



Ayatollah Khamenei:

Iran-US Conflict a Deep-Seated Clash of Interests

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From Gaza to Darfur: Mossad's strategic footprint in Sudan's genocide

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – As the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) consolidate control over western Sudan with the fall of el-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, questions are growing about the involvement of foreign actors—particularly Israel and the United States—in shaping the trajectory of the country's civil war.

While Israel has not formally recognized either the RSF or the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), mounting evidence suggests it has quietly tilted toward the RSF, prioritizing long-term strategic gains over short-term diplomatic optics. The United States, meanwhile, has publicly condemned RSF atrocities—but has done little to restrain its closest allies from supporting the group.

Frontlines shift

On October 26, the RSF captured el-Fasher, SAF's last stronghold in Darfur. The city's fall marked a grim milestone: the RSF now holds de facto control over more than a quarter of Sudan's territory.

Israel, U.S. fabricating a plot to justify attack on Iraq

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The American and Israeli regimes fabricate an Iraqi threat to justify aggression and destabilize regional stability.

The occupying Israeli regime, backed by the United States, is once again creating a false narrative to justify aggression, this time against Iraq. Mossad has claimed that Iraq's anti-American occupation and anti-Daesh movement is preparing to attack the Zionist regime.

This propaganda comes at a sensitive time, just days before Iraq's November 11 elections, which could reshape the country's political future. The timing of these claims is clearly politically motivated and designed to stir fear and insecurity.

Propaganda disguised as "intelligence"

American and Israeli media have spread reports that Mossad and the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) are "quietly preparing for a new vector of assault from the east." They claim that Iraqi security forces, including the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), are "positioned to launch coordinated missile and drone attacks toward Israeli targets."

Gaza's shadow over NYC: How a mayoral race turned into a moral referendum

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Zohran Kwame Mamdani, the Ugandan-Indian son of a postcolonial scholar who was born in Uganda, has done something the pundit class assumed impossible: his campaign dragged the once-distant politics of Gaza into the center of a New York mayoral election and forced voters to decide whether American power remains accountable.

Mamdani's blunt language — "We are on the brink of a genocide of Palestinians in Gaza" — didn't occur in ivory-tower debate; it landed in subway stations, viral clips, and the homework of swing voters.

That moral naming is the reason his rise matters and the reason the backlash was immediate.

When he doubled down with lines like "If I'm the Mayor, the NYPD will arrest Netanyahu" and "It is important that NYC is in compliance with international criminal law," Mamdani signaled that his politics weren't just rhetorical—they were about wielding power in ways that unsettled the establishment.

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Iran's military ready for stronger response to aggression, says IRGC chief

TEHRAN – On Monday, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) chief commander informed Iranian lawmakers that the country's armed forces now possess superior defensive and offensive capabilities compared to those during the 12-day war fought against Israel and the United States in June.

Major General Mohammad Pakpour made these remarks during a meeting with the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee. The committee head corroborated the commander's statements, adding that recent parliamentary inspections have confirmed the IRGC's full readiness to respond to any new aggression, and that its next response would be more "regret-inducing" than the previous one.

What Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said at his weekly briefing

TEHRAN – In his weekly press conference on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei addressed a broad range of domestic, regional, and international issues — from the ongoing genocide in Gaza and U.S. interference in regional affairs to Iran's nuclear policy, water rights, and relations with neighboring and allied countries. ► Page 2

Tehran hosting 25th intl. Industry Exhibition

TEHRAN – The 25th International Industry Exhibition has opened at Tehran's Permanent International Fair Grounds, bringing together more than 300 Iranian and foreign companies to showcase the latest industrial technologies, equipment, and engineering solutions.

Spanning an area of about 18,000 square meters, the four-day event runs from November 3 to 6, 2025.

The exhibition features leading manufacturers and service providers in machinery and production lines, workshop equipment, industrial automation, spare parts, precision tools, advanced industries, and engineering services.

Foreign participants from Germany, China, Turkey, India, South Korea, Japan, and the Czech Republic are attending to present their technological achievements and explore business opportunities in Iran's growing industrial market.

Organizers said the exhibition aims to promote innovation and competitiveness among Iranian manufacturers, facilitate the introduction of global technologies to domestic producers, and strengthen industrial supply chains and export capacity. ► Page 4

Tehran to host Iran Smart City Exhibition and Conference

TEHRAN – The sixth Iran Smart City Exhibition and Conference will kick off tomorrow in Tehran and will wrap up on Friday.

With the theme of Iran's smart cities and artificial intelligence, the event will be held on the occasion of the World Cities Day, aiming to promote innovation, develop smart city infrastructures, and share experiences between scientific, industrial, and management sectors, IRNA reported.

The exhibition section features a series of companies, organizations, municipalities, and technology institutions showcasing their latest products, designs, and achievements in fields related to smart cities and artificial intelligence. ► Page 7



Prototype parade of Achaemenid soldiers held in Tehran's Revolution Square

TEHRAN – Dressed as Achaemenid soldiers, horse riders paraded through Enghelab (Revolution) Square in Tehran on Monday, November 3, delivering a message to adversaries: "You will kneel once more before Iran."

Iran secures first place among Islamic nations in Leiden ranking

TEHRAN – The 2025 Leiden University ranking system has included 48 Iranian universities among the top 1,594 universities worldwide, up from 46 in 2024, ranking the country first among Islamic nations in terms of the number of universities for the second consecutive year.

A total of 184 universities from Islamic countries are included in this year's ranking. Turkey, with 45 universities, Saudi Arabia, with 20, Pakistan, with 16, and Egypt, with 15, are placed second and fifth, respectively, IRNA reported.

The University of Tehran (ranked 166 globally), Tehran University of Medical Sciences (ranked 235), and Iran University of Science and Technology (ranked 361) rank first to third in the country. ► Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

A sanctions-proof port

The Iran newspaper highlighted the strategic importance of Chabahar Port for India. The paper argued that with the U.S. extending its sanctions waiver for Indian activities at Chabahar until April 2026, New Delhi has once again secured its foothold in one of the region's most critical maritime and land connectivity hubs. This decision carries broad geopolitical implications, positioning Chabahar as a pivotal node in the balance of power and transit corridors linking South Asia to Central Asia. For India, Chabahar is not merely a port development project; it is a vital link in its dual strategy to establish both maritime and overland access to Central Asia. According to India affairs expert Omid Babolian, Iran's significance in New Delhi's strategic calculus goes beyond economic cooperation. With its maritime location, civilizational depth, and ability to bridge diverse geopolitical spheres, Iran is an indispensable element in India's connectivity policy. Removing Iran from this equation would create a structural gap in India's strategic outreach. In this context, the renewed sanctions exemption is not just a bilateral gesture between India and the United States; it reflects Tehran's central role in New Delhi's broader strategic vision known as the "Maritime India" doctrine.

Ettelaat: The enemy seeks psychological warfare

Ettelaat analyzed recent claims that Iran received a message from Donald Trump via Oman regarding a resumption of nuclear negotiations. The report noted that speculation surged following news of diplomat Takht-Ravanchi's visit to Oman. However, a well-informed source emphasized that no such message had been received and dismissed the reports as baseless. Given Oman's history of mediation, such claims were predictable. But the official denial shows that Iran is unwilling to accept narratives that talk about a negotiation offer without mentioning America's unacceptable conditions. Negotiations with unacceptable conditions would be meaningless, and would only serve to accuse Iran of being opposed to negotiations. The American side, through such media tactics, appears intent on reviving the defunct negotiation track and tying public sentiment to the psychological impact of any news related to talks. The outcome of this approach is that any pause in negotiations triggers economic shock, allowing sanctions to

retain their leverage over Iran's economy.

Shargh: Hope for surrender, diplomacy amid doubt and distrust

Shargh reflects on the stalemated nuclear talks, suggesting it has reached a juncture best described as the "Station of Hope for Surrender." Each side in this high-stakes game believes its pressure tactics will ultimately force the other to retreat. As the current impasse persists, diplomacy has increasingly become a waiting game. Iran continues to assert its right to nuclear technology and its stance of resistance, while the United States and its allies insist on maintaining pressure until Tehran fully returns to previous restrictions. The lack of inspector access has made it difficult to accurately assess the status of Iran's centrifuges and uranium stockpiles. This oversight vacuum raises the risk of miscalculations. Two decades of negotiations between Iran and the West have shown that no deadlock in international politics is permanent. Just as past pressures eventually led to talks, there remains a possibility of a gradual softening of positions. However, this time, the cost of returning to the negotiating table will be significantly higher for all parties involved. Until then, nuclear diplomacy remains trapped in a cycle of mistrust and speculative hope for surrender.

Kayhan: Post-JCPOA Iran and imperative of power-building

Kayhan argued for a paradigm shift in Iran's foreign policy, asserting that continuing pre-JCPOA strategies would be a big mistake. It said in a world transitioning from a unipolar order to a multipolar structure, actors capable of intelligently managing their power will exercise decisive influence. In this context, Iran must adopt a strategy rooted in "power-building" to secure its role as an independent and impactful regional force. Shifting from an engagement-centric approach to one focused on strategic empowerment could steer Iran toward a policy of active and intelligent resistance. Real diplomacy succeeds only when backed by genuine power. In a global arena where negotiation tables are set to favor the powerful and where military aggression can occur mid-negotiation, Iran must possess tangible instruments of strength to safeguard its interests. Only then can it engage major powers from a position of parity, rather than weakness.

Another alleged Iranian spy arrested in Israel

Apprehension comes as Iran's June attacks fueled Israeli anger over the regime's handling of security

TEHRAN – Israeli media report that a 23-year-old Israeli citizen, of Tubariya, has been apprehended on charges of spying for Iran in exchange for money.

"Yosef Ein Eli, 23, allegedly received thousands of shekels to collect intelligence for Iranian operatives on hotels, IDF soldiers and senior officials in latest case of Israelis charged with espionage since Gaza war began," claimed Ynetnews.

"He was arrested in September following a joint investigation by the Shin Bet intelligence agency and the Lahav 433 serious crimes unit of the police," the report added. Iran has not confirmed the report.

Over the past couple of years, the Israeli regime has arrested an increasing number of people on charges of spying for Iran.

Earlier this year, Iranian Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib noted that a "treasure trove" of intelligence containing millions of diverse and invaluable pages of data pertaining to the Israeli regime had been transferred to Iran.

"These documents contain [information on] the ... regime's previous and current projects, projects to upgrade and reprocess old nuclear weapons, joint ventures with the U.S. and certain European countries, as well as full information on the administrative structure of, and



Israeli forces arrest a 23-year-old male accused of spying for Iran

those associated with atomic arms," the Iranian minister said.

He reiterated that Israeli nuclear and military institutions as well as ordinary citizens cooperated with the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, sharing with Iran a large quantity of documents.

"The motive behind this cooperation was two-fold; first material incentives and getting money, and second, hatred of the corrupt and criminal Israeli prime minister," he explained.

