment capacity, directly opposing a resolution from the IAEA Board of Governors that criticized the country, despite Tehran's offer of new concessions.

When inquired about possible negotiations with the U.S., the spokesperson emphasized that "respect and trust-building are essential prerequisites," mentioning that Western countries, particularly the U.S., have often demonstrated unreliability and breached their commitments.



Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf meets with directors of Iranian media outlets on November 25, 2024.

'Beyond imagination'

The most senior Iranian military official says response to Israel's October aggression will be unprecedented



By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Many historians believe Iranians to be the inventors of chess, a game that requires one to weigh options, anticipate consequences, and plan several moves ahead.

On the chessboard, rushing a move without fully considering its outcome can lead to tactical blunders. Similarly, running out of time before completing all planned moves results in an automatic loss.

When the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was speaking to a crowd of thousands of Iranians following the execution of Operation True Promise II, his words echoed the thinking of a chess master advising fellow players.

"What our armed forces did was

legal and legitimate," he said on October 4, three days after Iran directly attacked Israeli positions in the occupied territories. "In fulfilling this duty, we will neither hesitate nor act hastily. And if necessary, this will be done again in the future."

Operation True Promise II had been pending for some weeks. It was a direct response to Israel's assassination of Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and the subsequent killing of Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut. The operation, the second of its kind this year, involved the firing of approximately 200 ballistic missiles at Israeli military sites. At least 90% of the projectiles managed to hit their targets despite several regional and extra-regional countries

coming to Israel's rescue.

Tehran is now preparing for a third operation against Israel in response to the regime's October 26 attack on Iranian territory, which took the lives of four Army personnel and one civilian. It appears that the country is once again carefully considering the timing of its next major move. However, the nature of that response requires even more meticulous deliberation, given that it would be a retaliation against the first violation of Iran's sovereignty in over three decades.

In chess, the effectiveness of a move depends on whether it manages to gain a positional advantage, develop the pieces, and improve the king's safety.

Iran's most senior military

official, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri, announced on Tuesday that the upcoming response to Israel would be "beyond the regime's imagination".

"The Zionists crossed the red lines of the Islamic Republic, but they should know that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran... will give a different response to the aggressors that will make them regret [their act], one beyond their imagination."

What will Iran's response be like?

"What Iran needs to do is to alter the equations and establish effective deterrence," said Hossein Kanaani Moghaddam, an expert on international affairs. "Iran should execute a plan that will force Israel to back down. A limited operation will only trigger a ping-pong game."

The expert added that it is not possible to accurately predict the nature or timing of Iran's response, but it is expected that more than just the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) will be attacking Israel this time around. "There is a high possibility that the Iranian Army and other fronts of the Axis of Resistance will join the IRGC in the operation."

The response may extend beyond the military realm, Kanaani Moghaddam added. Cyber, economic, intelligence and social dimensions are also likely to be considered. "A wise and effective Iranian response would benefit not only Tehran, but the entire region. Israel may finally choose peace and cease its destabilizing actions."

Iran Air prepares to resume flights to Beirut pending ceasefire

TEHRAN – Iran Air has expressed its readiness to restart flights to Lebanon once a ceasefire is established.

The announcement was made by Hossein Qorbani-Ali, the airline's spokesperson, who emphasized that all operations would adhere strictly to Iranian laws and international aviation regulations.

Speaking about the airline's plans, Qorbani-Ali

said, "If a ceasefire is reached in Lebanon, we are fully prepared to resume flights to Beirut. As always, our operations will comply with the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Qorbani-Ali stressed that the airline will act on any instructions issued by the country's senior decision-makers, reaffirming the company's role as a key instrument of public service and national policy. The spokesperson also noted that Iran Air's fleet is ready to recommence flights to Lebanon,

emphasizing the company's dedication to ensuring safe and reliable operations.

Recalling Iran Air's previous flights, Qorbani-Ali pointed out that the airline regularly operated weekly flights to Beirut before the suspension. He added that the airline currently serves a wide array of destinations, including major cities in the Persian Gulf region, India, Turkey, Baku, and Afghanistan, among others.

U.S. 'maximum pressure' on Iran: road to repeated failure

The article overstates the impact of sanctions on the Iranian economy. While sanctions significantly affect Iran's economy, they haven't "crippled" daily life or achieved the "regime change" goal of maximum pressure.

Despite sanctions, support for terrorist groups and separatists, and incitement during protests, several peaceful protests that turned violent in recent years seemed to have had Western origins or at least received the West's backing, the Iranian government remains firmly in power.

While the article correctly notes Iran's increased oil exports, it overlooks how Tehran circumvented sanctions. Initially, "maximum pressure" significantly reduced Iranian oil exports, but Tehran subsequently found ways to bypass them—similar to Russia's recent experience—by finding new buyers that were less reliant on Washington, offering discounts, and evading U.S. tracking.

Despite a change in administrations, Trump's successor, Joe Biden, continued the sanctions policy, yet failed to bring Iran back to negotiations. Now, with U.S.-China tensions high, Washington's alleged approval of China's purchase of Iranian oil appears irreversible. The incoming administration lacks viable alternatives to offer China in exchange for Iranian oil on the global market. The Trump-era "trade wars" and confrontation with Beijing persist as a major issue as well.

Furthermore, the "maximum pressure" campaign's intended isolation has failed, as Iran has strengthened ties with the Global South. Membership in BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization provides Iran with alternative avenues to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions.

The author argues that Iran's new president is in "desperate" need of a renewed nuclear deal in order for economic relief. However, in reality, the foreign policy in the country does not solely rely on the president. Masoud Pezeshkian and his administration play a significant role in decision making but other important figures and state bodies also have a say. There is also no evidence that Pezeshkian and his team are averse to policies previous administrations took against Washington and its European allies.

Another important point is that reversing Iran's nuclear advancements and returning enrichment

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The Trump White House may bomb and penalise the regime into a deal



levels to those stipulated in the JCPOA appears unrealistic. The JCPOA failed to fully dismantle Iran's nuclear capabilities, and further sanctions would likely only accelerate its nuclear program's potential militarization.

A recent IAEA resolution demands clarification by Iran about what the agency calls the possible presence or use of undeclared nuclear materials. Tehran has been cooperating with the IAEA since Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 deal. After the resolution according to Iran's parliament speaker, the country has begun operating advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges. Iran's rejection of a Western-sponsored censure motion at the IAEA underscores its intention to maintain its relationship with the UN nuclear watchdog.

A significant development since Trump's first term is the direct military exchange between Iran and Israel—a major escalation in the West Asia region since the Islamic revolution. Despite these actions, including Iranian retaliatory strikes following Israeli attacks on an Iranian embassy and the assassinations of key Resistance figures, Washington has only aided Israel in defense and largely stayed out of the scuffle. Tel Aviv has actively sought U.S. military intervention against Iran, particularly since the start of the Gaza war, but Washington appears to have enough on its plate because of the war in Ukraine and a possible escalation with China.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Araghchi receives update on efforts to halt Israeli aggression in Lebanon



Mohammad Reza Sheibani (L) briefed Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Lebanon developments during a phone conversation on Tuesday

TEHRAN – The Iranian foreign minister's special representative for West Asia briefed Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday regarding the latest efforts to end Israeli aggression against Lebanon and achieve a ceasefire.

As reported by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Reza Sheibani has been actively involved in Lebanon's affairs since the onset of the Zionist regime's aggression against the Arab country.

After Iranian Ambassador to Beirut Mojtaba Amani was injured in the September Israeli pager attack, Araghchi directed Sheibani to remain in Lebanon and intensify diplomatic efforts to end the attacks, engaging with the Lebanese government and other key parties.

During the Tuesday phone call with Sheibani, Araghchi acknowledged the ongoing resilience of the Resistance Front, particularly the steadfastness of the Lebanese people in recent weeks against incessant and unprecedented Israeli violence.

The top diplomat commended the courage displayed by the Hezbollah Resistance movement in southern Lebanon and reaffirmed Iran's comprehensive support for the Lebanese people and government.

Esteghlal's Mosimane disappointed with draw against Pakhtakor

TEHRAN – Esteghlal head coach Pitso Mosimane is unhappy following goalless draw against Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor in the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 on Monday.

With only seven spots left after Al Ahli Saudi FC's qualification, time is fast running out for both Mosimane and Shatskykh as they seek to navigate their respective sides into the knockout stage.

It is Al Ahli Saudi who Mosimane has to plot against on Matchday Six next week as the head coach from South Africa rued Monday's dropped points.

"A little bit disappointed because we didn't get the full points," said Mosimane. "I feel this game was in our hands, especially in the second half, but we did not take the chances."

"I can never say I'm not happy with my team. They gave a good fight but the fight was a little bit late. We should have shown this fight a little bit earlier and put more pressure on Pakhtakor."

"Still, I'm very proud of my team. In Jeddah (against Al Ahli Saudi), we're going to need the biggest fight. If we can bring that fight, maybe we can get something but it's going to be difficult, this one was the one we should have won."

