



Why Another Iran-US Agreement Is Far Off

► Page 3

Iran shines at Malaysia's Culture and Food Exhibition

TEHRAN--An exhibition showcasing Iranian culture and art was held in the heart of Malaysia, where Iran earned a top ranking among 45 participating countries.

The University of Malaya (UM) hosted the three-day International Week and Nations Exhibition, featuring traditional festivals and cultural displays from across the world as part of ASEAN celebrations, wanaen.com reported.

More than 10,000 visitors, including students, professors, Malaysian officials, ambassadors, and cultural representatives, attended the event.

Iran's pavilion, organized by Iranian professors and students residing in Malaysia under the supervision of Dr. Adela Assemi and in collaboration with the Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia, showcased the nation's art, handicrafts, and traditional cuisine. ► Page 6

Why Venezuela's fate matters to Iran

By Elaheh Tahmasebi

TEHRAN – Could a U.S. attack on Venezuela serve as a prelude to a future strike against Iran? This is one of the most frequently asked questions in Iranian circles today regarding the fate of Caracas and the Maduro government.

Although at first glance, geographical distance, the absence of serious economic or military ties, and differing ideologies between the two countries should make such a scenario unlikely, this question nevertheless stems from a mindset and experience grounded in realism.

In a world where great power rivalries have been reignited, every local crisis becomes part of a broader global competition. Thus, Iran's view of developments in Venezuela is not limited to one specific country but is part of its broader understanding of shifts in the global order. ► Page 2

Trump's gilded cage and the sycophancy doctrine

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – The spectacle has become the point. Fighter jets escort Air Force One. Prime ministers arrive with golf relics and gold-leaf baubles. Foreign leaders orchestrate airport pageants and shield Donald Trump from protesters — not to salute partnership but to flatter a temperament that prizes adulation above counsel.

The WSJ has labeled it a “hospitality arms race,” and the phrase captures a worrying truth: diplomacy with the U.S. now prizes who can stage the most gilded display, not who can craft durable policy. ► Page 5

Mamdani's win lays bare failure of U.S. capitalism

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Just a year ago, Zohran Mamdani was little known outside Queens, the New York City borough he represents. Now, at just 34 years old, he has made history as the new Mayor of New York City — the largest and most influential city in the United States.

Mamdani's victory is historic in several ways. He is the first Muslim and the first South Asian person ever elected to lead New York. But beyond those milestones, his win represents something bigger: a growing frustration among ordinary Americans with a system that seems to reward the rich while leaving working families behind.

A different vision

Mamdani, who identifies as a democratic socialist, built his campaign on policies that focus on fairness, equality, and public welfare — ideas that directly challenge the country's traditional capitalist model. His key promises include:

U.S. pressures Iraq ahead of elections

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – U.S. pressure to disarm Iraq's resistance factions is intended to influence elections and thereby undermine the country's sovereignty and popular security forces.

The timing of U.S. pressure on Prime Minister Mohammed Sudani to disarm Iraq's resistance factions is widely viewed by analysts as a strategic maneuver linked to the looming November 11 elections.

Many political observers consider Sudani the frontrunner, with his growing popularity rooted in a wide array of domestic achievements during his first term in office.

Also, his perception of independence and close ties to the Coordination Framework, the parliamentary coalition that enabled his rise to power are closely linked to America's interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The Coordination Framework, composed of influential Shia parties and political figures, has shaped Iraq's post-2021 political order and is widely seen as ideologically aligned with the anti-American resistance factions that Washington seeks to weaken.

Washington's truce mechanism aimed to turn Lebanon into next Syria

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Political and military developments in Lebanon are accelerating amid increasing U.S.-Israeli pressure and attempts to redraw the rules of engagement in South Lebanon through the five-member committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire between Lebanon and the Zionist entity.

Originally created to oversee Resolution 1701, this committee is now being repurposed by Washington into a political-security negotiation framework, echoing the Syrian model that would allow Israel to violate its sovereignty under the guise of peace arrangements.

An informed source told Tehran Times that U.S. envoy Morgan Ortagus, during her meetings with Lebanese officials, pressed to reactivate the committee under the pretext of stabilization.