Israel's internal security agency (Shin Bet) reported a

400% increase in identified espionage cases in 2024 compared to the previous year. This number is expected to have risen further in the first half of 2025, especially after the 12-day war with Iran. Reports indicate that Jewish residents of the occupied territories believed Netanyahu had dragged the regime into a war with Iran without preparing the necessary defenses for downing Iranian missiles. During the exchange of fire, Iran wrought expansive destruction in Israeli cities, including Tel Aviv and Be'er Sheva. General Rahim Safavi, an advisor

to Iran's Leader, recently stated that Israel's defense systems were crippled during the war.

Meanwhile, the regime launched a massive advertising campaign in July urging Israelis to resist the "lure" of spying for Iran, warning that the consequences far outweigh any financial reward. The unusual drive came a month after the 12-day war ended.

The campaign, entitled "Easy Money, Heavy Cost," would run on radio, major internet sites, and social media platforms, and had been devised by the Shin Bet, and the National Public Diplomacy Directorate.

In one of the two 20-second videos, a father is shown eating with his family, while the second shows another man having drinks with friends before a caption on the screen reads: "For 5,000 shekels is it worth ruining your life/family?"

The 5,000 shekels is an apparent reference to how much Israelis have been paid for allegedly cooperating with Iran.

The ad says people who took Iranian cash are now behind bars and warned that anyone helping Tehran faces up to 15 years in prison. "Easy money, heavy cost."

In his video message, Intelligence Minister Khatib said there are numerous people inside the occupied territories that are still in cooperation with Iranian forces.

What Iran's foreign ministry spokesman said at his weekly briefing

TEHRAN – In his weekly press conference on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei addressed a broad range of domestic, regional, and international issues — from the ongoing genocide in Gaza and U.S. interference in regional affairs to Iran's nuclear policy, water rights, and relations with neighboring and allied countries.

'Iran's rights are non-negotiable'

Referring to the possibility of renewed talks with Washington, Baqaei said: "The situation is clear. The rights and interests of the Iranian nation must be respected. In no negotiation will we unilaterally give up our legitimate rights."

He stressed that only if "realism and mutual respect" emerge can the grounds for dialogue be established. "At the moment," he added, "we are not at that stage."

Before waging war on Iran, the U.S. president Donald Trump managed to get the country to engage in indirect negotiations on its nuclear program – a contrast to his first term when Tehran had refused such talks after he withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and re-imposed sanctions against the nation. Yet, the U.S. President began the war only days before a sixth round of the negotiations was set to take place in Oman.

'No message from the U.S. via Oman'

Addressing reports about Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Takht-Ravanchi's visit to Oman, Baqaei said the issue of "polluted water imports" was raised but clarified that the matter was resolved and a statement would soon confirm that the goods posed no problems.

He rejected claims of any message transfer from the United States during the visit, saying:

"No message from the U.S. was conveyed to us in Oman. Intermediaries may exchange messages, but that does not mean negotiations have begun."

In an interview with Al Jazeera published on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also denied claims of receiving messages from the United States.

'Main threat to the region is the Zionist regime'

Baqaei said the region continues to face "a major problem called occupation," adding that despite the so-called ceasefire, the genocide in Gaza persists.

"More than 200 people have been martyred since the ceasefire. The guarantors of the truce now bear an even greater responsibility," he stated.

He also condemned the killing of 270 journalists during the ongoing Israeli assault, describing it as "an unprecedented crime" and proof that what is taking place in Gaza "is not war, but genocide."

Responding to remarks by regional officials, Baqaei underlined that there is "no doubt among regional states" that the main threat comes from the Zionist regime, adding: "We are in a real war with this regime. Genocide in Palestine and the ongoing occupations in Palestine and Syria prove this reality."

He echoed Omani statements emphasizing that regional security must be achieved through understanding and cooperation among the region's countries, not external interference.

The humanitarian situation continues to

deteriorate under the Israeli regime's blockade. The United Nations said more than 16,500 Palestinians in need of specialized medical care remain trapped inside Gaza, unable to leave for treatment.

More than three million years of human life have been lost in Gaza since the genocide began, according to a new study published in The Lancet. The research analyzed the deaths of more than 60,000 Palestinians between October 2023 and July 2025, estimating that each life lost equated to an average of 51 years.

Most victims were civilians, and more than one million of those life-years belonged to children under 15. The study noted that its figures are conservative, counting only direct deaths from airstrikes and shelling, not those caused by hunger, disease, or the collapse of Gaza's health system.

'Epstein emails reveal moral corruption of Iran's enemies'

Commenting on emails attributed to Jeffrey Epstein mentioning military pressure on Iran, Baqaei said they expose "the moral decay of Iran's enemies."

"A man guilty of human trafficking symbolizes the corruption of those who lecture others on human rights," he said.

'U.S. actions against Venezuela violate international law'

Baqaei strongly condemned U.S. actions against Venezuela, calling them "a violation of international peace and security" and contrary to the UN Charter.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Institute hosts press briefing on 'We and the West' conference set for November 10



TEHRAN – Ahead of Iran's Day of Anti-Imperialism, the press conference for the conference "We and the West: The Thoughts and Views of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution" was held at the Islamic Revolution Research and Cultural Institute.

The event was attended by Mohammad Eshaqi, Deputy for Research and Education at the institute; Mousa Haqqani, the conference's scientific secretary; and Mousa Najafi and Mohammad Javad Larjani, members of the policy council overseeing the event.

Es'haqi highlighted the historical and contemporary influence of Western civilization, saying, "Western countries have

progressed from colonial powers to a system of global hegemony. In contrast, over the past 25 years, the Islamic Revolution has built a broad front of resistance that extends even into the United States, Europe, and their universities and think tanks."

He added that the foundations of Western civilization—both theoretical, including human rights, democracy, secularism, and women's rights, and practical, such as military, economic, and media power—are now facing a legitimacy crisis. "Recent events in Gaza, Lebanon, and other countries show the West's limited commitment to human rights and the freedom of nations," he said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Drone units of the Ground Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) took part in maneuvers in the north and northwest of the country. IRGC's chief commander Major General Mohammad Pakpour was on hand to see for himself the drone exercise and assess the performance and combat readiness of the IRGC's ground troops. Commander of the IRGC's Ground Force Brigadier General Mohammad Karami was also present during the drone drill to oversee the operations.



Ayatollah Khamenei: Iran-US conflict a deep-seated clash of interests

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addressed the prospect of Iran-US normalization on Monday, saying the two countries represent two different currents, and that Washington must take several necessary steps before it can establish ties with Iran.

The Leader's remarks came during a meeting with Iranian students, commemorating November 4th, the day Iranian students took over the U.S. embassy in Tehran over four-and-a-half decades ago. The embassy had been used to orchestrate the 1953 coup against the democratically-elected government of Mosaddegh, and was also the site where U.S. officials were plotting against the newly-victorious Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Referring to some statements by the U.S. expressing willingness to cooperate with Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei stated, "Cooperation with Iran is not compatible with the US's cooperation and support for the accused Zionist regime."

Ayatollah Khamenei described Washington's continued assistance and support for the Zionist regime, despite this regime being publicly exposed and condemned worldwide, as meaningless and unacceptable when requesting cooperation from Iran.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution further emphasized, "The U.S. sometimes says it's willing to cooperate with Iran. If they stop supporting Zionist regime, remove military bases from the area and stop interfering in the region, these matters could potentially be reviewed. This



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei met with students in Tehran on November 3, 2025.

isn't something foreseeable for now, nor for the near future."

In his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei elaborated on the historical enmity of the U.S. with the Iranian nation and the dimensions of the US Embassy seizure on November 4, 1979. He stated, "The seizure of the American embassy by the youth can be examined from two perspectives: historical and identity-based."

From a historical perspective, Ayatollah Khamenei described November 4, 1979, and the courageous action of the students in seizing the U.S. embassy, as a day of honor and victory for the Iranian nation. He emphasized, "In the history of Iran, there have been both days of victory and days of weakness and decline, both of which must be preserved in the national memory."

Discussing the identity dimension of this significant event, the Leader stated, "The embassy seizure clarified the true identity of the U.S. government as well as the real essence and nature of the Islamic Revolution."

Referring to the Quranic root of the word arrogance (istakbar), he explained that it signifies self-superiority. He stated, "At times, a state such as Britain in a certain era, or today the U.S., grants itself the right to interfere in the vital interests of nations, dictate terms to them, establish military bases in countries with weak governments or unaware populations, or plunder the oil and resources of nations. This is the very arrogance we oppose and protest against."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also referred to the conspiracies of Britain and its allies to disable

Mossadegh's government, recalling Mossadegh's naive approach and reliance on the US to save Iran from Britain. He added, "The U.S. smiled at Mossadegh, but behind the scenes, in collusion with the British, they orchestrated a coup, overthrowing the national government and returning the fleeing Shah to Iran."

Ayatollah Khamenei described the first encounter of the U.S. with the Islamic Revolution as the hostile resolution passed by the U.S. Senate. He highlighted the public anger that arose after allowing Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to enter the U.S., stating, "The Iranian nation felt that by hosting the Shah there, the US was attempting to repeat the coup of August 19, 1953, and prepare for his return to Iran."

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Iranian MPs approve provisions to counter infiltration of foreign spy services

TEHRAN – The National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of Iranian Parliament has approved some provisions of a motion on countering the infiltration of enemies.

"Members of the committee reviewed a motion to counter the infiltration of foreign intelligence services, governments or institutions into the country, and ratified some of its provisions," said Ebrahim Rezaei, the spokesperson for the committee.

Also present at the meeting were representatives of relevant bodies, namely intelligence authorities.

Iran has seriously dealt with spies and espionage activities as part of measures to safeguard national security. In mid-June, 2025, Iran executed a man con-

victed of collaborating with the Israeli Mossad spy agency and attempting to share classified and sensitive information with the occupying Tel Aviv regime in exchange for money. The execution took place after the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence.

The individual, identified as Esmail Fekri, was in close contact with Mossad operatives, and was captured in December 2023 during a complex intelligence operation carried out by Iranian security agencies. Iranian officials have also arrested a number of people on suspicion of spying for Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, following the latest Israeli military aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, the Islamic Rev-



Members of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of Iranian Parliament

olution Guards Corps (IRGC) Chief Commander Major General Hossein Salami, Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters Major General Gholam

Ali Rashid, and six nuclear scientists, including Mohammad Mahdi Tehrani and Fereydoon Abbasi, were martyred in the Israeli strikes.

‘Same results for Israel— only worse’, Iran FM cites greater readiness than 12-day war

TEHRAN – Iran is fully prepared to defend itself against any aggression. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera published on Sunday, asserting that the country's military, intelligence, and missile capabilities are stronger and more coordinated than ever.

He warned that any repeat of the 12-day war with Israel would meet "the same results — only worse" for the aggressors.

At the same time, Araghchi emphasized that Tehran is ready to resume nuclear negotiations based on mutual interests, noting that the formula used in the 2015 JCPOA agreement remains viable today.

On fears of renewed conflict, Araghchi said: "It is clear that we are prepared for every scenario. The possibility of war from a belligerent regime — one that has initiated multiple conflicts in our region — cannot be ruled out. But we are fully ready for any situation."

He stressed that Iran has learned from the 12-day war, improving operational capabilities, intelligence, and morale: "We are even more ready than before the 12-day war. Israel achieved none of its objectives then, and if it

repeats that failed experience, it will face the same outcome, only this time we are stronger."

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians. The United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in blatant violation of international law.