The match at the neutral venue of Rashid Stadium saw limited openings created by either side with the result leaving Esteghlal on four points while Pakhtakor are one adrift.

Iran edged by Qatar at FIBA Asia Cup 2025 qualifier

TEHRAN – Qatar eked out a dramatic 78-77 overtime victory over Iran at the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Qualifiers Monday night.

In the match held at the Al-Gharafa Sports Club Multi-Purpose Hall, Mike Lewis II scored 19 points for Qatar while Matin Aghajanzadeh collected 31 points for Team Melli.

Team Melli had one last attempt to save themselves with 1.1 seconds left to play, but the cross-court inbound directed near the paint was deflected by Ndoye Seydou as time expired, and all of Team Qatar would erupt in jubilation afterward.

Not only did the squad get back at the Iranians for that stinging 76-74 OT defeat last February at the latter's own grounds at the Azadi Basketball Hall in Tehran, but they also ended a 19-year losing skid against the three-time Asia Cup champions.

The last time they beat their long-time tormentors was in the 2005 edition of the continental meet, a convincing 79-58 victory during the Quarter-Final round.

Furthermore, Qatar stalled Iran's outright qualification to the 2025 Asia Cup as they dealt the latter their first loss after starting the Qualifiers with three straight wins, fiba.com reported.

Earlier in the day, India had defeated Kazakhstan 88-69 at the Nehru Stadium in Delhi.

Iran lead Group E with seven points, followed by Qatar with six points. India and Kazakhstan have earned five points each.

Shatskykh satisfied with Pakhtakor players' effort

TEHRAN – Maksym Shatskykh felt the overall performance of his players was satisfactory, the 46-year-old head coach admitted his side lacked bite upfront.

Esteghlal and Pakhtakor shared the spoils in a goalless draw Monday night.

"We knew that Esteghlal would attack mainly through the wings and passes from standard situations," said Shatskykh.

"It is precisely in such situations that we planned to be vigilant and we were. We did not leave empty areas."

"In attack, we lacked a final pass or shot. I am satisfied with the efforts of the players. We were able to correct some minor mistakes in the first half after the break."

Pakhtakor will play Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates next week with both teams in desperate need of victory.

Tractor aiming to advance with perfect record: ACL Two

TEHRAN – Tractor will be keen to end their group stage campaign with a perfect four wins, with the Iranian side having won the reverse fixture 3-0 in September in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Two.

Qatar's Al Wakrah SC will take on Tractor FC needing only a point to join the side from the Iran in the Round of 16 from Group A.

It will not be easy though as Tractor id well-prepared in the match, which will be held at the Rashid Stadium in Dubai.

FC Ravshan, who will not be in action, still have an outside chance of advancing, with the side from Tajikistan to play Al Wakrah on Matchday Six.

Persepolis coach Hosseini dissatisfied with his team's inefficiency

TEHRAN – Inefficiency in front of goal is becoming a major concern for Persepolis as the AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 heads into the business end.

The Iranian team were held to a 1-1 draw against Al Rayyan in Doha Monday night.

Persepolis were wasteful in front of goal with only two on target from their 10 attempts, with coach Jalal Hosseini disappointed with the performance of several senior players.

"The point against Al Rayyan is not enough for us, especially since we were not able to maintain our lead," said Hosseini.

"This is something we did not expect from the veteran players in our team, as we expected a better performance. Al Rayyan were able to come back by diversifying the attacks. In general, I am not satisfied with my team's performance."

"We created chances, especially in the first half, and we created other chances in the second half but we didn't translate them into goals, which is unfortunate," he concluded.

Al Rayyan, on four points, will face UAE's Al Wasl FC next week with Persepolis – on three points – take on Iraq's Al Shorta.

Al Rayyan coach Ali rues missed chances against Persepolis

TEHRAN – Monday's draw saw Al Rayyan and Persepolis spurning numerous chances with Al Rayyan head coach Younes Ali admitting his side's finishing was below par.

In the match held in Doha's Ahmad bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan and Persepolis shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw.

Al Rayyan produced 17 attempts on goal but only seven of those were on target with Achraf Bencharki's header in the 57th minute cancelling out Farshad Faraji's first half opener.

"Our team played a great match but luck was not on our side," said Ali. "We created many chances and deserved to win."

"It is true that we did not start the match the right way, but we dominated the second half and created several chances but we lacked the final touch," he added.

Private sector urges action to remove Iran from FATF blacklist

TEHRAN – Deputy Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Mohammad Reza Bahraman has highlighted the impact of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) blacklist on Iranian trade operations, urging the need for addressing the challenge.

“Private sector entities are striving to maintain communication channels and advance negotiations with foreign partners despite sanctions,” Bahraman told the Iran Chamber of Commerce newsroom on the sidelines of the 18th International Exhibition for Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery and Related Industries and Equipment (Iran CONMINE) in Tehran on Monday. He, however, noted that “When it comes to financial transactions, we are met with the powerful chains of FATF.”

He noted that FATF restrictions have significantly increased the cost of trade and discouraged major companies from collaborating with Iranian firms. “This issue is separate from US sanctions. The key to resolving it lies in our own hands,” Bahraman stated.

Calling for swift governmental action, Bahraman urged authorities to prioritize efforts to remove Iran from the FATF blacklist.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce can act as a facilitator, and with its involvement, this process can move faster, he said, calling on the



government to make use of the potentials of the private sector in this regard.

Earlier this month, Keyvan Kashefi, an Iran Chamber of Commerce board member, reiterated the ICCIMA's support for the government's stance regarding the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

He noted that the ICCIMA Board of Directors is due to issue a statement in support of government efforts to get the country out of the FATF blacklist.

In his first press conference after taking office in mid-September, President Masoud Pezeshkian pledged his government's commitment to resolve disputes surrounding the FATF and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to improve Iran's foreign relations and achieve long-term goals.

Over 920,000 tons of goods loaded, unloaded in Anzali port in H1

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, 924,526 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in Anzali port, in the north of Iran, during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

Hossein Younesi, the head of Ports and Maritime Department of Gilan province, where the port is located, said that export from the port rose 47 percent in the first half of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

He said that 2,398,726 tons of goods were exported from Anzali port in the six-month period, and put the amount of import via the port at 662,572 tons in the mentioned time span.

The head of Ports and Maritime Department of Gilan province further announced that 11,390 tons of commodities were also transited via Anzali port in the first half of the present year.

About the container operation in the port, Younesi said that 2,538 TEUs of goods were loaded an unloaded in this port in the six-month period.

Based on the data released by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by seven percent in the first six months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As reported, 81 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports in the first half of the current Iranian year while the figure was 76 million tons in the first half of the previous year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support for ports and their development serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in five years.

Ports and Maritime Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

‘Iran determined to fulfill obligations towards IDB’

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Abdolnasser Hemmati stated in a meeting with the head of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) that the Islamic Republic is determined to fulfill its obligations towards IDB.

Hemmati, who has traveled to Riyadh to attend the 28th World Investment Summit, met and talked with Suleiman Al-Jasser, the head of the Islamic Development Bank, on Monday, IRNA reported.

“We expect the Islamic Development Bank to play a more effective role in financing Iran's projects,” he stated.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to fulfill its obligations towards the Islamic Development Bank,” Hemmati added.

Back in April Iran's former Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi proposed establishing a new financing mechanism using a preferential rate within the members of the IDB.

Khandouzi made the proposal



on the sidelines of the 50th annual IDB meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Based in Jeddah, the multilateral development finance institution is focused on Islamic finance for infrastructure development and has 57 shareholding members.

“The agenda for next year's projects to be financed by the Islamic Development Bank in Islamic countries has been ap-

proved by the members, and the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to create a new preferential financing window for members has been endorsed,” he stated.

He added that the financial burden of this preferential financing arrangement would be shouldered by the shareholders with sound macroeconomic performance, allowing the IDB to utilize preferential financing

methods as an incentive for the first time.

The official further explained that international and multilateral development banks often use preferential financing to provide special assistance to prioritized projects or those with unique needs, previously unavailable at the IDB.

He stressed that the IDB group must reformulate effective reform policies, and strengthen the principles of governance, and ensure economic, financial, and environmental sustainability to overcome challenges.

The Iranian minister proposed that the IDB should seriously consider investing in research and development of Islamic fintech (financial technology) solutions to improve access to financial services and facilitate financial transactions among Islamic countries.

Iran is ready to share its knowledge and experience to cooperate with the bank and its member countries in that regard, he added.

Oil exports continue as usual: Paknejad

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad says following President Trump's election in the United States, Iran is taking new measures to ensure that the country's oil exports continue without or with minimal challenges.

Paknejad made the remarks in an interview with Shana, adding the Oil Ministry has no significant concerns regarding oil exports.

Regarding the upcoming meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+, Paknejad said: “We plan not to accept any restrictions on our oil production due to the circumstances we are facing.”

He mentioned: Some friends ask me whether the quantity and way of Iran's crude oil sales will change with the new U.S. pres-

ident's coming to power; and I respond: “In this regard, we have no significant concerns.”