Obviously, Ortagus' goal is to transform the committee into a platform for discussing Hezbollah's weapons and the resistance's presence in the South.

► Page 5

Shanghai CIIE: A dynamic platform showcasing Iran-China partnership

By Zheng Weiyou

BEIJING – As the 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE) unfolds in Shanghai, its significance extends beyond being a premier international trade event. It represents a crucial bridge for deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership between Iran and China. This year, Iran's participation—underscored by the active involvement of businesses supported by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund—tells a compelling story of a nation confidently showcasing its diverse economic capabilities, from time-honored traditions to cutting-edge innovation. ► Page 4



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf met with his Pakistani counterpart in Islamabad on November 5, 2025.

Tehran seeks to deepen bilateral ties with Islamabad: Iran parliament speaker

TEHRAN – Iran's Parliament Speaker has underlined the importance of the current level of relations between Iran and Pakistan, saying his official three-day trip seeks to “deepen bilateral ties and strengthen regional collaboration.”

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf made the remarks as he was speaking to reporters upon arrival at Nur Khan Airbase in Islamabad on Wednesday.

He described Iran and Pakistan as two countries with “deep historical and cultural bonds” that currently enjoy broad-based relations in economic, political, and parliamentary arenas. Qalibaf added that Tehran and Islamabad are focused on expanding cooperation in trade, politics. ► Page 2

Iran volleyball star Saber Kazemi passes away



► Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

“Diplomatic consensus”: A pragmatic path through crises

Arman-e-Emrooz, in a note, explores the role of consensus in diplomatic relations. It highlights how, despite issuing multiple official statements against Iran in international forums over the past decade, the United Arab Emirates has evolved into a key economic partner for Tehran. This model of coexistence, marked by simultaneous tension and cooperation, demonstrates that nations can temporarily set aside fundamental disagreements to focus on shared interests. The paper argues that this model could be applied to Iran-U.S. relations. With its population of 85 million—young, educated, and eager for high-quality goods—Iran represents a golden opportunity for the American economy. If barriers are lifted, U.S. companies could invest in sectors such as technology, automotive industry, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and infrastructure. Iran, in turn, would benefit from technology transfer, job creation, and reduced dependence on China. Such cooperation requires a temporary suspension—not resolution—of disputes. This pragmatic approach not only reduces tensions but also enables both countries to capitalize on economic and security opportunities. Over time, it could lay the groundwork for building trust and addressing deeper conflicts. As diplomatic history shows, practical cooperation often precedes the easing of hostilities.

Sazandegi: A warning to Iraq

Sazandegi analyzed a recent phone call between Iraq's Defense Minister Thabet al-Abbasi and U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. According to the report, Hegseth warned of an imminent military operation in the region and urged Iraqi armed groups to refrain from any response. The conversation reportedly took place in a “tense but diplomatic” atmosphere. Experts believe Washington is intent on curbing the operational autonomy of Iraqi armed factions and preventing Iran's entrenched influence in Iraq from persisting. From Tehran's perspective, Hegseth's tone toward Baghdad—urging control over paramilitary groups—could be interpreted as a prelude to justifying unilateral U.S. military action. Iran has consistently warned against violations of Iraqi sovereignty and considers such moves a threat to regional stability. Tehran argues that any U.S. military action, even limited in scope, could escalate tensions, bolster resistance groups, and undermine the effectiveness of Iraq's official forces—ultimately endangering regional security. Iran maintains that this trajectory not only risks desta-

bilizing Iraq but could also erode Iran's deterrent posture and strategic standing in both Iraq and the broader Middle East.

Iran: Strategic dialogue must not signal weakness

In an interview with the Iran newspaper, Javad Mir-Golouei Bayat, a senior expert on Oman affairs, discussed Iran's strategic approach toward the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council. He emphasized that while initiating strategic dialogue between Iran and the (P) GCC is vital, it must be grounded in realistic steps and frameworks that simultaneously acknowledge the security and political concerns of both sides. He warned that Iran's position must not be perceived by (P) GCC members as a signal of weakness. Any such perception could embolden the other side and lead to exploitation, undermining the regional balance and Iran's strength. He stressed that Iran has consistently advocated for regional cooperation and has taken numerous diplomatic and practical steps to strengthen ties with neighboring states. Peaceful coexistence and security cooperation between Iran and (P) GCC countries require deeper mutual understanding, respect for each other's concerns, and the removal of political and military obstacles—an effort still in its early stages.