In response, the IRGC launched a meticulously calculated series of missile and drone strikes over twelve days. These targeted assaults, now known to have reached 22 distinct operational waves, dismantled key Israeli military, intelligence, and technological infrastructure—leading to a pressured halt in hostilities.

Araghchi highlighted weaknesses in Israel's military: "Israel's air defense system is completely penetrable. Despite external support and multiple defensive layers, our missiles breached it. We now have far more experience, tested in real combat, and can strike with greater precision and power."

He noted that while Israel claimed to control Iranian airspace during the 12-day war, Iranian missiles reached Israeli territory as well, exposing flaws in their defenses.

Araghchi stressed that preparedness is itself a deterrent: "Our readiness for war is the best way to prevent war. We have no interest in conflict or its escalation, but we face a beligerent, expansionist regime."

He added that Iran's regional ties have strengthened since the last war, creating a clearer understanding of the real threat: "Netanyahu, despite his crimes, has shown the region that Israel — not Iran — is the true enemy. This awareness is now shared across the Middle East."

Araghchi addressed reports that Netanyahu is not seeking a new war, noting Iran maintains high alert. On the U.S. and the disputed snapback mechanism, he said Washington and its European allies acted illegally: "Over 120 Non-Aligned Movement countries support Iran's position. There is no global consensus on sanctions against Iran — only a legal and political dispute."

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Japan defeat Iran at 2025 AVC Asian Women's U16 Championship

TEHRAN – Japan defeated Iran in straight sets at the 2nd AVC Asian Women's U16 Volleyball Championship on Monday.

Iran had lost to the Philippines 3-0 on Sunday.

The Persians will face India and Australia on Wednesday and Thursday, respectively in Pool H.

The tournament serves as a qualification tournament for the FIVB Volleyball Girls' U17 World Championship.

The top four teams and defending champions China will qualify for the 2026 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U17 World Championship as the AVC representatives.

Esteghlal, Al Wehdat looking for second win

TEHRAN – Esteghlal, who finally got on the winning trail after three defeats in the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two, will aim to make it two out of two when they face off against Jordan's Al Wehdat, with both teams on three points.

The match will be held on Tuesday at the King Abdullah II Stadium in Amman in Group A.

Al Wasl FC will also target victory when they face Bahrain's Al Muharraq as the pace-setting UAE side looks to stay perfect in Group A.

Al Wasl have been peerless so far and will be confident of their chances against an Al Muharraq side who are reeling from two consecutive defeats.

Sepahan to confirm qualification with win over Ahal

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club will confirm knockout stage qualification with victory over Ahal in Group C of the 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two on Tuesday.

The Iran side defeated Turkmenistan's Ahal 1-0 on Matchday Three, with Kaveh Rezaei scoring the winner in the 82nd minute.

Sepahan – with their fans backing them – will be confident of doing the double over Ahal, with victory for the Iranian side also confirming Al Hussein's progress into the Round of 16 from the three-team group.

The match will be held at the Naghsh-E-Jahan Stadium in Isfahan.

Iranian women in sports: A bright future ahead

TEHRAN – Women's sports in Iran have made remarkable progress over the past few decades. Despite various challenges, Iranian female athletes have continued to break barriers and inspire a new generation of girls to pursue their athletic dreams. Their dedication, skill, and determination have transformed the image of women's sports in the country, gaining both national and international recognition.

The 2025 Asian Youth Games in Bahrain marked another milestone in this journey. Iranian girls made history by winning titles in futsal, handball, and volleyball — three team sports that require strength, teamwork, and tactical intelligence. These victories not only showcased their talent but also reflected the growing support for women's sports programs and better training facilities in Iran.

Looking ahead, the future of Iranian women in the Asian Games and the Olympics

appears brighter than ever. With increasing investment in sports infrastructure, professional coaching, and international exposure, Iranian female athletes are poised to compete on equal footing with the world's best.

Their recent achievements prove that with opportunity and support, Iranian women can continue to shine — turning determination into medals and inspiring a new era of empowerment through sport.

Iranian girls stole the show in the Games. The handball team won a historic gold medal in this edition. Also, futsal and volleyball teams secured two gold medals and it shows how strong the Iranian women are.

Success in girls' handball, futsal, volleyball reflects growing strength in female youth sport in Iran – an encouraging trend for gender inclusion in sport.

Vafaei starts 2025 International Championship on high

TEHRAN – Hossein Vafaei of Iran started the 2025 International Championship on Monday.

Vafaei defeated Ryan Day from Wales 6-4 in the round of 64.

The Iranian snooker player will face John Higgins from Scotland in round of 32.

The 2025 International Championship is a professional snooker tournament that is taking place from November 2 to 9 November at the South New City National Fitness Center (SNCNFC) in Nanjing, China.

The qualifiers took place from 30 September to 2 October at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield, England.

The clash between Ryan Day and Hossein Vafaei at the International Championship promises to be intriguing. This match takes place in the round of 64, where every frame could be decisive for advancing in the tournament bracket. Both players are eager to improve their world rankings, adding extra intensity to the competition. The snooker players have a history of head-to-head encounters, with statistics indicating a closely fought battle, so fans can anticipate another thrilling contest.

Persepolis to face Tractor at 2025/26 Hazfi Cup Round of 32

TEHRAN – Tractor football team will host Persepolis at Round of 32 of the 2025/26 Iran's Hazfi Cup.

The match will be held in Tabriz's Yadegar-e Emam Stadium.

Defending champions Esteghlal will play minnow Keshto Sanat Padyab Khalkhal.

The round of 32 will be held from Nov. 19 to 22.

2024/25 Round of 32 Draw:

- *Tractor Tabriz vs Persepolis
- *Esteghlal vs Keshto Sanat Padyab Khalkhal
- *Chadormalou Yazd vs Zob Ahan Isfahan
- *Khaybar Khorramabad vs Kia Tehran
- *Gol Gohar Sirjan vs Shenavarsazi Qeshm
- *Foolad Hormozgan vs Chooka Talesh
- *Esteghlal Khuzestan vs Foolad Khuzestan
- *Paykan Tehran vs Shahr-dari Noshahr
- *Mes Kerman vs Sepahan Isfahan
- *Saipa Tehran vs Nassaji Mazandaran
- *Shams Azar vs Nirooye Zamini
- *Havadar Tehran vs Bargh Shiraz
- *Mes Rafsanjan vs Damashian Gilan
- *Mes Shahr-e Babak vs Fajr Sepasi Shiraz
- *Aluminum Arak vs Malavan Bandar Anzali

The Hazfi Cup is an Iranian knockout football competition held annually by the Football Federation of Iran. The competition was founded in 1976. Esteghlal are the most successful club with eight titles.

Iran Food Expo to showcase power of Iranian brands

TEHRAN- Rashid Azizpour, the secretary general of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations, stated that the Iranian Food Industries Exhibition titled IRAN FOOD EXPO, which will be held during December 3-6, at the Iran Mall Exhibition Center in Tehran, with the efforts of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations, will be held with a different approach this year.

The exhibition will be held with the goal of expanding export presence and enhancing the competitive capability of food industry products, he added.

According to him, the exhibition's main focus is on showcasing the strength of domestic brands, activating export capacities, and improving standards in the food industry's value chain. This approach can pave new paths for international interactions and facilitate the entry of Iranian brands into regional and global markets.

He emphasized that holding such events is not possible without the support of specialized organizations and the effective participation of the private sector.

"Today, it is necessary to combine the perspective on domestic production with an international approach; while supporting Iranian producers, the avenues of interaction with the world must also be maintained and strengthened", Azizpour further commented, adding that this exhibition is the starting point for moving towards enhancing export capacities and achieving developmental goals in the food industry.

the secretary general of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations added that this event provides an opportunity for Iranian brands to become familiar with international standards and the needs of target markets, adding, "Many foreign companies are prepared for technical cooperation and technology transfer, and efforts will be made to introduce the country's competitive advantages in a way that practical cooperation is formed to pave the way for the sales and long-term presence of Iranian companies in target markets."

Azizpour, referring to the presence of food industry representatives and entrepreneurs from various countries, stated that foreign participants are invited not only as visitors but also as potential partners in production, technology, packaging, and the distribution chain. Their presence can lay the ground for face-to-face negotiations and joint planning



for trade development and enhancing Iran's share in regional markets.

He continued, "As the global economy moves towards integrating production chains and focusing on food security, specialized exhibitions play a vital role in showcasing capabilities, building professional networks, and discovering trade opportunities (exports and imports). For this reason, this year, the Federation of Iranian Food Associations, through meticulous planning and collaboration with the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and joint chambers of commerce, has created a platform to introduce the country's real capacities internationally and pursue cooperation opportunities in a targeted manner."

Azizpour emphasized, "The goal of this event is not merely product display, but rather establishing a sustainable network of cooperation between domestic producers and foreign partners to increase the share of Iranian companies in international value chains. Iran aims to become a regional hub for connection and cooperation in the food industry; a place where technology, capital, and markets converge, charting the path for the sustainable development of this industry."

In conclusion, the secretary general of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations stressed the role of specialized exhibitions in better showcasing product quality, technical expertise, and foreign trade – including the export capabilities of Iranian companies and opportunities for import cooperation, and stated, "This can create a positive and reliable image of the food industry internationally and lay the groundwork for attracting effective and long-term trade interactions."

Tehran hosting 25th intl. Industry Exhibition



TEHRAN – The 25th International Industry Exhibition has opened at Tehran's Permanent International Fair Grounds, bringing together more than 300 Iranian and foreign companies to showcase the latest industrial technologies, equipment, and engineering solutions.

Spanning an area of about 18,000 square meters, the four-day event runs from November 3 to 6, 2025.

The exhibition features leading manufacturers and service providers in machinery and production lines, workshop equipment, industrial automation, spare parts, precision tools, advanced industries, and engineering services.

Foreign participants from Germany, China, Turkey, India, South Korea, Japan, and the Czech Republic are attending to present their technological achievements and explore business opportunities in Iran's growing industrial market.

Organizers said the exhibition aims to promote innovation and competitiveness among Iranian manufacturers, facilitate the introduction of global technologies to domestic producers, and strengthen industrial supply chains and export capacity.

The exhibition also seeks to attract both domestic and foreign investment, enhance cooperation between industry players, and support Iran's move toward modernization of its production infrastructure.

Visitors and participants will have the opportunity to engage in business-to-business (B2B) meetings, hold trade negotiations, and sign cooperation agreements.

The event serves as one of Iran's largest industrial gatherings, offering a comprehensive platform for networking among producers, suppliers, and investors seeking to expand their reach in regional and international markets.

Pezeshkian inaugurates 4 key water, power projects across Iran

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday inaugurated four major water and power projects nationwide via video conference, marking a new step in expanding Iran's renewable energy capacity and improving water infrastructure.

According to the Energy Ministry, the inaugurated projects include renewable power plants and electricity optimization programs with a total capacity of 917 megawatts and a combined investment of about \$330 million.



The ceremony also featured the launch of the Sahand combined-cycle power plant in East Azarbaijan Province, the Robat Karim wastewater treatment facility in Tehran Province, and the Taleqan water transfer system to supply drinking water to Tehran and Alborz.