“Through regular meetings with my colleagues in the International Affairs Department, measures have been taken to ensure that Iran's oil exports will continue without or with minimal challenges,” the minister emphasized.

Iran says exporting gas to Iraq underway as planned



TEHRAN – The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has confirmed that the commitment

to export gas from Iran to Iraq is proceeding as planned, Shana reported.

The Head of the NIGC Dispatching Department Gholamreza Koushki said on Monday that Iran is exporting gas to Iraq through two exchange points located in the south and west of the country.

He added that the volume of gas exports is determined by an agreement between the two

countries and is based on Iraq's needs, which tend to be higher in the first six months of the year and lower in the latter half.

Koushki explained that, following an agreement reached between Iran and Iraq last month, one of the exchange points was temporarily disconnected for periodic overhauls. Consequently, the commitments were fulfilled through the second point.

On November 24, after com-

pleting the maintenance at the first station, gas flow was restored and the second station was subsequently taken out of service to undergo major overhauls, he noted.

He emphasized that the relocation of export stations during the maintenance periods was conducted with the knowledge and consent of both parties and based on their contractual agreement.

Iran's steel output up 0.6% in 10 months: WSA

TEHRAN – Iran's crude steel production reached over 25 million tons in the first 10 months of 2024, registering a 0.6 percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to the latest report by the World Steel Association (WSA).

In October 2024, Iran produced 3.0 million tons of crude steel, contributing to its total output since January. The report noted that Iran maintained its position as the world's 10th largest steel producer throughout most of the year, IRNA reported.

Notably, in May 2024, Iran achieved a milestone by producing 3.3 million tons of steel, a 2.1 percent year-on-year growth for the

month and a 9.1 percent increase over the first five months of 2023. This performance briefly elevated Iran to the 7th position among global steel producers, surpassing Germany, Turkey, and Brazil.

However, power cuts in June caused a production drop of 700,000 tons compared to May, with output falling to 2.6 million tons. The reduction persisted during the summer months, but stabilized in October, with the country registering a three-million-ton monthly output.

Globally, crude steel production in October 2024 reached 151.2 million tons, a 0.4 percent year-on-year increase. Yet, cumulative glob-

al production for the first 10 months of 2024 was 1.6 percent lower than the same period in 2023, the World Steel Association reported.

The Iranian steel industry has been constantly developing over the past few years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces, such as the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak, which have severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

OPEC Fund welcomes co-op with Iranian companies

From page 1 ▶ Held since 1995, the WAIPA (World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies) Investment Conference is a forum that addresses the eco-

nomical and social issues that may affect global investment flows and other strategic and policy considerations.

The conference includes formal panel presentations, ample networking opportunities, and social events for the members, according to its website.

The theme of this year's conference is “Harnessing Digital Transformation and Sustainable Growth, Scaling Investment Opportunities”.

Tehran, Doha eye \$1b in annual trade

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has said the country is eyeing \$1.0-billion of annual trade with Qatar, expressing hope that economic cooperation between Tehran and Doha will take an upward trend with the holding of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Speaking in an online meeting with Saleh Alkhulaifi, the deputy Industry and Commerce minister of Qatar, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi emphasized the need to facilitate trade between the two countries, IRNA reported.

Referring to the extensive political and cultural relations between the two countries, Dehghan Dehnavi said: “Despite the efforts of



both sides, economic relations between Tehran and Doha have not reached the desired level.”

“Fruits and food products are Iran's top exported items to Qatar, and it cannot be ex-

pected that the trade between the two countries will exceed one billion dollars with the export of such products, the official said.

According to the TPO head, the challenges in developing trade with Qatar are clear, and Iran is trying to increase the volume of trade with Qatar by developing a well-considered and coherent work plan.

Alkhulaifi for his part stated that the strict customs regulations in Qatar affect all countries, saying: “We will work to expedite the clearance of Iranian goods from Qatari ports and issue visas to Iranian businessmen, and we hope that the prospect of a billion-dollar trade between the two countries will be realized in the near future.”

Hezbollah's damage to northern Israel revealed

From page 1 ▶ Reports by Israeli media have described destruction in Kiryat Shmona as "unbelievable" with authorities estimating that repairing damaged schools in the area alone will take up to at least four months.

On Tuesday, images emerged of Israeli soldiers inspecting a damaged site where a rocket fired by Hezbollah landed in the northern Israeli settlement of Kiryat Shmona.

In another photo, Israeli soldiers are seen inspecting another site where a street and a vehicle are damaged in the same settlement.

Hezbollah announced it has targeted the "Kiryat Shmona settlement with a barrage of qualitative missiles".

Kiryat Shmona is among the largest settlements in the north and resembled a modern-day city before settlers joined tens of thousands of others in other settlements and fled the region.

This came after Hezbollah entered the battlefield as a support front for the U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal war on Gaza.

The Lebanese resistance movement started its first operation in support of women and children in the besieged enclave on October 8, 2023.

Today, experts say there is



Israeli army troops stand outside a house that was hit by rockets fired by Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters in the northern border town of Kiryat Shmona on November 26, 2024.

barely anything left in Kiryat Shmona.

Experts have noted that the mass displacement in the north by Hezbollah was the first time Israeli colonizers have been decolonized since the establishment of the regime in 1948.

The Israeli army effectively turned the almost empty northern settlements into military barracks from which to strike Hezbollah.

The move has backfired as Hezbollah has struck the settlements, forcing the Israeli military to go into hiding and repeatedly building new barracks to compensate for those destroyed by

Hezbollah's rocket fire.

Among other statements published by Hezbollah on Tuesday included the targeting of the settlements of Avivim and Manara with rocket barrages.

On Tuesday, warning sirens continued to sound in northern Israel and the regime's military acknowledged the casualties of more Israeli soldiers.

In another statement issued by the Lebanese resistance said its fighters "targeted from within the city of Khiam a Merkava tank with a guided rocket near the municipality center, which led to its destruction and the deaths and injuries of its crew."

According to the Lebanese-based news outlet Al Mayadeen, Israeli occupation forces (IOF) are retreating from several second-line villages in the western sector of the Lebanese border.

Hezbollah-affiliated al-Manar TV reported that the IOF has retreated from the vicinity of the Lebanese towns of Shamaa and Tayr Harfa under the fire of the resistance fighters.

At the same time, Hezbollah continues to carry out the most complex operations against the regime since its founding.

On Tuesday, for the first time, an infantry training camp in Shavei Zion, south of the city of Nahariyya, "was struck with a barrage of qualitative missiles".

Hezbollah also announced on Tuesday that its fighters "launched an aerial attack with a squadron of attack drones on the Ma'ale Golani barracks (the headquarters of the 810th Hermon Brigade), on the summit of al-Sheikh mountain in the occupied Syrian Golan, and hit their targets accurately."

After the Israeli regime waged full-scale war on Lebanon in September, Hezbollah responded with thousands of complex operations under the banner of "The Battle of the Mighty Ones."

Displaced people in Lebanon face deliberate government's negligence

From page 1 ▶ Overcrowding in Beirut is due to the multiple waves of displacement the Lebanese have faced since October 2023.

Regardless of the size of the room and the number of family members (which range from 4 to 15), each displaced family has been given one room, which poses health risks, as overcrowding – especially during autumn – encourages a widespread outbreak of bacterial respiratory diseases, especially among children.

The government had enough time to remedy the situation for the displaced, but it was negligent. These shelters lack sufficient toilets and hot water supplies specified by international relief organizations. This has led to the spread of scabies and lice among the displaced.

While the government is still discussing the establishment of kitchens to meet the food needs of the displaced, 90% of them receive only one meal per day provided by NGOs and individual initiatives, despite the availability of financial resources and international aid arriving via Beirut airport.

The needs of special groups such as the elderly and people with special needs are not met, which is a catastrophic reality that Lebanon has suffered from even before the war.

Besides, the displaced are highly threatened by psychological illnesses resulting from trauma and the martyrdom of relatives; stress disorders, depression, and widespread involuntary urination.

Lebanon's Ministry of Health has taken co-

ordination measures between displacement centers and primary care clinics that provide most of the basic medicines and vaccines for children. However, this is not enough because the care centers are far away and the availability of health services and medicines varies between them. The displaced do not receive emergency care, especially in private hospitals, which provided 85% of treatment services before the war.

Amid talk of an imminent ceasefire, serious concerns are emerging about the government's handling of the post-war situation, which will have difficult humanitarian and psychological implications, noting that the deliberate neglect may be aimed at breaking the will of the resistance community and weakening it.

How America's war on Chinese tech backfired

And why Trump's plans would make things even worse

By Scott Kennedy

In late September, the Biden administration issued a draft rule that would ban Chinese connected and autonomous vehicles and their components from the U.S. market. This is one of the latest of many steps that U.S. policymakers have taken to protect the United States' economic security. Under the first Trump administration, Washington placed restrictions on the telecom companies ZTE and Huawei.

President Joe Biden has maintained many of Trump's policies toward China and advanced new ones, including initiating broad export controls in late 2022 on advanced semiconductors and semiconductor equipment.