Siasat-e-Rooz: U.S. aims to weaken and disarm Iran

Siasat-e-Rooz argued that the United States seeks cooperation through deception, aiming to dismantle the global anti-imperialist front; a goal it cannot achieve without undermining Iran. The article contends that cooperation with the U.S. would entail ending hostility toward the Zionist regime and withdrawing support for the Axis of Resistance. As long as Washington continues to back Israel and interfere in the region, normalization and collaboration remain impossible. The piece asserts that the U.S. ultimately seeks to dismantle Iran's missile, military, and nuclear capabilities, viewing disarmament as a strategic objective. Iran, however, has acquired the necessary tools to pursue its path and is actively enhancing them. The expansion of self-reliance—evident in military, nuclear, nanotechnology, and medical fields—is seen as a driver of national capability and problem-solving. This spirit of determination and self-belief, the article concludes, is deeply rooted in Iran's youth, and its results will soon be visible.

Tehran seeks to deepen bilateral ties with Islamabad: Iran parliament speaker

From page 1 ► The top lawmaker said his meetings will emphasize the value of neighborhood diplomacy and address major regional and Islamic world issues.

During his stay, Qalibaf is scheduled to hold talks with the Speaker and members of Pakistan's National Assembly and Senate, and meet senior political leaders, including Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. His program also includes visits to Lahore and Karachi—Pakistan's cultural and economic hubs—where he will meet with scholars, religious figures, business leaders, and members of the Iranian community.

Qalibaf is accompanied by several Iranian parliamentarians and members of the Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, including Fada Hossein Maleki, Mohammad Noor Dehani, Rahmadal Bamari, Mehrdad Goodarzi, and Fazlollah Ranjbar.

Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad, Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, and Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker, Ayaz Sadiq, received Qalibaf and his delegation upon arrival.

Pakistan, Iran's most populous neighbor, remains a key regional partner. The two countries' trade volume has surpassed \$3 billion, with both sides determined to raise it to \$10 billion through targeted planning and the removal of trade barriers.

The visit follows remarks by Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who said last month that Tehran

and Islamabad have the potential to elevate their cooperation to the level of a “lasting strategic partnership.”

Speaking in Tehran during a meeting with Pakistan's Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Larijani highlighted the geopolitical importance of both countries and praised the recent strategic agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia as “a wise and positive step in facing common threats.”

He said today's regional environment is defined by shared challenges that demand “coordinated and comprehensive action among Muslim nations,” stressing the need to deepen collaboration in defense, security, politics, and especially economic fields.

Larijani also thanked Pakistan for its stance during the 12-day U.S.-Israeli aggression in June against Iran, calling it a sign of “shared understanding of regional realities.”

Tehran and Islamabad have both reaffirmed their commitment to developing an active diplomatic approach to promote peace and stability in the region.

In mid-October, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a phone conversation to discuss key regional and international developments. The two ministers emphasized the importance of closer coordination, intelligence sharing, and active diplomacy to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, promote regional stability, and unlock new opportunities in trade and transit.

Iran urges UN to take swift action over US president's threatening remarks



Donald Trump (L) announced the U.S. would resume nuclear testing at a U.S. naval base in Japan late October. Iran's UN envoy Saeed Iravani (R) warned against the move Tuesday



TEHRAN – Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has urged the world body to take urgent action following statements by U.S. President Donald Trump about resuming nuclear weapons testing, describing them as a grave threat to global peace and a violation of international law.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and President of the UN Security Council Michael Imran Kanu on November 4, Saeed Iravani denounced the “reckless” and “alarming” statements by U.S. President Donald Trump concerning the possible resumption of nuclear weapons testing.

“This move amounts to flagrant violation of the United States' binding obligations under Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty with regards effective actions for nuclear disarmament,” the letter read.

The 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), to which the U.S. is a signatory, prohibits nuclear testing. Consequently, the majori-

ty of nuclear-armed countries have not conducted tests in decades. According to the UN, Russia (then the Soviet Union) performed its last test in 1990, followed by the United Kingdom in 1991, the U.S. in 1992, and both China and France in 1996. North Korea is the only nation to have carried out nuclear tests in the past two decades, with its most recent occurring in 2017.