Officials said the new projects would enhance energy efficiency, secure water resources, and boost service reliability across several regions.

Iran, China stress creation of joint cooperative committee to boost economic ties

TEHRAN – Iran and China have agreed to form a joint cooperative committee to enhance collaboration in key economic sectors, including agriculture, mining, petrochemicals, and joint investment, officials from both sides said during a meeting in Tehran.

The meeting was held between Bahman Abdollahi, head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, and Cong Peiwu, China's ambassador to Iran.

Both sides underscored the long-standing strategic partnership between Tehran and Beijing and explored new avenues for cooperation between cooperative enterprises in the two countries.

Abdollahi noted that Iran's cooperative sector, with more than 104,000 active cooperatives, has remained unaffected by foreign sanctions and can serve as a reliable channel for economic engagement with friendly nations such as China. He proposed forming a joint committee to coordinate joint projects, trade missions, and specialized exhibitions in Tehran and Beijing.

He also highlighted the potential for collaboration in modern irrigation, seed and vaccine production, and animal feed technologies, as well as mineral processing and petrochemical industries.

Abdollahi added that the current trade volume between Iran and China stands at about \$14 billion, but with the existing capacities, that figure could rise substantially through strengthened cooperative and industrial partnerships.

In early October, Majid-Reza Hariri, the chairman of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce, commented on the extent to which the UN Security Council sanctions would affect Iran-China relations, and stated: "Given that none of the UN sanctions are trade-related and instead pertain to the nuclear industry and some sectors of the country's missile industries, consequently, they should not impact our normal trade with China."

He added: "Although the U.S. sanctions have completely prohibited oil sales, we see that the Chinese are currently buying nearly over 90 percent of the country's oil. Therefore, UN sanctions are not related to the commercial sphere and logically should not affect these types of relations either."

Hariri further added: "The UN sanctions will have psychological and secondary effects which must be examined."

As previously announced by Abolfazl Akbarpour, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) for planning and international affairs, the value of non-oil trade between Iran and China stood at \$34.1 billion in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2025.

He said that importing non-oil goods worth \$14.8 billion from Iran, China was the first destination of Iranian products in the past year.

He also announced that by exporting non-oil products valued at \$19.3 billion to Iran, China was the second source of import for Iran in that year.

On May 4, Iran-China Business Development Forum convened at the Tehran Cham-

ber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), with the participation of China's ambassador to Iran, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, and senior officials from the Tehran Chamber.

A large number of business leaders from both countries attended the event, where state, legislative, and private-sector strategies for deepening bilateral trade ties were outlined, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Opening the event, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab welcomed Chinese delegates who traveled to Iran for the Iran Expo. He expressed gratitude for the Chinese ambassador's continued efforts to expand economic ties between the two nations.

Najafi Arab said Iran and China share thousands of years of cultural and commercial relations, which have entered a new phase in recent decades, marked by growing partnerships across multiple sectors. He said the two countries could serve as a model for sustainable cooperation based on mutual respect in today's increasingly interdependent world.

He also highlighted recent visits of Iranian private sector delegations to various Chinese provinces and exhibitions, emphasizing the need to identify investment opportunities and facilitate financial exchanges. The Chamber, with over 140 years of history, is prepared to host expert meetings, present economic opportunities, support joint ventures, and activate professional networks between Iranian and Chinese businesses, he said.

China's Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu, thanked Iranian participants and the Tehran Chamber for organizing the event. He expressed hope that the forum would help strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Referencing the recent meeting between the two presidents at the BRICS summit in Russia, Cong said China is fully committed to enhancing cooperation across all sectors in ways that benefit both peoples.

Also speaking at the forum, Ruhollah Nejbat, chair of the Iran-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, said Iran's non-oil exports to China surpassed \$14.8 billion last year, making China the largest destination for Iranian goods and accounting for about one-quarter of Iran's total non-oil exports. Imports from China reached approximately \$19.3 billion, or 27 percent of Iran's total imports, making China Iran's second-largest import partner after the United Arab Emirates.

These figures, he said, demonstrate the resilience and strategic importance of Iran-China trade, even amid global economic slowdown, with both countries supplying a significant portion of each other's needs.

Nejbat noted that Iran's Seventh National Development Plan emphasizes industrial modernization and attracting foreign capital and technology. He said Iran aims to upgrade its industries—from automotive and textiles to pharmaceuticals and medical equipment—and that this will be achieved more quickly with partners like China, now a global industrial superpower.

Iran, Russia agree to form joint transport task force, digital single window

TEHRAN – Iran and Russia have agreed to establish a joint transport task force and launch a digital single window system between Tehran and Moscow to address logistical challenges and boost bilateral trade, a senior Iranian transport official said.

According to Mehdi Asadi, head of logistics and multimodal transport at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), the two initia-

tives aim to streamline customs procedures, enhance transparency, and facilitate trade operations between the two countries.

Asadi said the agreement followed recent talks between Iranian and Russian transport officials, during which the two sides discussed shipping challenges in the Caspian Sea, obstacles along the eastern branch of the International North-South Transit Corri-

He added that technology transfer and joint investment are two strategic priorities for Iran. Chinese firms, he said, could take advantage of Iran's market size and skilled labor to establish production lines and access broader regional markets.

Conversely, Iran could supply intermediary goods and industrial components needed by Chinese industries. Nejbat said Iran will offer special incentives for foreign industrial investment and provide a secure legal environment for Chinese companies. Infrastructure development—including rail networks, highways, and ports—is also a priority, and many of these projects will require Chinese expertise and participation.

He also pointed to Iran's largely untapped mining sector, including vast reserves of iron, copper, aluminum, and rare earth elements, as an area ripe for development and export growth.

Speaking at the forum, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), outlined four key strategies for expanding trade with China. The first is technology transfer. He said Chinese companies have made major investments in research and development, much of which has not yet been fully commercialized. Iran, as a long-time partner, seeks deeper collaboration in these cutting-edge sectors.

The second strategy, he said, is increasing trade in high value-added goods. Currently, much of the bilateral trade consists of raw or semi-processed materials. The average value of Iran's exports stands at less than \$400 per ton. "We want to change that," he said, calling on Chinese importers to prioritize Iranian products with higher added value. He welcomed the Chinese ambassador's praise for the competitiveness of Iranian nanotechnology and biotechnology products.

The third strategy is joint production through co-investment. Dehnavi said Iran offers a secure investment climate, with legal guarantees allowing foreign investors to repatriate both capital and profits. "There are many documented cases of investors successfully exiting after profitable ventures," he said.

Iran offers highly competitive costs, a wide range of investment opportunities, and strong security for foreign capital, he added, expressing hope for increased joint ventures with Chinese firms.

The fourth strategy is mutual market access. Dehnavi said Iran produces many goods that are well-suited for the Chinese market and that joint production could also help both countries expand into third-country markets. "This kind of cooperation can make our trade ties deeper and more sustainable," he said.

Fereydown Vardinejad, secretary general of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, said China had stood by Iran during both stable and turbulent times, and that the two peoples share a strong emotional bond.

However, he warned that a lack of information exchange and mutual understanding of economic capacities had led to a wide gap between political relations and economic realities. "Our ties are excellent in potential but need significant work in practice," he said.

dor (INSTC), and trade imbalances.

He added that the creation of a permanent joint working group would allow regular meetings to monitor progress and coordinate solutions.

Both sides, Asadi noted, demonstrated strong commitment to overcoming current barriers and expanding transport capacity between Iran and Russia.

From Gaza to Darfur: Mossad’s strategic footprint in Sudan’s genocide

From page 1 ► According to the UN and eyewitnesses, the takeover was accompanied by mass killings, with RSF fighters reportedly separating men from women and children before executing civilians. The Sudanese government has stated that at least 2,000 people were killed, while medical sources cited by Al Jazeera and local witnesses suggest the real number could be significantly higher. The Red Cross described the situation as “absolutely beyond what we can consider acceptable,” warning of tens of thousands trapped without food, water, or medical aid.

The United States has officially labeled RSF’s actions in the Darfur city of Geneina during an earlier stage of the two-and-a-half-year civil war as genocide, and the fall of el-Fasher may soon join that designation.

Geopolitical gains

Israel’s pivot toward the RSF is not ideological—it is strategic, transactional, and deeply rooted in regional calculus.

Future leverage: The RSF now controls key swaths of Sudan, including parts of Darfur and Kordofan. Supporting the RSF gives Israel a stake in the post-war order, especially if RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, widely known as Hemedti, emerges as Sudan’s dominant power broker.

Red Sea access: Sudan borders



the Red Sea—a corridor vital to Israel’s maritime security and trade. RSF territorial gains bring it closer to Port Sudan and Red Sea logistics routes, offering Israel indirect influence over a region increasingly contested by Persian Gulf powers and global rivals.

UAE-Israel-RSF nexus: The United Arab Emirates, RSF’s primary backer, is also one of Israel’s closest regional allies. Intelligence coordination between Mossad and Emirati services has reportedly facilitated covert support for RSF, including drone warfare tactics and battlefield logistics.

Normalization calculus: Hemedti has signaled openness to finalizing Sudan’s normalization with Israel, a process stalled since 2020. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, commander of the SAF and Sudan’s internation-

ally recognized leader, has also expressed interest in normalization—but Israel’s engagement has leaned more decisively toward Hemedti and the RSF. Unlike SAF’s leadership, which is weighed down by rigid command structures and a legacy of repression, the RSF presents itself as agile and pragmatic—despite its record of mass atrocities.

Gaza playbook

The RSF has begun to mirror Israeli military rhetoric, invoking “human shields,” “urban warfare,” and “terrorist enclaves” to justify attacks on displacement shelters, clinics, and mosques. These are not just linguistic echoes—they reflect a shared strategic doctrine: the use of civilian infrastructure as battlegrounds, the deployment of drones for precision strikes, and the framing of mass violence as counterterrorism.

The comparison is deeply troubling. Just as Israel has faced global condemnation for its operations in Gaza—including formal accusations of genocide filed at the International Court of Justice—RSF now stands accused of genocide in Darfur, with eerily similar justifications. The convergence of tactics and messaging suggests not just influence, but ideological alignment in how war is waged and narrated.

The U.S. role

Despite condemning RSF, the United States has done little to curb its foreign sponsors—chiefly the UAE and Israel. This contradiction reveals a deeper truth: Washington’s condemnation may function more as a rhetorical gesture than as a policy directive.

The U.S. continues close strategic partnerships with both the UAE and Israel, despite their entanglement in RSF’s rise. Sudan’s normalization with Israel remains a U.S. foreign policy goal. If the RSF is the only actor willing to finalize that deal, Washington may quietly tolerate Mossad’s engagement—even if it undermines its own genocide designation.

Israel’s support is unofficial and routed through intelligence channels, giving both sides plausible deniability. The result is a policy that signals moral clarity but enables strategic ambiguity—a hallmark of realpolitik in a decade of proliferating wars.

Israel, U.S. fabricating a plot to justify attack on Iraq

From page 1 ► Alongside this, more false stories have been circulated: that Iran’s IRGC Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani is meeting Iraqi resistance leaders; that Kataib Hezbollah controls long-range drones; that the occupying regime is striking “logistics hubs” near the Iran–Iraq border; and that the “96th Gilad Division is training intensively in the Jordan Valley.”