As the incoming Trump administration appears ready to accelerate and expand these restrictions further still, it's worth considering the track record of these policies—and take stock of the tradeoffs that they entail.

Washington's array of tools is highly expansive: export controls, tariffs, product bans, inbound and outbound investment screening, constraints on data flows, incentives to shift supply chains, limits on scholarly exchange and research collaboration, industrial policy expenditures, and buy-America incentives.

The goals of these measures are

equally diverse: slow China's progress in the most advanced technologies that have dual-use potential, reduce overdependence on China as a source of inputs and as a market for Western goods, deny China access to sensitive data, protect critical infrastructure, push back against economic coercion, protect the United States' industrial competitiveness, and boost its manufacturing employment.

Beijing's shift toward a more expansive and assertive form of mercantilist techno-nationalism poses genuine risks to the prosperity and economic security of the United States and others.

Something must be done, to be sure, but Washington's increasingly restrictive policies have yielded highly mixed results. Take the goal of slowing China's technological progress at the cutting edge and maintaining the United States' relative technological advantage.

In pursuit of this objective, Washington has seen progress in some areas, such as slowing China's semiconductor sector, but witnessed even more rapid Chinese success in others, such as in electric vehicles and batteries.

There are inherent tensions between Washington's various economic security goals, with progress in some inevitably slowing

progress in others.

Additionally, U.S. policymakers have not adequately considered how China and others would adapt to U.S. restrictions.

As President-elect Donald Trump returns to power, his administration would be wise to reflect on the fact that existing restrictions on Chinese technology have yielded decidedly mixed results.

The Biden administration has described its strategy as a "small yard, high fence," or placing high restrictions on a small number of critical technologies.

That yard is already growing, with negative unintended consequences for the United States. If the Trump administration pursues an even broader decoupling, the costs will be magnified exponentially.

Mixed results

The effectiveness of U.S. actions looks clearest when examining the state of the specific companies and industries that have been targeted, particularly with export controls and restricted access to the American market.

China's semiconductor industry has encountered the most difficulties. Over the last few years, the U.S. Commerce Department has placed roughly 850 Chinese institutions and individuals on its Entity List, which effectively bars them

from gaining access to the United States' most advanced technology.

In October 2022, the Commerce Department also imposed severe restrictions on U.S. firms selling advanced semiconductors and equipment to Chinese companies.

Washington also compelled other chip powerhouses, most notably Japan and the Netherlands, to restrict sales to China.

The impact was immediate and devastating for several Chinese firms, which were no longer able to buy certain chips, such as Nvidia's most advanced semiconductors used in artificial intelligence applications.

Moreover, Western equipment and software providers walked out of their manufacturing facilities in China, leaving the Chinese to figure things out for themselves.

As one Chinese executive recently told me, "We went from being cooks in the kitchen to farmers in the field." Lower yield rates and poorer performance left the affected firms further behind their Western competitors than before.

Beijing has given Chinese chip firms a blank check and every regulatory incentive imaginable in an effort to fill these holes and close the gap, but they are still far behind their counterparts in the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Spanish protesters: Stop all relations with Israel



Spaniards held nationwide rallies to express their resentment against Israel's genocidal war in Gaza.

Protests were organized under the slogan "Stop the genocide in Palestine, end arms trade and relations with Israel".

The demonstrations have been coordinated by the Civil Society Network for Solidarity Against the Occupation of Palestine (RESCOP) and will continue in over 40 places nationwide through this weekend, including major places like Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Granada, and Valencia, according to Anadolu.

The protesters have demanded that Spain

cut off all relations with Israel.

Speaking to Anadolu, RESCOP spokesperson Ana Sanchez said: "We have been intensifying our actions over the past month to stop the arms trade with Israel."

"Thousands of people have been protesting across the country for months. We want the Spanish government to cut diplomatic, economic, and especially military relations with Israel," she added.

"The first thing that needs to be done is to impose an arms embargo and cancel existing licenses," she said.

UK faces legal challenge over Israel arms sales

Rights groups challenging the UK government over weapons sales to Israel say they are seeking a court order to halt all arms exports after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant.

The Palestinian human rights organization Al-Haq and the UK-based Global Legal Action Network (GLAN) warned the British government that it is "now arming suspected war criminals who have been indicted by the world's pre-eminent criminal court", Middle

East Eye reported.

The groups highlighted that the ICC's three-judge pre-trial panel found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that, amongst other alleged crimes, both men intentionally starved civilians in Gaza for at least eight months.

They also pointed to findings that the leaders had intentionally limited or prevented medical supplies from getting into the Gaza Strip, forcing doctors to operate and carry out amputations, including on children, without anesthetics.

ICC vs. Israel: A litmus test for European Union compliance



From page 1 ▶ The European Union's top diplomat drew a comparison between an arrest warrant issued by the ICC for Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2023 and the one issued for Netanyahu.

Putin has been accused of committing crimes during Russia's war with Ukraine.

"You cannot applaud when the court goes against Putin and remain silent when the court goes against Netanyahu," Borrell said.

He added, "I ask members of the European Union to fulfill their obligations under international law. If the Europeans don't support the ICC, then there will not be any hope for justice."

Borrell made the comments on the sidelines of a Group of Seven meeting in Italy, which is one of the first signatories of the ICC.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani acknowledged his country's obligations. Italy hosted the 1998 Rome conference that gave birth to the ICC.

Many other countries in Europe and beyond have vowed to comply with the ICC's arrest warrants.

However, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said he will invite Netanyahu to visit his country in defiance of the ICC's ruling.

Since launching war on Gaza on October 7, 2023, Israel has massacred more than 44,000 Palestinians, including over 17,000 children in the enclave.

The regime is also accused of deliberately starving Palestinians by obstructing the delivery of essentials such as food.

Multiple human rights organizations and aid groups have warned that Israel has used starvation as a weapon of war.

On October 9 last year, Gallant announced to the world a "complete siege" of the Gaza Strip that would allow no food, water, electricity or fuel to 2.3 million Gaza residents.

His comments show Israel has done what the ICC has deplored in its statement following the issuance of the arrest warrants.

The ICC's judges said there were "reasonable grounds" to conclude that the two Israeli officials "intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's second meteorite museum opens in Tehran



TEHRAN- Iran's second meteorite museum was inaugurated at Tehran's Iran Mall on Monday, following over six years since the inception of the first branch at Azadi Tower.

The Museum of Meteorites of Iran and the World was inaugurated in the presence of university professors and media representatives, marking a significant milestone in promoting knowledge about meteorites in Iran, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

During the opening ceremony, Hojjat Kamali, known as the father of Iranian meteorites and the director of the Iranian Meteorite Museum, highlighted the achievements that have led to this momentous occasion, stating, "Today, we successfully opened the second branch of the Meteorite Museum at Iran Mall, building on the legacy of the first branch at Azadi Tower."

In the Iran Mall branch, visitors can marvel at over 10,000 meteorite specimens from both Iran and around the world, alongside exquisite pieces of meteorite jewelry. Kamali elaborated that the collection is a culmination of 20 years of dedicated research and collaboration with various institutions, including the Ural Federal University in Russia, the University of Florence in Italy, and several French universities.

The Azadi Tower branch, inaugurated in

2019, houses more than 1,200 meteorite samples, including Iran's largest meteorite, the most beautiful celestial stone, and the oldest Iranian meteorite.

Kamali further revealed, "The extensive collection of the Iranian Meteorite Museum achieved global recognition in 2016. Despite lacking sufficient scientific resources and studies in celestial bodies and meteorites, Iran rose from the 122nd to the 2nd place globally—recording the most meteorites discovered by countries worldwide. Currently, this ranking has been adjusted to the 9th position."

The museum director emphasized the complexity of distinguishing celestial stones from earthly ones, saying, "When we enter nature, we are confronted with billions of rocks and thousands of different types of terrestrial stones. It is not an exaggeration to claim that differentiating meteorites from earth stones is a challenging task, achievable only through extensive study. The separation of these stones from terrestrial materials requires thorough research and cannot be done without it."

As a discoverer and collector of meteorites for the museum, Kamali noted a unique feature of the Iran Mall branch: "In contrast to the Azadi branch, this museum includes a section dedicated to selling meteorites for enthusiasts."

Additionally, the museum features a significant historical artifact—the Cyrus Cylinder inscribed in cuneiform on a meteorite. Kamali explained, "This cylinder is designed on a piece of meteorite, with a beautiful inscription reflecting human rights. We also have a three-kilogram meteorite that we managed to refine to a weight of one kilo and 500 grams. During this process, both sides of the cylinder were adorned with blue lotus flowers, creating a celestial message from this ancient artifact."

Beyond the historic cylinder, the museum displays remarkable meteorites, including the world's most beautiful pallasite meteorite, Iran's first Martian meteorite, the first lunar meteorite, and the largest iron meteorite in Iran, along with countless varieties of meteorites.

Researchers claim Tutankhamun's burial mask may have been made for a woman

Since the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt over 100 years ago, the contents have been examined countless times. But new details continue to surprise archaeologists.