In his letter, Iravani also touched upon Washington's airstrikes, on June 24, 2025, on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, dismissing the attacks as blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter. This comes as Trump has recently threatened to order fresh attacks should Tehran try to repair the three sites hit, including the Natanz uranium enrichment complex and Isfahan nuclear power plant.

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 gross violation of international law. The nuclear facilities were all being monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Days ago, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Mai Sato, described the 12-day U.S.-Israeli military aggression against Iran as a “clear and blatant violation of the UN Charter,” warning of its devastating human and environmental consequences.

In a report presented to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, Sato said the joint Israeli-U.S. military offensive brought immense suffering to the Iranian people — suffering that, she noted, “deserves redress and compensation.”

“These attacks should never have occurred,” Sato said. “They carried the risk of catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences that could have destabilized the en-

tire region.”

Sato emphasized that the use of force by Israel and the United States constituted a “flagrant breach of international law and the UN Charter.”

The report highlighted the human toll of the conflict, noting that roughly 1,100 people — including women and children — were killed, and that hospitals, schools, and civilian infrastructure were among the targets. One of the most controversial strikes hit Evin Prison in Tehran, which the rapporteur described as “unjustifiable.”

Beyond the casualties, Sato said the war displaced millions of Iranians and severely disrupted health-care for vulnerable groups. “Pregnant women were denied prenatal and emergency care,” she noted.

The conflict ended on June 23, when the U.S. President announced a ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel. The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterated that it had not initiated hostilities, and declared that it would halt its response if Israel ceased its unlawful aggression.

French detainees released on bail in Iran as diplomatic talks progress



French nationals Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris, who were detained in Iran on espionage charges, have been released on bail pending further judicial proceedings.

TEHRAN – Iran has released two French nationals who had been detained on charges related to national security, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said the individuals were released on bail “by order of the

presiding judge” and will remain under judicial supervision until the next stage of legal proceedings.

French President Emmanuel Macron later confirmed the development, identifying the two as Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris, who had been detained in Iran on espionage

charges. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Macron said they were “on their way to the French Embassy in Tehran,” describing the move as a “first step” and noting that talks are underway to secure their return to France as soon as possible.

The development comes amid ongoing diplomatic consultations between Tehran and Paris over the case of Mahdiah Esfandiari, an Iranian academic and translator who was unlawfully arrested in France for her pro-Palestine online activities.

On October 21, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Vahid Jalalzadeh said Esfandiari's case had been included in a political and consular package proposed by Tehran to facilitate her release. He noted that Esfandiari had been detained in France “without any legitimate reason,” emphasizing that her arrest was a violation of human rights and reflected the West's double standards regarding freedom

of expression.

Esfandiari, a 39-year-old university lecturer residing in Lyon, was arrested by French police for posting content on a Telegram channel condemning the Israeli regime's crimes in Gaza. Reports suggest France detained her in order to facilitate the release of its two spies.

On October 22, Baqaei announced that Esfandiari had been granted conditional release, explaining that she would be transferred from prison to supervised residence pending trial. He welcomed the French judiciary's move and expressed hope that the process would lead to her full acquittal.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated that Esfandiari's arrest was “arbitrary and politically motivated,” stressing that the Islamic Republic continues to follow up on her case through diplomatic and legal channels.

Why Venezuela's fate matters to Iran

From page 1 ► Over the past two decades, relations between Iran and Venezuela have been shaped more by shared experiences than by economic interests. Both countries have faced sanctions, political pressure, and external attempts at regime change. This common experience has created a sense of mutual understanding. The roots of this shared destiny go back to decades before the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution. When Iranians observed Venezuela's model of oil nationalization, they were inspired to pursue a similar path at home—an endeavor that ultimately led to the first major confrontation between Tehran and Washington.

The historical experience of nations shows that an attack or intervention anywhere in the world can later become a template for applying pressure on other countries—especially when those countries share many similarities. Iran and Venezuela both represent major anti-American governments in their respective regions; both possess significant shares of the world's oil resources; both have sizable populations and territories that grant them geopolitical advantages; and both have the capacity to inspire neighboring regions—so that their success might encourage others to replicate their path.