These fabrications have no verified sources. They are part of a broader disinformation campaign to paint Iraq as an Iranian pawn and to justify future attacks by the Zionist regime and its American backers.

Breaking down false claims

1. Iraqi forces are national, not foreign-controlled
Iraq’s armed forces, including the Popular Mobilization Forces, operate under the authority of Iraq’s commander-in-chief and the Ministry of Defense. They are funded by Baghdad, not Tehran. Calling them Iranian-controlled is a clear attempt by the occupying regime and Washington to weaken Iraq’s sovereignty and independence.
2. Iraq wants peace, not another war

After two decades of war and terrorism, Iraq’s government has made it clear that it strongly opposes any new conflicts. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and his national security advisor Qasim al-Araji have repeatedly made this clear.

With elections approaching, Iraq’s focus is on stability, security, and rebuilding, not confrontation with the Zionist regime or anyone else.

3. No proof of an Iraqi attack plan

There is no credible evidence that the Iraqi resistance movement is preparing to fire missiles or send drones toward the Israeli regime. The idea of a coordinated Iraqi strike is unrealistic and makes no military sense. It is designed to give the United States and the occupying regime an excuse to attack Iraq and increase pressure on Iran.

4. Misrepresentation of Iranian contacts

Claims that Iran’s Quds Force chief General Qaani is directing Iraqi resistance groups are false. If General Qaani visits Iraq, he would meet government officials, not resistance leaders. The Zionist regime and its American allies are twisting normal diplomatic or security protocols into tales of “ter-



ror coordination” to support their narrative.

5. Exaggerated stories about the resistance

The claim that Kataib Hezbollah, a unit of the Popular Mobilization Forces, controls long-range drones aimed at the Israeli regime is also false. The group has no interest in igniting new tensions, especially after assurances by the government in Baghdad that U.S. occupation forces are leaving Iraq. These exaggerated allegations serve only to make Iraq appear like a threat and justify new acts of aggression by the United States and the occupying regime.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Electoral crisis and shadow of Geagea’s presidential ambition

A dispute over expatriate voting exposes Lebanon’s entrenched political maneuvering and paralysis

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam’s cabinet has postponed a decision on proposed electoral amendments until Thursday, awaiting the report of a ministerial committee tasked with reviewing the changes.

What is unfolding in Lebanon goes far beyond debates over electoral law or expatriate voting. While this delay appears procedural, it masks a deeper political struggle: Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces (LF), is leveraging the timing and diaspora votes to strengthen his position amid declining domestic and regional standing.

The Thursday committee report will play a pivotal role in determining whether the 16th electoral district for expatriates is abolished or modified. Its conclusions could either consolidate Geagea’s influence among diaspora voters or diminish his party’s political leverage, making the committee a key chess piece in the broader struggle over Lebanon’s parliamentary and presidential future.

The 16th district: An electoral innovation under debate

Lebanon’s 2017 electoral law divides the country into 15 districts, electing 122 of 128 parliamentary seats pro-

portionally. The 16th District is exceptional, created for Lebanese expatriates. It comprises six seats—Maronite, Orthodox, Catholic, Sunni, Shiite, and Druze—each representing a different continent: Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Oceania.

The district aimed to strengthen ties between Lebanon and its diaspora but was postponed twice due to political and logistical disagreements.

Opponents argue it gives expatriates disproportionate influence; supporters see it as a symbolic step toward transnational citizenship.

The committee report due Thurs-

day will decide whether to abolish the district or unify expatriate voting with domestic ballots.

Expatriates, frozen funds, and political paradoxes

The debate also touches a major financial and ethical issue: the non-return of depositors’ funds, most of whom are Lebanese abroad—the same expatriates now demanding voting rights. Many feel their votes are treated as electoral tools while their looted savings remain trapped in banks protected by the very authorities claiming to represent them.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

querors who, by arms and fire, destroyed millions of the indigenous peoples of Central and South America, and to American colonists who waged war against “wild nature” and against the “savage Red Indians.”

This is only a sliver of the vast corpus of Zionist thought, culture, and literature taught in their educational institutions — especially in religious Jewish schools — texts and curricula that, in effect, call for “the extermination of the Amalekite Arabs” — here referring to the Palestinians.

To whom is Menachem Begin alluding when he speaks of “killers?” It is plain that he is referring to the Palestinian Arabs defending their homeland and their very existence.

David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister of the Zionist entity, likewise expressed his conviction that “force and violence are a civilizational rebirth” for the people of Israel — the modern continuation of ancient “Judea.” He proclaimed: “Judea fell by blood and fire, and by blood and fire it will rise again.”

He compared Jewish settlers in Palestine to the Spanish con-

Gaza’s shadow over NYC: How a mayoral race turned into a moral referendum

Calling genocide by its name, Zohran Mamdani forced a reckoning and unleashed a fierce counterattack



By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Zohran Kwame Mamdani, the Ugandan-Indian son of a postcolonial scholar who was born in Uganda, has done something the pundit class assumed impossible: his campaign dragged the once-distant politics of Gaza into the center of a New York mayoral election and forced voters to decide whether American power remains accountable.

Mamdani’s blunt language — “We are on the brink of a genocide of Palestinians in Gaza” — didn’t occur in ivory-tower debate; it landed in subway stations, viral clips, and the homework of swing voters.

That moral naming is the reason his rise matters and the reason the backlash was immediate.

When he doubled down with lines like “If I’m the Mayor, the NYPD will arrest Netanyahu” and “It is important that NYC is in compliance with international criminal law,” Mamdani signaled that his politics weren’t just rhetorical—they were about wielding power in ways that unsettled the establishment.

What followed reads less like policy disagreement than a coordinated playbook to otherize. AI-generated attack ads, some quickly deleted but widely seen, portrayed Mamdani’s supporters in criminalized, racialized terms; civil-rights groups called it racist and dangerous.

This is old-fashioned Islamophobia in new clothes: codewords, manufactured fear, and now AI to amplify the lie.

At the same time, Trump publicly labeled him a “communist” and threatened to curtail federal support for New York if Mamdani won—a move that turns municipal elections into a constitutional skirmish.

Polls show Mamdani leading into election day, fueled by under-45 turnout and a coalition of Muslims, Arabs, young progressives, and disillusioned working voters who care about rent, transit, and childcare as much as foreign policy.

But popularity is not the same as power. Mayors can use procurement, divestment, and moral pressure — not unilaterally halt arms shipments or rewrite foreign policy — and pretending otherwise shrinks political courage by rewarding tactical retreats.

A sober left must hold two truths at once. First: Mamdani injected moral clarity when much of the party offered platitudes. If naming genocide shocks a nation into debate, that’s a strategic gain.

Second: the left’s history includes a parade of rhetorically brave figures — Sanders, AOC, and other Squad members — whose supposed courage dissolved when tested, leaving only theatrical posturing and habitual compromise.

Criticism of Israel, conditional aid, and BDS are righteous stances; translating them into lasting policy requires sustained organizing and the willingness to use power, not only language. Words are

wind; policy is the millstone that grinds them into change.

There are also tactical errors that opponents seized. Mamdani’s earlier refusal to disown certain provocation-ready slogans gave adversaries a tidy opening: conflate critique of Israel with support for violence.

Later walk-backs — discouraging inflammatory phrasing and promising Jewish New Yorkers protection — may have appeared as politically necessary, but they also revealed how easily moral clarity becomes political liability. The left should neither demand martyrdom nor accept dilution as inevitability. It must sharpen strategy, not surrender principle.

The broader story is structural. Gaza has loosened old partisan loyalties: younger Jews and Jewish progressive organizations canvassed for Mamdani even as institutional bodies tied to the Israel lobby mobilized in opposition.

If the Democratic Party cannot move from rhetoric to real leverage — conditioning aid, building congressional pressure — it risks losing the very base that wants ethical coherence.

This brings us to the crux of the matter. Mamdani is neither saint nor savior: he is a test case. If he wins and governs by principle and practical coalition-building, his administration could model municipal solidarity that constrains complicity.

“Mamdani has turned NYC’s mayoral race into a test of moral courage: can the city use municipal power—contracts, divestment, sanctuary—against complicity, or will entrenched political and financial forces bend principle into performance?”

If he retreats into the comfortable compromises that blunted other progressives, Gaza’s will be another missed turning point for the American left.

Worse, the political and financial establishment may actively try to make a Mamdani-led NYC fail—starving it of resources, weaponizing regulation and markets, or otherwise setting it up as a cautionary tale—just as the U.S. empire has historically undermined left-leaning experiments abroad.

The choice New Yorkers face is larger than one man: will a city known for its immigrant muscle keep its moral nerve, or will fear and money snuff out a rare alignment of conscience and politics? Strike while the iron is hot — and return to the forge when the fire wanes.

Israeli fire kills three north of Rafah despite ceasefire

Three Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire north of Rafah, Nasser Medical Complex staff told Al Jazeera, in what many observers consider a breach of the fragile ceasefire.

The Israeli military said it struck after alleging people crossed the so-called “yellow line,” but it was unclear whether that attack caused the deaths.

Separately, al-Ahli Arab Hospital reported a child among three wounded by gunfire in eastern Gaza City.

Since the October 10 truce, repeated Israeli strikes have killed over 100 Gazans, according to health officials. The incidents have intensified a humanitarian crisis of acute malnutrition and growing neurological illness.

House of late Dr. Shariati even highlights Davarzan's history and culture, governor says



TEHRAN – The house of the late Dr. Ali Shariati, the 20th-century Iranian revolutionary and sociologist renowned for his work on the sociology of religion, holds significance beyond being a historical monument, the governor of Davarzan has said.

Hassan Qorbani noted that the building can serve as a cultural hub, introducing the rich history and traditions of Davarzan in Khorasan Razavi province to tourists and researchers alike.

Speaking on the sidelines of a visit to the historical house of Dr. Shariati in the village of Kahak, Qorbani emphasized the need to preserve the site as a cultural and identity landmark of the city, ISNA reported on Monday.

Dr. Ali Shariati, one of the most prominent contemporary thinkers of Iran, has had a profound impact on the social and cultural thoughts of the people throughout his life, he said.

He noted that Dr. Shariati's house, which is known as a symbol of thoughts and life of this great thinker, is not only considered a historical monument but also provides a space for those interested in Shariati's works and thoughts to gather.

Qorbani considered the protection of this house to be very important, adding that preservation and restoration of Dr. Shariati's house is considered a national and cultural duty.

The governor referred to the current conditions of this building and stated that the worn-out texture and the collapse of parts of the walls and ceiling have created a worrying situation, and this issue requires immediate and expert attention.

He said that this building must be seriously preserved, adding that the restoration of this valuable work must be prioritized to prevent its further destruction.

Qorbani pointed out that Dr. Shariati's house can serve as a cultural and educational center that provides a suitable space for holding the workshops and exhibitions related to Shariati's works and ideas. "By reviving this place, new generations can benefit from his ideas and participate in cultural and social discourses."

He also pointed to the importance of preparing a comprehensive report on the current situation and estimating the costs for the restoration of this monument. "This report will be sent to the relevant provincial and national administrations to provide the funding and start the restoration operations as soon as possible. This action will be an effective step in the protection and restoration of this historical monument and a good opportunity to attract the attention and support of various institutions."