Recently, a team at the University of York has been investigating the pierced ears of Tutankhamun's burial mask. It's a feature that, the team claims, was usually reserved for female or young royalty.

Tutankhamun was born in around 1341BC—an unusual time in Ancient Egyptian history. His father, the so-called heretic pharaoh Akhenaten and his stepmother, the famed Nefertiti, had been ruling from their new city in middle Egypt, Akhetaten (modern day Tell el-Amarna). There, they elevated the new state god, the sun god Aten, above all others.

The resulting changes to religious protocol meant that power was taken from the high-ranking priests of the supreme god Amun, along with the political control they were accustomed to having. After Akhenaten's death, events are somewhat obscure, although many scholars believe that Nefertiti may have continued to rule in her own right.

Tutankhamun became pharaoh at the age of nine, and died when he was around 18 or 19 years old. During his own rule, Tutankhamun took the court back to the traditional capital cities of Thebes and Memphis, and reinstated Amun and the priests. These changes mean that discussions and conclusions about the Amarna period (1353–1322BC) during which Tutankhamun and his father ruled are not straightforward.

Royal tomb equipment

Tutankhamun's resting place in the Valley of the Kings is relatively small. This has led to speculation that it was originally meant for a noble, queen or a princess.

The long-held belief that Tutankhamun died suddenly and had to be buried in a hurry has informed most of the ideas around his tomb and equipment. It's also been taken to explain why so much material from other royals and nobles was reused.

However, Aidan Dodson, a professor of Egyptology and author of several books on the Amarna period, makes a slightly different argument. Akhenaten's successor, Pharaoh Neferneferuaten (who was most likely his wife, Nefertiti), never received a kingly burial. So, it's likely that her material was repurposed for Tutankhamun very early in his reign. This would mean his burial equipment was already essentially completed by his early death, rather than put together in a hurry.

Tutankhamun's actual tomb, however, was probably still incomplete, meaning that he was probably given an existing tomb that had been intended for a noble or lesser royalty.

The reuse of tomb equipment was common in this period, including coffins and burial vaults, so this in itself is not unusual. In 2015, Egyptologist Nicholas Reeves argued that these objects probably included the king's gold burial mask. This is based on the fact that the mask is made of two parts.

Now, the University of York team are suggesting that the mask's original face was removed and replaced, but the "female" ears left intact.

(Source: Phys.org)

Exploring Ferdows Garden: a historical gem in Tehran

TEHRAN- Nestled in the vibrant northern district of Tehran, Ferdows Garden, or Bagh-e Ferdows, is a hidden gem steeped in history and cultural significance. This beautiful garden, a remnant of the Qajar dynasty, is situated near Tajrish Square and has been transformed into the Cinema Museum of Iran, making it an essential destination for art lovers, filmmakers, and anyone seeking a peaceful retreat.

Ferdows Garden dates back to the reign of Mohammad Shah Qajar in the 19th century, specifically around 1840.

Originally part of a larger estate, the garden was constructed by one of the courtiers of the Qajar era, Haj Mirza Aghasi, who served as prime minister.

The garden was designed to include two main buildings and expansive grounds that spanned what is now the affluent area of Tajrish.

Over the years, Ferdows Garden changed hands multiple times.

Following the demise of its initial owner, the estate was inherited by his son, Doust Ali Khan.

However, he showed little interest in preserving the beauty of the garden and allowed it to fall into disrepair.

Eventually, it was purchased by a merchant named Haj Mirza Hossein, who restored the property and brought new life to the once-magnificent garden. By the time of Reza Shah Pahlavi's rule, the garden had transformed significantly.

In 1937, Ali Asghar Hekmat, the then Minister of Education, acquired the property.

The buildings were repaired,



and a high school was established on the grounds.

During the reign of Mohammad Reza Shah, the garden served as a venue for celebrating the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian Empire.

After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the garden briefly belonged to the Islamic Radio and Television Organization before being repurposed as the Museum of Cinema in 2002.

Today, Ferdows Garden spans 20,000 square meters, with the museum building itself occupying about 1,000 square meters. The complex consists of three and a half floors and features exquisite stucco work and beautifully crafted ceilings that reflect the architectural brilliance of Persian design.

The garden's lush greenery and monumental old trees provide a serene backdrop that captivates all visitors.

As you enter Ferdows Garden, you are greeted by two striking bronze statues of prominent Ira-

nian scholars, Suhrawardi and Ibn al-Haytham, inviting you to explore the rich history of Iranian art and culture.

Ferdows Garden is an essential destination for art lovers, filmmakers, and anyone seeking a peaceful retreat.

The main building, a splendid remnant of the garden's glorious past, houses various exhibitions dedicated to the cinematic arts, serving as a shrine to the evolution of film in Iran.

The Museum of Cinema within Ferdows Garden is a treasure trove for enthusiasts of film and art.

It provides an engaging overview of Iranian cinema, showcasing its milestones and evolution over the years.

The museum houses several thematic halls, each dedicated to different aspects of the film industry.

Ferdows Garden is not just a museum; it is a vibrant cultural center equipped with modern amenities.

Visitors can enjoy three cinema halls that screen new Iranian films.

The garden is also home to cafes, which offer delightful refreshments and a cozy ambiance for relaxation. Additionally, the grounds contain a bookstore and cultural stalls selling various items, creating an inviting atmosphere for visitors to unwind.

Surrounding Ferdows Garden, there are numerous attractions worth exploring, such as the Archaeological Institute of Iran and the Time Museum, enhancing the experience of a day spent in this culturally rich neighborhood.

For those interested in shopping or tasting local cuisine, the bustling Tajrish Market is just a short walk away.

Ferdows Garden stands as a testament to the resilience of Iranian art and culture, bridging the gap between history and modernity.

Its transformation from a royal estate to a cinematic haven illustrates the evolving narrative of Iranian society.

Whether you are a film buff, a history enthusiast, or simply looking for a serene place to unwind, Ferdows Garden offers a unique experience that transcends time and space.

This cultural oasis in northern Tehran is a must-visit for anyone seeking to delve into the artistic heritage of Iran.

Impact of fraud on tourism is quite worrisome

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTC) is projecting a record-breaking year for Travel & Tourism in 2024, with the sector's global economic contribution set to reach an all-time high of \$11.1 trillion.

According to the global tourism body's 2024 Economic Impact Research (EIR), Travel & Tourism will contribute an additional \$770 billion over its previous record, stamping its authority as a global economic powerhouse, generating one in every 10 dollars worldwide.

As the global sector soars past its pre-pandemic prosperity, WTC expects 142 countries of 185 analyzed will be outperforming previous national records.

In partnership with Oxford Economic, WTC's latest EIR showcases a sector brimming with opportunities, underpinning almost 348 million jobs globally. This represents an increase of more than 13.6 million jobs compared to its highest point in 2019. International visitor spending is expected to come within touching distance of the 2019 peak, to reach \$1.89 trillion, while domestic tourists are forecast to spend more than in any year on record to hit \$5.4 trillion.

Despite economic uncertainties and geopolitical shake-ups, the Travel & Tourism sector is thriving.

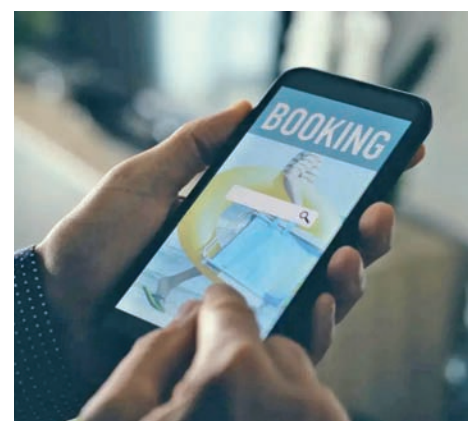
With an economic injection of nearly \$10 trillion, the sector matched its pre-pandemic zenith, flexing its resilience and proving its critical role in the global economy.

The sector also bolstered its workforce by an additional 27.4 million, propelling the total to nearly 330 million jobs worldwide.

International spending increased by 33.1 per cent to reach \$1.63 trillion, underscoring a vibrant comeback story for many countries, with domestic spending increasing by more than 18 per cent to reach almost \$5 trillion.

2023 set the stage, demonstrating the unwavering passion for travel, paving the way for a record-breaking year in 2024.

This growth comes despite two of the world's biggest tourism markets lagging in terms of international visitor spend, with



both the U.S. and China seeing a far slower return of international tourist spend.

Last year in the U.S., international visitor spending remained more than a quarter below the peak of 2019, while China's visitor spends remained almost 60% down.

Julia Simpson, WTC President & CEO, said: "Against the backdrop of uncertainty, the Travel & Tourism sector remains a global economic powerhouse. 'This isn't just about breaking records, we're no longer talking about a recovery – this is a story of the sector back at its best after a difficult few years, providing a significant economic boost to countries around the world and supporting millions of jobs. 'There's a risk however, we need the U.S. and Chinese governments to support their national Travel & Tourism sectors. The U.S. and China will continue to suffer whilst other countries are seeing international visitors return much faster.'"