From this perspective, Iran's defense of Venezuela is not about defending Maduro personally but about defending the principle of national sovereignty itself. Having recently endured a 12-day

war, Iran is acutely aware of the consequences that follow when violations of this principle go unpunished—and how such impunity can undermine the international order.

The timing of this conflict cannot be separated from the broader transformations underway in the global system and the emergence of new blocs. The United States still seeks to preserve its role as arbiter and guarantor of the international order, while other powers such as China and Russia are expanding their influence. Iran, though on a smaller scale, views itself as part of this process of redefinition. In such a context, every regional crisis becomes a testing ground for measuring the boundaries of power.

Given these circumstances, Iran's concern about Venezuela's future is rooted in realism. However, it cannot be claimed that an invasion of Venezuelan territory would necessarily lead to war between Washington and Tehran, since Iran's regional position and defensive capabilities differ significantly from Venezuela's. Yet from a behavioral standpoint, Venezuela's experience can serve as a warning to Iran. If the United States can carry out a military action in another country without paying a high political price, it would make similar forms of pressure and intervention elsewhere appear more legitimate—even if such actions are not military in nature.

Another question being raised these days is:

how would Iran respond to a U.S. military attack on Venezuela? The answer must be understood within the limits of Iran's capacity and position. Tehran lacks substantial practical means for military or economic support to a country on the other side of the world. Therefore, if conflict breaks out, Iran's backing would likely remain political and diplomatic—condemning the intervention, coordinating within international organizations, and perhaps offering limited technical or humanitarian cooperation.

For Iran, Venezuela is more a field for reflection than for action. The crisis there is a reminder that in an interconnected world, the destinies of nations are more intertwined than ever before. Iran's reaction to these events will stem less from ideology or hostility toward the United States and more from an effort to understand global transformations and find a balanced position within them—a position between caution and solidarity, between realism and empathy with nations that share the experience of resisting great-power pressure.

Political systems do not possess fixed perceptual models of the world; much of their understanding is shaped by observing surrounding events and the experiences of other nations. From this perspective, if one seeks to predict Iran's response to a U.S. attack on Venezuela, the real answer would be found less in the midst of war and more in its aftermath and in the change in the strategies.

Why another Iran-US agreement is far off

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was bombarded with questions about a potential new round of nuclear talks with the U.S. as he exited a cabinet meeting and encountered journalists waiting outside.

Journalists routinely gather on Tehran’s Pasteur Street every Wednesday to question government officials. This week, a significant number of inquiries focused on the United States and the prospects of renewed diplomacy, following a week of discussions by Araghchi and other Iranian officials on negotiations, and remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution concerning the possibility of normalization with Washington.

The remarks made in the past week, despite being mostly pessimistic, had spurred speculation about whether another round of negotiations was close, especially after Washington scrapped the previous one by bombing Iran in the middle of the diplomatic process. However, when asked if Iran was looking for a new mediator to facilitate talks between the two countries, Araghchi stated there were no talks in the picture, making a new mediator unnecessary. “There are no plans for negotiations, what do we need mediators for?” he said to a journalist.

Araghchi led a diplomatic delegation that participated in five rounds of indirect nuclear talks with the United States in April and June. These Omani-mediated discussions were slated to continue with a sixth session in Muscat before Israel and the U.S. launched a



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses journalists on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting

12-day bombing campaign against Iranian territory on June 13. The campaign targeted Iran’s civilian, nuclear, and military infrastructure, killing around 1100 Iranians, most of whom were civilians.

During the 12 days that Israeli and American fighter jets targeted Iran, and Iranian missiles ripped through air defenses in the occupied territories as well as a U.S. Airbase in Qatar, the world – particularly West Asia – held its breath. The conflict constantly threatened to spill over at any moment, risking a regional conflagration with international reverberations. After the war, Arabs, Europeans, Russians, and the Chinese alike hoped that the two sides could once again engage in diplomacy, despite Washington having essentially bombed the negotiating table in June. It appears, however, that new negotiations are very unlikely. This is not merely because the unprecedented and illegal U.S. aggression fostered a

domestic view that Washington desired talks as a smokescreen. It also stems from the American tendency to seek talks with predetermined outcomes. According to Iran’s security chief, Ali Larijani, Washington wants Iran to not only implement full caps on its nuclear program, but also lower the range of its missiles, and cut ties with Resistance forces. In his remarks to journalists on Wednesday, Araghchi said Iran will never agree to negotiate non-nuclear issues.