Davarzan continued that attracting tourists to this place can help the economic and social development of the region and at the same time increase public awareness of Dr. Shariati's thoughts and their importance.

He emphasized that paying attention to Dr. Shariati's house not only helps preserve a historical monument, but also strengthens the cultural and social identity of Davarzan county.

"Given the various threats that have put the cultural heritage at risk, it is essential that we all pay special attention to this issue and strive to protect these historical and cultural monuments."

Qorbani noted: "Dr. Shariati's house, as a symbol of Iranian thought, should be a priority in the cultural and social programs of Davarzan county so that we can properly protect it and pass it on to future generations."

The historical monument of Dr. Ali Shariati's house and birthplace in Kahak village, Davarzan county, was registered under number 9591 on the National Heritage List of Iran in 2003.

Dr. Shariati is known as a cultural and social figure whose ideas have had a profound impact on the country's contemporary history.

Although Dr. Shariati's origins go back to the village of Mazinan, located 80 kilometers west of Sabzevar, he was born in the village of Kahak. This village is known not only as the birthplace of this great thinker, but also has special significance due to Dr. Shariati's family and cultural connections to this region. His birthplace house is currently a historical and cultural monument, requiring attention and protection.

Lighting and security system installed at Lar's Neshat Garden



TEHRAN – The Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Larestan has completed and inaugurated a lighting and surveillance camera project at the historical Neshat Garden in Lar, southern Iran, the department's head said.

Mohammad-Ebrahim Kian, head of the Larestan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts office, said the project is aimed to enhance the security of the Bagh-e Neshat historical site, improve urban tourism infrastructure, and enhance the visual appeal of the complex during nighttime.

"It not only helps preserve and protect the site but also plays a significant role in attracting tourists and promoting cultural and social activities," Kian said.

He added that the Bagh-e Neshat mansion, one of Larestan's well-known landmarks, dates back to 1156 AH (1743 CE) and was listed as a national heritage site in 1974 under registration number 973.

Located in Fars province, Lar is a historic city known for its traditional bazaars, old caravanserais, mosques, and ancient fortifications, where both modern and traditional architecture coexist.

Golestan Palace: centuries-old canal to be restored to revive Persian garden layout

TEHRAN – Restoration work on a historical water canal at Tehran's UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace is set to begin after 13 years, as part of efforts to revive the traditional geometry of the Persian garden.

The north-south stream, also known as the Naseri canal, named after the Qajar monarch Naser al-Din Shah, was last restored in 2012 through nonstandard methods and later abandoned, IRNA reported on Monday.

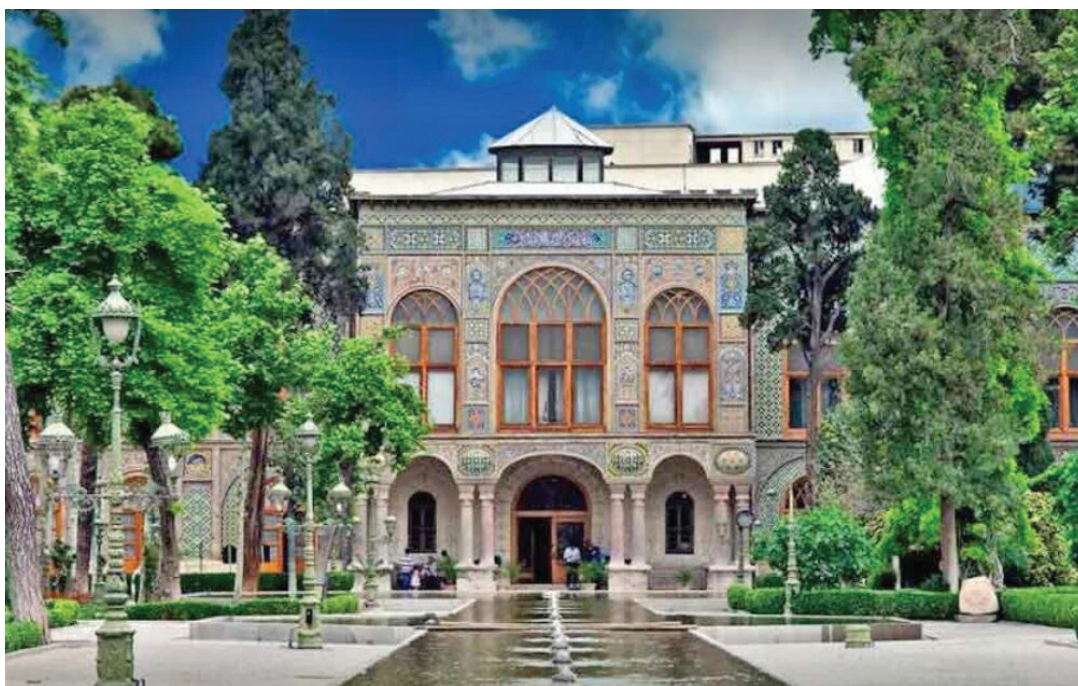
The new restoration aims to conceptually recreate the flow of water and restore the original spatial design of the palace gardens, officials said.

Ali Omidali, expert for the Golestan Palace World Heritage Site, said the restoration plan was drafted in 2024 and approved by the site's steering and technical councils.

"Because the original qanat that supplied the canal has dried up, the restoration will be symbolic, using circulating water to recreate the sense of flow and preserve the garden's central geometry," Omidali told IRNA.

He said the canal will contain about 50,000 liters of water flowing at a shallow depth of around 10 centimeters. To conserve resources, fountains within the palace complex have also been repaired, including the Almas Mansion fountain, which was restored earlier this year using modern sealing technology.

"The Naserieh Canal forms the core of the Persian garden layout," Omidali said. "Restoring geometric order, planting climate-adapted species, and rehabilitating garden axes are key elements of the project."



Golestan Palace Director Afarin Emami said the complex still uses a historic well to irrigate its green spaces. After the canal's restoration, part of the well water will be redirected into the canal for aesthetic purposes, she said.

Emami added that during summer, when the well's water level drops, the Tehran municipality provides additional water by tanker. She said the site has ended the use of chlorine for water clarification to allow natural recycling of water within the garden and that a smart irrigation study is underway in cooperation with the Cultural Heritage Ministry.

According to Emami, the project will allow Golestan Palace to recover part of its historic structure and symbolically revive the concept of the Persian garden in the center of Tehran.

Located in the heart of Tehran's historic core, the palace complex is one of the oldest in the city, originally built during the Safavid dynasty within the historic walled city. Over time, it underwent several expansions, receiving its most defining features in the 19th century, when it was designated as the royal residence and seat of power by the Qajar ruling family. Today, the Golestan Palace complex comprises eight main palace structures, primarily used as museums, along with the eponymous gardens, a central green space surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

The complex exemplifies the architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era, including the integration of European motifs and styles into Persian art. It served not only as the governing base of the Qajar

kings but also as a residential and recreational compound and a center of artistic production during the 19th century. Through these activities, it became a primary source and hub of Qajar art and architecture.

Golestan Palace offers a unique and rich testimony to the architectural language and decorative arts of the Qajar period, particularly reflecting the legacy of Naser al-Din Shah. The palace showcases European-inspired artistic motifs alongside Persian traditions, representing some of the earliest examples of a synthesized European-Persian style. This blend became a defining characteristic of Iranian art and architecture in the late 19th and 20th centuries, with parts of the palace complex regarded as foundational to the modern Iranian artistic movement.

UNESCO recognizes Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha

TEHRAN--The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recognized the two major Islamic holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha at the 43rd session of UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand.

According to IRIB, this decision was ratified following a proposal from the Republic of Indonesia and based on Resolution 219 of Executive Council at the General Conference.

Based on this resolution, the General Conference has asked UNESCO Director-General to publish a special message each year to commemorate these two major Islamic holidays in order to recall the cultural, social and spiritual importance of these occasions throughout the world.

The aim of this action is to strengthen



cultural understanding and mutual respect, expand dialogue and cooperation between religions, promote social cohesion and inclusiveness in global communities, and advance UNESCO's mission to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and cultural diversity.

This action is in line with UNESCO's core mission to strengthen global peace and mu-

tual respect among nations, and will effectively contribute to creating a more inclusive and respectful world. UNESCO's recognition of the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha holidays is a sign of the international community's respect for cultural and spiritual heritage and can be a symbolic step towards strengthening the global unity and solidarity.

Eid al-Fitr is a festival which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, with prayer, reunions with family and friends, new clothes and sweet treats.

Eid al-Adha is one of the holiest celebrations of the Islamic calendar. Muslims mark the holiday by slaughtering animals such as sheep and goats. The meat is shared among family and friends and also donated to the poor.

Ardabil aims to become hub for health and winter tourism, governor-general says

TEHRAN – Ardabil province, with its more than 1,800 historical monuments, unique natural attractions, and excellent geopolitical position, is on track to become Iran's leading hub for health, winter, and nature-based tourism.

Announcing this, Ardabil Governor-General Masoud Emami-Yeganeh emphasized the strategic position of this northwestern province in the development of the country's tourism, Miras Aria (CHTN) reported.

Speaking at the 24th meeting of the Strategic Council of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, which was held in the presence of Minister of Cultural Heritage Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri on Monday, he said that Ardabil is one of the most important tourism destinations in the country, hosting more than five million domestic tourists annually.

Referring to the province's privileged geopolitical location, Emami-Yeganeh said: "Ardabil is the gateway to the Caucasus and the geopolitical connection point of the Islamic Republic of

Iran with the region. This feature, along with the climatic diversity from the Moghan Plain to the slopes of Sabalan, has paved the way for the formation of health, nature, and winter tourism axes."

He added that with 110 hot and mineral springs, Ardabil is one of the main origins of medical tourism in the country. The creation of a special health tourism zone centered on Sarein county is on the agenda, and negotiations with investment holdings in this area have reached the final stage, he pointed out.

Emami-Yeganeh announced the development of winter tourism in the slopes of Sabalan and said: "Two active ski resorts in the Alvares region and the Sabalan tourism complex have been equipped with an investment of 230 billion rials (\$230,000)."

This infrastructure has provided the basis for holding the national and international winter sports competitions, and Sarein Winter Festival is being held in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

Referring to the prominent

position of the province's handicrafts, he stated that Ardabil is one of the national hubs of handicrafts; the Sabalan carpet and Ardabil pottery brands have captured the attention worldwide.

The governor-general added that creating permanent bazaars, launching a comprehensive entrepreneurship center, and holding international handicraft exhibitions are on the agenda and will be implemented with support of the Cultural Heritage Ministry.

Referring to the cross-border capacities of the province, he said that during the recent visit of Azerbaijan President, the formation of a joint tourism committee between Iran and Azerbaijan was agreed by the two countries.

Ardabil, as a cultural connection point between the two nations, is ready to host international meetings such as the ECO Silk Road Taskforce and the D8 summit, he added.

Emami-Yeganeh stated that currently, 90 investment projects worth more than 350,000 billion rials (\$350 million) and

generating jobs for 3,500 people are being implemented.