Tourist scams are a distinct risk factor to tourists and destinations.

Tourist scams are camouflaged within normal tourist-oriented activities. Scammers mislead tourists into deceptive traps by obfuscating meaning and actions.

Scam victims tend to have incompetent knowledge and skills in these activities.

Fraud in the tourism sector is becoming increasingly numerous and sophisticated. Large online booking platforms, travel agencies, hotel chains and other tour operators must place cybersecurity at the heart of their strategy.

Otherwise, they risk losing customers,

seeing their credibility damaged and suffering a significant drop in revenue that threatens the viability of their business models.

The World Tourism Organization of the United Nations (UN Tourism) has become aware of various fraudulent schemes purporting to be from or associated with the Organization.

UN Tourism wishes to warn the public of these misleading communications that do not originate from the Organization, and are not in any way associated with its activities. The schemes may consist of letters, sent either via e-mail, fax, regular mail, or from websites, that are made to look like they originate from UN Tourism.

For example, they may contain official-looking UN Tourism stationery, including its emblem and name, and email or website addresses which include the words "World Tourism Organization" or "UN Tourism" or some similar name, or the name of a real or fictitious UN Tourism official.

These are fraudulent and UN Tourism assumes no responsibility for any consequences, including, but not limited to, financial loss or identity theft or other loss or damage that may derive from such scams. In 2020, payment fraud cost airlines -1.2 per cent of annual revenue, or around \$1 billion every year.

That number has only increased as more people travel around the world—and as more people look for too-good-to-be-true deals on travel and hotels.

Airline fraud attacks have a 60 per cent correlation with the average transaction amount, showing that higher transaction costs are more likely to be targeted by fraudsters.

Often, fraudsters are targeting airline tickets themselves through online travel booking platforms, looking for cheap ways to fund a vacation.

Cybercriminals abuse loyalty programs, stolen credit card numbers, and other personal data to book a trip for free.

(Source: Bizbuzz.news)

La Niña forecast to have adverse impacts on yields in Iran

TEHRAN –Due to dry weather conditions between January and May 2025, when the main wheat crops are at vegetative stages, La Niña event is anticipated to have an adverse impact on yields in Iran, according to a country analysis report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on November 22.

La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific, compared to El Niño, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.

El Niño and La Niña are opposite extremes of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which refers to cyclical environmental conditions that occur across the Equatorial Pacific Ocean.

During El Niño, precipitations are more than normal in fall and winter, while in La Niña, the rains are less and the temperature is higher than normal.

According to the Metrological Organization, the country is forecast to receive less than normal rainfall and experience above-normal heat from the start of the second month of autumn (October 22) to the end of the first month of winter (January 19, 2025).



From the beginning of the current water year (September 22) till October 21, rainfalls were mainly distributed in the southern part of Alborz as well as the northern part of the country.

The average rainfall was recorded to be about 38 percent less than normal, ISNA quoted Ahad Vazifeh, an official with Metrological Organization, as saying.

In the same period, the temperature was about 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above normal average, he added.

Most of the numerical weather prediction models have forecast below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperature to continue for the next five or six

months. They are not due to El Niño and La Niña, but neutral conditions, Vazifeh noted.

The country is predicted to go through weak La Niña conditions during autumn and winter as the water temperature in the tropical Pacific Ocean will not drop significantly.

For the upcoming 2024/25 season, the government plans to raise the wheat production level from the previous year, with the aim to achieve self-sufficiency by providing support to farmers and increasing the procurement price to IRR 20 500/kg of wheat, encouraging farmers to expand the planted area.

The wheat harvest, completed at the end of September 2024, is estimated at 14 million tonnes, about 10 percent above the five-

year average.

The large outturn in 2024 mainly reflects favourable rainfall amounts across the producing regions, coupled with sustained governmental support through the provision of subsidized inputs, low-interest rate loans, and technical training during sowing and harvesting. In addition, the guaranteed government procurement price of IRR 17 500 /kg for wheat, about 50 percent higher than the previous year, prompted farmers to plant large areas, further contributing to the above-average wheat harvest.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, as of mid-October 2024, the government procured over 12 million tons of wheat, around 16 percent year-on-year increase.

Cereal production in 2024 is estimated at 22.4 million tonnes, about 10 percent above the average.

In the key cereal-producing Khuzestan Region, planting wheat and barley crops is expected to start in mid-November 2024.

The government has allocated water supply to irrigate about 650,000 hectares, while about 300,000 hectares will rely on rainfall.

Network Readiness Index puts Iran 79 among 133 countries

TEHRAN – With a score of 45.51, Iran ranks 79th out of 133 countries in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) – a leading global index on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in the economy.

The 2024 edition of the NRI Report published by the World Economic Forum maps the network-based readiness landscape of 133 economies based on their performances in four different pillars including Technology, People, Governance, and Impact.

Each of these pillars is comprised of three sub-pillars that have been populated by a total of 54 variables.

Iran's main strength relates to People, with a global ranking of 47, while the greatest scope for improvement concerns Impact, ranking 120. The country ranks 54th and 81st in Technology and Governance, respectively.

Iran's best rankings in sub-pillars include 18 in Business, 24 in Future Technologies, 38 in Content, and 39 in Individuals. However, the economy's performance in Governments (ranking 104), Regulations (124), and SDG Contribution (132) could be improved.

Regarding indicators, the country has performed well in AI Scientific Publication (ranking 1), Computer Software Spending (3), Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country (9), and Rural gap in use of digital annual payment (9). The weak indicators include Privacy protection by law content and SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity (132), as well as regulatory quality (131).

In the group of upper-middle-income countries, Iran is ranked 22nd. In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in two of the four pillars, People and Technology.

At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms upper-mid-



Network Readiness Index 2024

NRI 2024 At-A-Glance: Iran, Islamic Rep.

Network Readiness Index Rank: 79 (out of 133) Score: 45.51

dle-income countries in six of the twelve sub-pillars, Content, Future Technology, Individual, Business, Trust, Inclusion. Iran is ranked 14 within Asia and Pacific.

According to NRI report 2024, the U.S., Singapore, Finland, Sweden, and South Korea ranked first to fifth, respectively.

Iran ranked 94th in Government AI readiness

Oxford Insights, which provides data on preparedness to implement Artificial Intelligence in public service delivery, has ranked Iran 94th among 193 governments across the world.

Governments are not only working to foster AI innovation and establish regulatory frameworks but also striving to integrate this technology into public services.

However, understanding how to ensure that AI is adopted effectively for the public good remains a challenge. This index attempts to address this issue.

It includes 39 indicators across 10 dimensions, which make up 3 pillars: Government, Technology

Sector, and Data and Infrastructure pillars.

According to the index, the country's best ranking is in the Data and Infrastructure pillar, 55.88. It includes infrastructure, data availability, and data representativeness indicators.

The country's score in the Technology pillar was 38.77. It includes human capital, innovation capacity, and maturity indicators.

Iran's lowest score is in the Government pillar, 31.56, probably due to the absence of a national document on AI development. However, with the implementation of the document, the country's ranking is expected to rise in the future.

The United States, Singapore, and England are ranked first to third, respectively.

In most countries, the Technology pillar including human capital, and innovation capacity has the lowest score. However, most of the Arab countries have been able to make significant progress in promoting governments' readiness to implement AI due to their investment in strengthening the infrastructure and developing strategies related to the establishment of AI.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Organ donation rate grows 60-fold in 18 years'

Organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, though the growth is not considerable compared to the global scale, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health has announced.

Some countries including China have grown 122-fold in terms of organ donation over the past 10 years, ISNA quoted Mehdi Shadnough as saying on Monday.

Although, Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard, he highlighted, adding, we will achieve better results certainly by the next year (March 2019-March 2020), as many barriers have been removed last year.

رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته ، ۶۰ برابر شده است

رییس مرکز مدیریت پیوند و درمان بیماری‌ها وزارت بهداشت گفت: روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته در ایران ۶۰ برابر شده است البته در مقیاس جهانی شاخص قابل قبولی نیست.

به گزارش ایسنا دکتر مهدی شادنوش اظهار کرد: کشوری مانند چین طی ۱۰ سال در زمینه اهدای عضو رشد ۱۲۲ برابری داشته است.

وی خاطر نشان کرد: رتبه اهدای عضو ایران در رنکینگ جهانی ۲۶ است اما می تواند وضعیت بهتر داشته باشد و البته با توجه به فعالیت‌هایی که آغاز شده نتایج بهتری در انتظار خواهد بود و در سال ۹۸ نیز جهش خوبی را شاهد خواهیم بود چراکه چالش‌های موجود در سال ۹۷ رفع شده است.

Rainfall decreases by 20% in two months yr/yr

TEHRAN –Since the beginning of the current water year (September 22) till November 23, rainfall across the country amounted to 25.4 mm, indicating a 20-percent decrease compared to 31.7 mm recorded in the same period last year.

A total of 20 provinces of the country have received less rainfall compared to the same period last year, IRNA reported.

Khuzestan province recording 9.4 mm of rainfall has experienced an 88 percent decline in precipitations, compared to 76.3 mm recorded in the same period last year.

However, rainfall in Razavi Khorasan province has increased by 146 percent. The amount of received rainfall totalled 20.7 mm, the figure was 8.4 mm last year.

According to numerical weather prediction modelling, Metrological Organization has forecasted the fall weather to be warmer than normal with low precipitation.

The previous water year came to an end with receiving 252.7mm of precipitation.

The warm and cold phases of the Pacific Ocean affect the weather, the transition from El Niño (warm phase) to La Niña (cold phase) is going on slowly, ISNA quoted Ahad Vazifeh, an official with Metrological Organization, as saying.

Most models indicate weak La Niña conditions from November to February. In this condition, indicators that change in the short term such as the North Atlantic Oscillation



(Nao), and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) become more effective and impact, he further noted.

Over 250mm rain in previous water year

The previous water year (September 22, 2023 – September 22, 2024) came to an end with receiving 252.7 mm of precipitation, showing a 19 percent increase compared to the year before.

The low precipitations at the beginning of the previous water year were worrisome, but the volume of precipitations improved with the passage of time.

Due to successive years of drought, the increase in rainfall amounts did not compensate water deficit in the country, some provinces are suffering from water shortage, IRNA reported.

A total of 10 provinces received less than normal rainfall.

According to the latest reports, the total amount of recorded rainfall in the previous water year (ended on September 23) amounted to 252.7 mm, which signifies a 19 percent increase compared to 212.9 mm rain received in the water year before (September 2022 –September 2023).

Compared to the long-term figure, 248.7, it shows a two percent increase.

DOE implementing conservation action plan to save Caspian seal

TEHRAN –The Department of Environment (DOE) has started implementing a national action plan that focuses on the conservation of the Caspian seal.

The Caspian seal is the only marine mammal in the Caspian Sea. The species is now listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list with its population declining due to various reasons from one million in the past to 70,000, currently.

Caspian seals are sometimes caught in fishing nets or killed by invasive marine combs called Mnemiopsis.

The main objective of the plan is to conserve the Caspian seal, a rare, valuable, endemic, and endangered species of the Caspian Sea as the priority of marine environmental activities, IRNA quoted Mohammad Talebi-Matin, an official with the Department of Environment, as saying.

The establishment of a center for the Caspian seal conservation in Tarbiat Modarres University branch of Noor County is among the important measures taken in this regard.

It has fostered positive interactions between the university and the executive units which is expected to bring about positive results in the protection of Caspian seals in the near future, the official noted.

Executive working groups have been formed in cooperation with governors and other beneficiaries under the management of provincial departments of environment in Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan provinces.

Also, the rescue centers of the seals in these three provinces are well-equipped, and a specialized training workshop has already been held for the beneficiaries and rangers, Talebi-Matin said.

The training included basic methods of rescue, release, carcasses disposal, and correct sample gathering.

In addition, examining the seals' carcasses on the beaches to identify the cause of their loss is being pursued with in cooperation of neighboring countries and related organizations.

Caspian seal is in dire need of protection.



The preservation of the Caspian seals cannot be merely accomplished by Iran's efforts; it necessitates the collaboration of neighboring countries, including Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan.

Protecting Caspian Sea creatures

In April 2023, the national plan was drafted and finalized for the protection of Caspian seals as well as sharks.

Caspian seals are included in Appendices I and II of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

As per Appendix I of the Convention, poaching and illegal fishing activities are banned to save the animals from extinction, while Iran has not had a share in illegal fishing of the species since the very beginning.

Appendix II covers migratory species that have unfavorable conservation status and that require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those that have a conservation status that would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement.

In general, there are 10 species of turtles in Iran, five species of which are terrestrial turtles (non-marine turtles), and the other five species are considered sea turtles.

All five species of sea turtles are also endangered due to human activities, oil pollution, and the destruction and development of beaches or spawning grounds. Other factors that threaten sea turtles can be excessive haunting or illegal trade.



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NOVEMBER 27, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I appreciate an old man's cautious opinion more than the valor of a young man.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:12 Dawn: 5:24 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:53 (tomorrow)

Palestinian artists to hold Gaza Biennale

Palestinian artists in Gaza have announced that they are planning to stage a biennale exhibition as an act of resistance against Israel's military assault.

According to a press release, over 40 artists are taking part in the project, which affirms "that Palestinian art pierces through all besieged spaces".

They plan to showcase their work within the embattled coastal strip and are seeking international galleries to host exhibitions around the world. However, the artists face a significant obstacle: finding a way to get their art across the Israeli siege lines to reach the global stage.

According to The Guardian, around a quarter of the exhibiting artists managed to cross into Egypt earlier in the war. For those remaining in Gaza, some plan to send their artworks out through aid workers, who are occasionally permitted to cross the border. Others will transmit their work electronically, in the form of images and videos, while a few will collaborate with artists in the West Bank to recreate their pieces remotely.

"The biggest artistic events in the world are called biennales, hosting the world's most important artists to address the most important things in the world through their art. For us, the most important artists in the world now are the artists of Gaza," a 26-year-old artist from Khan Younis, who is one of the initiative's pioneers, told The Guardian, explaining the decision to dub the project a "biennale".

What's more, this word – denoting an event held every other year – stands for resilience: Gaza and her artistic community will still be standing in two years' time.

In a manifesto launching the Gaza Biennale, the artists said the "urgent and exceptional event" represented "a creative step outside the traditional frameworks of exhibitions".

As well as the "sensitivity and specificity of our situation", the statement reads, the Biennale reflects, at its heart, "the struggle of a people to survive".

The Guardian spoke to artist Rufaida Sehwal, who lost 17 years of work as an artist, and a library of close to a thousand books, when her home was bombed in October last year. She sees the Bien-



nale as an act of defiance.

"Continuing to create art in the midst of war and oppression in Gaza is not just a creative act, it is an act of resistance and survival in itself," she said. "While Israel focuses on erasing life and culture in Gaza, my continuity in art proves that life is still going on, and that the Palestinian identity will not be erased."

Although the project is in its beginnings, and faces many challenges, she remains optimistic. "All the artists' works will come out," she told the Guardian. "They will see the light, and they will cross barriers, borders, and laws, and the whole world will see them. This is the power of art."

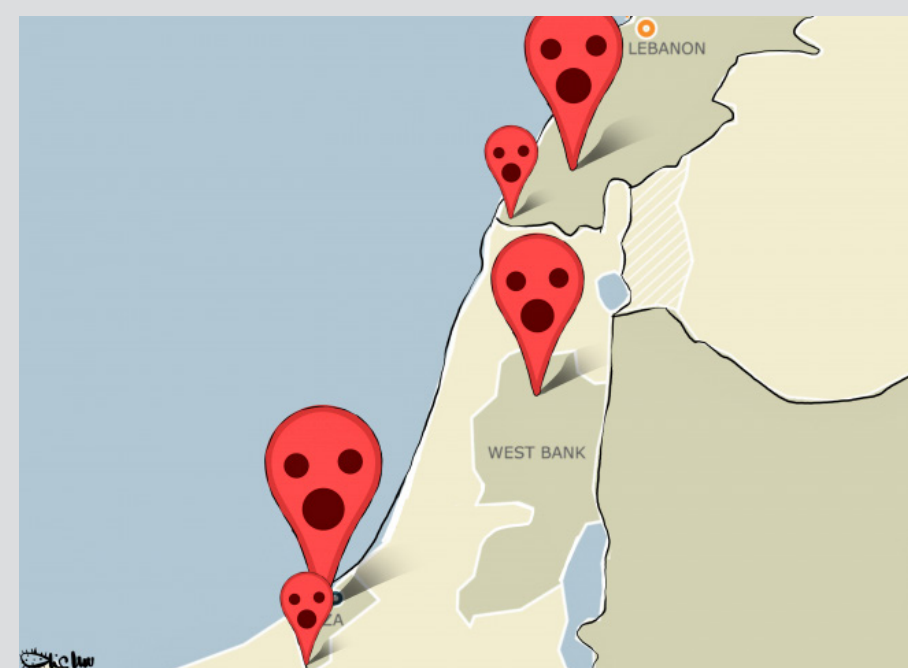
As well as calling for support from galleries overseas, the Gaza Biennale has also launched a crowdfunding campaign.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health has reported that the death toll from Israel's brutal military campaign, which began on October 7, 2023, has reached 44,235 fatalities, mostly women and children, with 104,638 injuries.

The Israeli army has continued a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip since last year, despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire. Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its deadly war on Gaza.

International recognition of the genocide in Gaza has grown in the second year of the deadly Israeli war, as organizations and leaders have labeled the events as a deliberate attempt to destroy a population.

Cartoon of Day



Map

Cartoonist: **Mohammad Saba'aneh from Palestine**

Book on Hezbollah martyr unveiled in Tehran, celebrating borderless resistance literature

By **Samaneh Aboutalebi**

TEHRAN- "Aiedah," a book about the life of a Lebanese Holy Shrine Defender, was unveiled during a ceremony held at Tehran's Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization on Monday.