A total of 24 tourism infrastructure projects is also underway with a financial requirement of about 600 billion rials (\$600,000), and the participation of the ministry and the province in providing financial resources is anticipated.

Emphasizing the importance of the infrastructure, he said that Ardabil-Mianeh railway project, which is one of the country's national and strategic projects, will be put into operation by the end of this year with the allocation of 250,000 billion rials (\$250 million).

Developing transportation axes, rural roads for tourism, and increasing domestic flights are other priorities of the government in the province, he added.

The governor announced the launch of an airline with an Ardabil base in the coming months, adding that launching flights from Ardabil to Kish, Parsabad, and other domestic destinations is on the agenda to strengthen the province's air tourism links.

Iran secures first place among Islamic nations in Leiden ranking

TEHRAN – The 2025 Leiden University ranking system has included 48 Iranian universities among the top 1,594 universities worldwide, up from 46 in 2024, ranking the country first among Islamic nations in terms of the number of universities for the second consecutive year.

A total of 184 universities from Islamic countries are included in this year's ranking. Turkey, with 45 universities, Saudi Arabia, with 20, Pakistan, with 16, and Egypt, with 15, are placed second and fifth, respectively, IRNA reported.

The University of Tehran (ranked 166 globally), Tehran University of Medical Sciences (ranked 235), and Iran University of Science and Technology (ranked 361) rank first to third in the country.

Tarbiat Modares University (372), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (383), Amirkabir University of Technology (408), University of Tabriz (508), Sharif University of Technology (510), Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (512), and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences (525) are placed fourth to tenth, respectively.

The Leiden Ranking provides indicators of scientific impact, collaboration, open access publishing, and gender diversity. Size matters when comparing universities: performance can be viewed from an absolute or a relative perspective (e.g., the number versus the percentage of highly cited publications). That is why size-dependent and size-independent indicators are consistently presented together in the Leiden Ranking. This highlights that both types of indicators need to be taken into account. The ranking uses publications over a four-year period (2020–2023 for the 2025 release).

Compared with other university rankings, the Leiden Ranking offers more advanced bibliometric indicators. The underlying methodology is richly documented. The Leiden Ranking provides information exclusively about the research done at universities. Research is represented in publications, and carefully collected data about



these publications form the basis for the Leiden Ranking. This basis also ensures the independence of the Leiden Ranking, since there is no reliance on data submitted by the universities themselves. Finally, because universities are complex institutions that have a variety of forms, contexts, and missions, their performance cannot be represented by a single number.

Recent rankings

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 has placed 101 Iranian universities among the top institutions, up from 85 universities in 2025.

The 2026 rankings include 2,191 ranked universities from 115 countries and territories. There are 99 new entries compared with last year.

The THE World University Rankings are the only global performance tables that judge research-intensive universities across all their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology are among the top Iranian universities, with a global ranking of 351-400.

Iran University of Science and Technology and University of Tehran were jointly placed second, ranking 401-500 globally. Shiraz

University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked third collectively, with a global ranking of 501-600.

Twelve other universities are ranked 601-800 worldwide, including Alborz University of Medical Sciences, Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Babol University of Medical Sciences, Golestan University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan University of Technology, Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares University, University of Tabriz, and Urmia University of Medical Sciences.

The 2024 World University Rankings (WUR) report by the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has included 72 Iranian universities, up from 69 in 2023. A total of 426 universities from 31 Islamic countries are listed in the ranking, where Turkey, with 102 universities and Iran, with 72 universities, and Pakistan, with 39 universities, are placed first to third, IRNA reported.

Among the top universities of Islamic countries, Saudi Arabia ranks 172. Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Egypt jointly rank 401-450, Qatar ranks 451-500, and Turkey, the UAE, and Lebanon rank 501-600.

Tehran University's ranking has changed from 501-600 in 2023 to 401-500 in 2024. The University is placed first in the country. Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranks second. The university's global ranking is 501-600, up from 601-700 in 2023.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences' ranking has also improved from 801-900 in 2023 to 601-700 in 2024, ranking third in the country. Sharif University of Technology and Tarbiat Modares University are placed fourth and Fifth, respectively.

Shanghai University ranking 2025 has placed six Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide, down from 9 in 2024. Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran are among the top 500 universities in the world, ranking 401-500 globally. Tarbiat Modares University ranks 701-800.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Sharif University of Technology rank 801-900. Iran University of Medical Sciences ranks 901-1000. The July edition of the Webometrics world ranking has included 64 medical universities from Iran, unchanged from January's edition, 11 of which have advanced in the ranking compared to the January edition.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (485) is the only university ranked among the top 500 institutions in the world, Mehr news agency reported. Among Iranian universities, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, and Yazd University of Medical Sciences have improved their rankings by 1002, 961, and 948 positions, respectively.

Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Kashan University of Medical Sciences, Alborz University of Medical Sciences, Kordestan University of Medical Sciences, Gonabad University of Medical Sciences, and Maraghe University of Medical Sciences are the other universities that have noticeably improved their rankings.

Out of registered earthquakes, 150 were more than 4 on the Richter scale; at least five earthquakes with a magnitude of more than 4.5 occurred monthly in the country.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran, but more than 6 percent of the victims of the world's earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes.

Pasteur Institute of Iran holds intl. pandemic preparedness course in Pakistan

TEHRAN – The Pasteur Institute of Iran has organized a week-long international training course in Pakistan to enhance the pandemic preparedness capacity in addressing future health threats.

Hosted by Karachi from October 21 to November 1, the event was held in cooperation with the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC) and Pakistan's International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS).

Over 30 health experts from 11 countries, including Benin, Uganda, Somalia, Senegal, Singapore, Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Cameroon, and Pakistan, participated in the course titled 'Investigating Infectious Disease Outbreaks with a Focus on Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever', as a part of a comprehensive course on 'Virology and Future Pandemic Preparedness'.

Arboviruses and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Biosafety and Risk Assessment, Outbreak Planning and Early Warning Systems, Descriptive and Analytical Studies in Epidemiology, and International Health Regulations (IHR).

The program blended theoretical sessions with practical workshops and exercises, fostering active engagement and yielding highly positive feedback from participants.



The training marks the second joint program under a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Pasteur Institute of Iran and COMSTEC in October 2023, indicating a sustained commitment to collaborative health security across Islamic nations.

According to the Pasteur Institute of Iran, the five-year MOU commits both parties to collaborate on developing and implementing joint training programs and strengthening health systems, particularly in Islamic countries. The inaugural joint training course, titled "Assessment and Management of Infectious Disease Outbreaks," was held in December 2023 in Karachi and Islamabad, Pakistan, featuring specialists from the Pasteur Institute of Iran.

Tehran to host Iran Smart City Exhibition and Conference

TEHRAN – The sixth Iran Smart City Exhibition and Conference will kick off tomorrow in Tehran and will wrap up on Friday.

With the theme of Iran's smart cities and artificial intelligence, the event will be held on the occasion of the World Cities Day, aiming to promote innovation, develop smart city infrastructures, and share experiences between scientific, industrial, and management sectors, IRNA reported.

The exhibition section features a series of companies, organizations, municipalities, and technology institutions showcasing their latest products, designs, and achievements in fields related to smart cities and artificial intelligence.

It will focus on smart urban management systems and public services, data infrastructure, Internet of Things and big data analytics, smart transportation and clean energy, as well as new technologies in education, health, and urban environment.

The conference is organized by the Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology, known as Irandoc.

The conference involves a series of expert panels, scientific meetings, and policy discussions that study the latest achievements and challenges in smart cities, urban data, artificial intelligence, and digital governance fields. Professors, managers, and experts in technology will share their views.

The main themes of the conference include smart governance and the role of data in urban decision-making, ethics and justice in using artificial intelligence (AI) in urban management, the role of AI in the sustainability of cities, and national capacity development for future smart cities.

It will bring together domestic and foreign scholars, practitioners, urban managers, industrialists, scholars, and experts, as well as knowledge-based companies, to share experiences and knowledge and accelerate the change to smart cities.

The conference will also provide an opportunity to display the latest achievements, scientific findings, technologies, techniques, and tools for implementing smart cities projects.

A highlight of this year's conference is 'Iran smart city national award', which aims to identify, evaluate, and honor the best designs and projects in urban smartness. It will be launched immediately after the end of the exhibition.

World Cities Day

The World Cities Day was marked in Tehran with the theme of Smart Cities, Sustainable Innovation, Green Buildings, Bright Future.

The event was held both in-person and on-

line, bringing together relevant government organizations, academic institutions, professional bodies, the private sector, young innovators, city managers, students, and stakeholders.

Sharing expertise, showcasing innovative urban projects, and discussing the challenges and opportunities of sustainable urban development in the country and all over the world were among the main parts of the event, the UN Iran Habitat website reported.

The event was centered around smart cities, technological innovation, sustainable construction, urban resilience, and alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World Cities Day is observed annually on 31 October, marking the conclusion of Urban October. First celebrated in 2014, the day features a global observance hosted by a different city each year and focuses on a specific theme.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared the Day to promote interest in global urbanization and encourage cooperation among countries in addressing the challenges of urbanization and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

The Global Observance of World Cities Day 2025 took place in Bogotá, Colombia, under the topic of people-centred smart cities.

It showcases how data-driven decision-making, technology, and AI can be used to improve urban life and recover from current shocks and crises. It also focuses on promoting smart city initiatives centered on people.

This year's theme reflects the growing recognition that the transformative power of digital technologies is reshaping urban life globally, offering profound opportunities to enhance how cities and human settlements are designed, planned, managed, and governed.

The theme aims to promote people-centred smart cities and demonstrate how crucial it is for smart cities to prioritize human needs, inclusivity, and accessibility.

Second, the observance will provide a platform for cities to exchange best practices, experiences, and strategies in implementing people-centred smart city initiatives globally, especially in addressing key challenges such as the global housing crisis.

Lastly, by increasing global awareness about the role of technology and innovation in advancing improved access to adequate housing and achieving urban development, the goal is to foster and encourage international cooperation and collaboration among all societal sectors on People-Centred Smart Cities.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Smugglers of fuel, livestock fined \$570m

Smugglers of fuel and livestock have been fined 24 trillion rials (about \$570 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21).

The figure represents a 47 percent increase compared to the same period last [Iranian calendar] year.

Out of a total of about 42,000 smuggling cases, about 28,000 are related to export smuggling, of which 20,000 are related to the smuggling of fuel and petroleum products, mostly to Pakistan and Afghanistan, and to a lesser extent to Turkey and Iraq.

A number of these cases are related to livestock trafficking. Most of the cattle are smuggled to Iraq, and then to the Persian Gulf countries.

جریمه ۲۴ هزار میلیارد ریالی قاچاقچیان سوخت و دام

متخلفان قاچاق کالا از ابتدای سال جاری ۲۴ هزار میلیارد ریال جریمه شده‌اند که بیانگر ۴۷ درصد افزایش نسبت به سال گذشته است.

به از مجموع حدود ۴۲ هزار پرونده ی قاچاق، حدود ۲۸ هزار پرونده مربوط به قاچاق خروجی است که ۲۰ هزار فقره آن به قاچاق سوخت و فرآورده‌های نفتی مربوط می‌شود که بیشتر به پاکستان و افغانستان و کمی هم ترکیه و عراق انجام می‌شود.

تعدادی از این پرونده‌ها هم مربوط به قاچاق دام است. بیشتر قاچاق دام به عراق انجام می‌شود و البته این دام‌ها از عراق به کشورهای خلیج فارس هم می‌رود.



NOVEMBER 4, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Beware, beware of sinfulness. By God, He has veiled His servants' guilt so much as if He has forgiven them.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times › Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:25 Dawn: 5:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:30 (tomorrow)

Shakespeare's "Macbeth" on stage at Tehran theater

TEHRAN- Iranian director Javad Molania is staging an adaptation of William Shakespeare's masterpiece "Macbeth" at Tehran Pardis Theater Complex.

Gilda Vishki, Kiana Hoveida, Mehdi Ez'ani, Mohammad Dehmolai, Arsam Firouzi, Hasti Arsh and Amin Nateqi are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until November 13.

In "Macbeth," the play opens with Macbeth, a brave and honorable Scottish general, encountering three witches who prophesy that he will become the King of Scotland. Intrigued by the idea, Macbeth shares the prophecy with his ambitious wife, Lady Macbeth. Consumed by a lust for power, they plot the murder of King Duncan, their benevolent ruler. Macbeth hesitates initially, but Lady Macbeth manipulates him, questioning his courage and masculinity, ultimately persuading him to carry out the deed.

Having successfully killed Duncan, Macbeth is crowned king, but his guilt begins to consume him. He becomes paranoid, convinced that others will discover his dark secret. To secure his position, Macbeth orders the murder of his friend Banquo and his son, fearing they might threaten his reign. Lady Macbeth, however, begins to experience the consequences of her actions, tormented by guilt and descending into madness. Macbeth turns to the witches once more for reassurance, and they provide him with a series of ambiguous prophecies, further fueling his delusions of invincibility.

As the body count rises and unrest spreads, Macbeth's hold on the throne becomes increasingly fragile. Macduff, a nobleman, becomes suspicious of Macbeth and joins forces with Malcolm, Duncan's son, to overthrow the tyrant king. Lady Macbeth, burdened by guilt and remorse, eventually takes her own life. In the final battle, Macbeth's forces are outnumbered, and he is confronted by Macduff. Despite his belief in the witches'



prophecy that "no man of woman born" can harm him, Macbeth is slain by Macduff, fulfilling another of the witches' prophecies.

"Macbeth" explores the tragic consequences of unchecked ambition and the destructive power of guilt. Macbeth's journey from a respected general to a remorseless murderer showcases the corrosive nature of ambition and the erosion of morality. Shakespeare delves into the complexities of human nature, highlighting the potential darkness within each individual. Ultimately, the play serves as a cautionary tale, illustrating the devastating effects of greed and the inescapable consequences of one's actions.

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as one of the greatest playwrights in history. Born in England in 1564, his works have had an immeasurable impact on literature and the performing arts. Shakespeare's plays encompass a remarkable range of genres, from romantic comedies like "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Much Ado About Nothing" to tragedies like "Hamlet" and "Macbeth".

His influence extends beyond just the stage; his sonnets, consisting of 154 poems, delve into themes of love, beauty, and mortality. Shakespeare's skillful use of language, his ability to create memorable characters, and his exploration of complex human emotions have solidified his place in literary canon and continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Cartoon of Day



Sudan Gaza

Cartoonist: Mahmoud Rifai from Jordan

Hans Zimmer film concert to be held in Tehran

TEHRAN – The film concert of Hans Zimmer's musical works will be held at the Espinas Palace Hotel in Tehran on November 15 and 18.

Performed by the Daris Symphony Orchestra and a choral group, the film-concert will present a selection of the memorable soundtracks composed by the world-renowned German film composer and music producer Hans Zimmer. Each night there will be two performances at 7 and 10 p.m., Honaronline reported.

For two nights, the performance brings some of Zimmer's greatest moments of musical inspiration to life. Daris Symphony Orchestra will perform highlights from Zimmer's scores including the swashbuckling adventuring of "Pirates of the Caribbean," the wild brilliance of "The Lion King," and the parallel reality of "Inception".

The repertoire of the concert will feature highlights from the soundtracks of major films such as "Interstellar," "The Dark Knight Trilogy," and "Inception" directed by Christopher Nolan; "Gladiator" by Ridley Scott; "The Da Vinci Code" and "Angels & Demons" by Ron Howard; "Sherlock Holmes" by Guy Ritchie"; "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" and "On Stranger Tides" by Gore Verbinski and Rob Marshall; "The



Last Samurai" by Edward Zwick; and "Rush (Formula 1)" by Joseph Kosinski.

All the performances will be accompanied by screenings of selected scenes and sequences from these films.

Zimmer is undoubtedly the most successful film composer of his generation and the natural successor to the genre's godfather, John Williams.

Over a career that has seen him score more than 150 movies and become Hollywood's go-to composer, Zimmer has constantly reinvented himself while also changing the way we think

about film music - incorporating unusual instruments, electronic elements, and innovative sound design within the acoustic splendor of the symphony orchestra.

Hans Zimmer, 68, has received numerous accolades, including two Academy Awards, a BAFTA Award, three Golden Globe Awards, and five Grammy Awards as well as nominations for seven Emmy Awards.

Zimmer spent the early part of his career in the United Kingdom before moving to the United States. He is the head of the film music division at DreamWorks Pictures and DreamWorks Animation studios and works with

other composers through the company that he founded, Remote Control Productions, formerly known as Media Ventures. His studio in Santa Monica, California, has an extensive range of computer equipment and keyboards, allowing demo versions of film scores to be created quickly.

Zimmer has collaborated with Christopher Nolan on six films starting with "Batman Begins" (2005). He has also worked on multiple projects with directors including Ridley Scott, Ron Howard, Gore Verbinski, Michael Bay, Guy Ritchie, Denis Villeneuve, and Tony Scott.

Paytakht Junior Orchestra to showcase classical masterpieces at Roudaki Hall



TEHRAN- The Paytakht Junior Orchestra, under the guest conduction of Mahmoudreza Mirsayafi, will perform at Roudaki Hall in Tehran on November 7 and 8.

The concert will present prominent works from classical music repertoire, including Mozart's Divertimento, Beethoven's Eighth Symphony, and Bach's Concerto in A Minor, featuring solo violin performance by Farnaz Daroui, ISNA reported on Monday.

The artistic director of the orchestra is Shahram Tavakoli, with Sadaf Shahabi responsible for score preparation and operational arrangements.

Mozart's Divertimento is a charming and lively piece that exemplifies the elegance of classical chamber music. Composed in the 18th century, it features a light, playful mood with intricate melodies and harmonious interplay between instruments. This work showcases Mozart's mastery in balancing melodic beauty with technical precision, making it a favorite among audiences and performers alike.

Beethoven's Eighth Symphony is a vibrant and spirited work, often regarded as one of his most joyful symphonies. Composed in

1812, it is notable for its rhythmic vitality and playful character. The symphony's lively tempos, witty motifs, and inventive orchestration reflect Beethoven's mastery in blending classical form with expressive innovation. Its energetic movements and cheerful tone exemplify Beethoven's ability to infuse classical structures with personal expression and optimism, making it a timeless piece of symphonic brilliance.

Bach's Concerto in A Minor is a stunning example of Baroque instrumental mastery. It features intricate counterpoint, expressive melodies, and a lively, rhythmic energy that showcase Bach's genius in combining technical complexity with emotional depth. The concerto highlights the solo violin's virtuosic passages and lyrical phrases, creating a dynamic interplay with the orchestra. Its rich harmonies and spirited tempo make it a timeless piece, illustrating Bach's exceptional skill in crafting music that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally compelling.

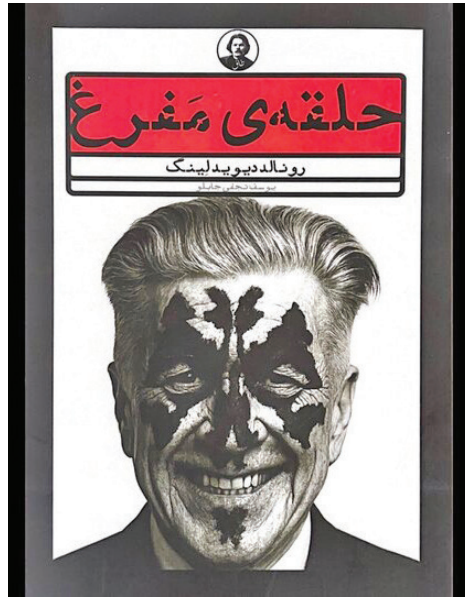
Ronald David Laing's "Knots" available in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book "Knots" written by Ronald David Laing has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Yousef Najafi Jablou in the translator of the book that has been brought out by Tagh Publication, Mehr reported.

Originally published in 1970, "Knots" consists of a series of dialogue-scenarios that can be read as poems or brief plays, each complete in itself. Each chapter describes a different kind of the "knots" of the bonds of love, dependency, uncertainty, and jealousy.

The dialogues could be those between lovers, between parents and children, between analysts and patients or all of these merged together. Each brilliantly demonstrates Laing's insights into the intricacies of human relationships.



Ronald David Laing (1927-1989), usually cited as R. D. Laing, was a Scottish psychiatrist who wrote extensively on mental illness—in particular, psychosis and schizophrenia.

Laing's views on the causes and treatment of psychopathological phenomena were influenced by his study of existential philosophy and ran counter to the chemical and electroshock methods that had become psychiatric orthodoxy.

Laing took the expressed feelings of the individual patient or client as valid descriptions of personal experience rather than simply as symptoms of mental illness. Though associated in the public mind with the anti-psychiatry movement, he rejected the label. Laing regarded schizophrenia as the normal psychological adjustment to a dysfunctional social context.

Commemoration of infamous Balfour Declaration in Argentina and Mali through cultural events

The embassies of the State of Palestine in Argentina and Mali commemorated the 108th anniversary of the infamous Balfour Declaration by organizing a series of events.

In the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires, a cultural event was organized as part of the International Days of Palestinian Cinema, featuring the screening of the film "When I Saw You" by Palestinian director Annemarie Jacir, emphasizing the role of art in conveying the suffering of the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom, in facing the occupation, settlement, and ongoing injustice for more than a century.

The film presented a human and poetic

image through the eyes of a refugee child, reflecting the resilience of the Palestinians and their steadfastness in hope and collective determination for freedom, life, and the return to their homeland, with wide participation from cultural institutions around the world, including the Cinema for Palestine group - Argentina, LATINARAB.

The Acting Ambassador of the State of Palestine, First Counselor Riyad Halabi, emphasized the importance of Palestinian art as a front of resistance against attempts to obliterate national identity.

He explained that Palestinian cinema, with its human stories and live testimonies, rep-

resents one form of cultural and political struggle, embodying an ethical stance that expresses human dignity and the right to existence and freedom.

For his part, Christian Moro, director of CINE FERTIL and LATINARAB festival, addressed the importance of Palestinian cinema as a platform confronting false narratives and conveying the reality of what is happening in Palestine to the world, stressing that every Palestinian film is an act of cultural resistance that restores the Palestinian person's voice and dignity, breaking the media siege imposed on them.