The event was attended by several Iranian cultural officials, representatives from Lebanon's Hezbollah, families of Lebanese resistance martyrs, and Iranian artists.

Written by Iranian writer Mahboubeh Sadat Razavinia, the book narrates the life of Aiedah Sorour, the mother of martyr Ali Abbas Ismail Karrar from Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement. This book has been published by Soore Mehr Publication in Tehran and is the first account of the lives of the families of martyrs from the resistance front outside Iran's borders, written in Persian by an Iranian author.

Speaking at the ceremony, the director of Art Bureau Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman said that this book represents one of the earliest sprouts of borderless literature.

"We hope that this stage of growth in the literature of resistance will be as blessed, fruitful, and brilliant as the initial phase of resistance literature, and through the grace of this literature reaching out to non-Iranian resistance, we anticipate that the literature of resistance will become increasingly global."

"Today, due to the efforts of the writers and activists in this field, we can gradually say that in resistance literature, we no longer have borders in telling the story of the human spirit of resistance. The spirit of resistance transcends nationality; it encompasses the Iranian, Lebanese, Yemeni, Palestinian, Iraqi, and Syrian



human beings," he added.

Dadman emphasized that for resistance literature to thrive and continue to shine, it must inevitably engage with the spirit of resistance beyond Iran's geographical borders.

"Aiedah," telling the story of a devoted, self-sacrificing, and loving Lebanese mother recounting her narrative and her martyr son's tale, is indeed one of the first sprouts of literature without borders, he mentioned.

For his part, Sayyed Abdullah Safieddine the head of Hezbollah's office in Tehran, expressed his gratitude to those who have stood by them since the birth of the resistance, stating: "The delicate task of writing about the families of martyrs is valuable and significant, and its impact over these forty years has

been profound in Lebanon and in promoting the culture of resistance."

"While speeches may or may not be pursued, the translated works from the martyrs of the Iran's Sacred Defense, Palestinian martyrs, Holy Shrine Defenders' martyrs, martyrs of the liberation of southern Lebanon, martyrs of the 2006 war, and ultimately the book 'Aiedah,' represent a significant collaborative effort that is immeasurable in its effect on advancing the axis of resistance and understanding the Islamic resistance community, not only in Lebanon but throughout the region."

In her remarks during the unveiling ceremony, Aiedah Sorour expressed her gratitude to everyone participating in the event, saying: "No matter how much I try to express my thanks to all those who

have supported the resistance or the kindness of the Iranians, I feel I cannot do justice. I never dreamed of being in Iran, yet here I am."

"My son was among the brave Lebanese youths, who answered the call for help, sacrificing themselves in the path of resistance."

She continued: "I am grateful that I witnessed Imam Khomeini's revolution with my own eyes, while Imam Musa Sadr was able to seize signs of that revolution and prepare soldiers for the cause."

"Although I lost my son when he became a martyr, I take pride in the fact that he went to defend the shrine of Hazrat Zainab (SA) and was martyred in that endeavor. These sacrifices bring us dignity, honor, and credibility," she concluded.

7 Iranian films to attend Muslim International Film Festival in Canada

TEHRAN-Seven films from Iran will take part in the 5th Muslim International Film Festival (MIFF) that is to be held in Canada from November 29 to December 3.

The Iranian films in the festival include six short films and a feature film by young filmmakers produced in the past two years, ILNA reported.

"Ahmad" directed by Amir Abbas Rabiei is the only feature film from Iran participating in the event. It recounts the untold story of the first 18 hours of the 2003 Bam earthquake, in Kerman Province, and a heroic action by the late army brigadier general Ahmad Kazemi.

One of the most notable soldiers in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, Ahmad Kazemi (1958-2006) mobilized the IRGC AF fleet to rescue the Bam earthquake victims by preparing the Bam Airport in such a way that, a plane and a helicopter flew in every 13 minutes and a total of 30,000 wounded were moved by the IRGC AF fleet.

As Iran-Iraq war began, Kazemi joined the war with a 50-member group in Abadan fronts and began fighting with Iraq. Direct presence at the front-line led to injuries of his leg, hands and back. After the end of the war, he attended the university and got a BA in geography and a master's degree in management and defense spending. He made his doctoral studies in the field of national defense.

Kazemi was appointed to the Air Forces of the Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution (IRGC AF) Commander in 2000. He was appointed as Commander of Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in 2005 by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

During his tenure in the IRGC Air Force, Kazemi took effective measures to improve the quality of the air force in terms of organization and structure, and for the first time equipped the IRGC AF with close air support Sukhoi Su-25 aircraft, and equipped the IRGC AF helicopter organization with purchased Mil Mi-17 helicopters.

He was killed when the Dassault Falcon 20 plane that was carrying him, alongside 10 other occupants, crashed near Urmia. The plane crash-landed in a field in poor weather conditions. Reports indicate that the crew did not get three greens after selecting the gear down while on approach to Urmia Airport. A fly-past was done so the control tower could observe the status of the landing gear. While circling the airplane suffered a double engine flame-out, reportedly as a result of engine icing. An emergency landing was attempted in a

field, but the plane crashed.

One of the short films is "A House Near the Sun" directed by Maryam Samadi. The 12-minute film is a production of 2023. The short drama depicts a tailor who refuses to leave his house and shop after ISIS attack on the town of Kobane in Syrian Kurdistan.

He hopes that his customers will return and he talks to people hiding in his house along with his family members. One day he leaves the house to prepare a special meal for his guests. Upon his return, he finds the house has been broken in and vandalized and the guests missing. His daughter and wife are being locked in a dark room with no exit. He breaks the wall of the room to bring them sunshine.

"The Dark Chocolate" written and directed by Farbod Farhadiyeh is another short film in the line-up. A production of 2022, the 6-minute film is about a shoeblack boy who is working in front of a clothing store until a man and a woman come to him and ask him to go into the clothing store with them.

Another short film from Iran is "The Steak" by Kiarash Dadgar. The drama is an eight-minute flick made in 2023. It depicts a mother who prepares a cake and food for her daughter's birthday on an ordinary day. Suddenly, the enemy's Army launches a surprise attack, leaving the mother with no time to escape, to protect her daughter, she hides the girl in a closet. The Soldiers attack the house and kill the mother. A medic soldier discovers the girl and tries to bring joy by celebrating her birthday. However, the birthday changed to a funeral.

"The Voice of Dogs" by Mohammad Reza Nazi will also be present at the festival. Produced in 2023, the 15-minute social drama shows a female dog that escaped from her owner to save her puppies, but her owner decided to kill her puppies.

The short film "Suitcase" written and directed by Ako Zand-Karimi and Saman Hosseinpour will compete in the Canadian festival as well. A production of 2023, the 15-minute flick is about a Kurdish refugee who lives in his suitcase far from his own homeland. In it he carries memories of his family. When someone steals the suitcase in the tumult of the foreign city center, he loses his home a second time.

Saman Hosseinpour has another short film in the festival titled "Son". It happens in a village in Kordestan, where an old mother is waiting for her son to return from military service. After a long absence, the mother tries to find him but she dis-

covers a secret which pushes her in a dilemma to deal with her son's identity.

According to the festival website, "the idea for the need for a Muslim film festival sparked after our founder, Hirra Farooqi embarked on her festival journey as a filmmaker across Canada. She quickly learned that the stories she came from as a Muslim filmmaker were not represented in these spaces".

This ambition was then reaffirmed once talking to her peers, where she learned that the lack of representation and narratives for her community was not just affecting her but her entire community. Recognizing the transformative potential of cinema, she embarked on a collective effort to establish a platform where Muslim voices could be amplified and celebrated.

Hirra Farooqi is a journalist and the founding Director of the Muslim International Film Festival. She served as the Production Assistant and Cultural Advisor for The Secret Marathon film. She is also the Toronto Race Director and National Communication Coordinator for The Secret 3K, an annual run/walk held across Canada and around the world in over 23 countries to promote gender equality and safe and inclusive spaces. Hirra is a first-generation immigrant of Afghan-Pakistani parents. Hirra is currently working on producing her own documentaries based on minority rights in her countries of origin, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Hirra currently does freelance work in Social Media Marketing and is a freelance Producer for online shows.

Over the years, MIFF has blossomed from a humble idea into a vibrant cultural institution, providing a platform for diverse voices within the Muslim community and beyond. Guided by the principles of inclusivity, creativity, and social justice, it continues to showcase thought-provoking films that challenge stereotypes, foster dialogue, and celebrate the rich tapestry of Muslim experiences and identities.

MIFF is a non-profit organization that is committed to providing a platform for both current and aspiring filmmakers, creative storytellers, videographers, designers, creatives and media junkies to portray Muslim Excellence on the big screen. As an international platform, MIFF aims to include and uplift the diverse voices of anyone around the globe whose mind is bursting with a story and a dream to bring it to life, while breaking through barriers and advancing authentic Islamic themes.