Washington’s negotiating behavior, coupled with its documented history of abandoning commitments with Iran, significantly contributes to distrust and the belief that talks with Americans will lead nowhere, according to Ebrahim Rezayi, spokesman for the Iranian parliament’s national security and foreign policy committee.

“The United States has already betrayed its promises twice. Once in 2018 when the Trump adminis-

tration abandoned the JCPOA, and again during the Biden administration when the two sides agreed to swap prisoners,” the lawmaker told the Tehran Times.

Three years after the JCPOA was signed in 2015 by Iran, the U.S., UK, Germany, France, Russia, and China, Trump unilaterally withdrew from the UN-endorsed pact – which had offered Iran sanctions relief in exchange for limits on its nuclear activities – and reinstated harsh sanctions. In September 2023, under the Biden administration, Iran and the U.S. reached an agreement to release five detainees from each side and allow South Korea to transfer the oil money it owed to Iran. The \$6-billion sum was indeed transferred from South Korea to two Qatari banks. But after securing its prisoners, Washington ordered Doha to once again freeze the Iranian funds.

“The U.S. must understand that Iran is an independent and dignified nation. We will not allow Americans to dictate their demands, nor will we enter another agreement that would ultimately be abandoned. Americans must first change their behavior and their view of Iranians. Until then, even negotiating with the U.S. would be detrimental,” Rezayi added.

President Masoud Pezeshkian appeared to be of the same mind as the legislator during a phone conversation with President Emanuel Macron of France. “Iran always favors diplomacy, but the West must first regain our trust and prove their sincerity,” he told the French leader.

Iran, China FM's discuss bilateral ties and regional developments



TEHRAN – Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a telephone conversation on Wednesday with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, to discuss the latest developments in bilateral relations as well as key regional and international issues.

During the call, Araghchi thanked China for its responsible and principled stance in rejecting the so-called “snapback” mechanism at the United Nations Security Council. He said the constructive cooperation among Iran, China, and Russia in confronting the unilateralism of the United States and certain Western countries at the UN had been highly significant and had received support from 121 member states of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Referring to the continued destabilizing actions of the Israeli regime in West Asia, Araghchi urged the international community to stand up to its warmongering and hegemonic policies and to prevent further escalation of tensions in the region.

Wang Yi, for his part, reaffirmed the strategic partnership between Tehran and Beijing and underscored the importance of maintaining coordination and regular communication between the two countries at the UN and other multilateral platforms.

He also commended Iran’s peaceful approach to its nuclear program, reaffirming the Islamic Republic’s legitimate rights as a principal member of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Both sides referred to the constructive meeting held between the presidents of Iran and China in September and the upcoming session of the high-level cooperation mechanism.

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

Young swimmer Gholami calls for more support

TEHRAN – Mohammadmahdi Gholami, who won two gold medals at the 2025 Asian Youth Games (AYG), says that he expects the officials give more support to swimming.

Gholami made history by winning gold medals in the Boys’ 100m and 200m Butterfly.

“I’m not saying that the level of swimming in the 2025 Asian Youth Games was very high, but it was such that earning medals there wasn’t easy. The number of participants was not small either. In this situation, I won gold in two events and for the first time in the history of these games, Iran’s swimming team earned a medal,” Gholami said.

He emphasized that winning the titles in Bahrain was something he expects.

“I went to Bahrain in perfect physical condition and with an overall great mindset. The results of the analyses also indicated that I was in very good form. In fact, I knew I would win a medal and make history. I had planned to win medals in all three events I entered, but one mistake prevented that.

“In the team event, the 4x100 medley relay, we could have won a medal, but we made an error in the breaststroke section and, therefore, missed the team medal. At the Asian Youth Games, we showed that by winning medals, we can help improve Iran’s overall ranking. I hope that from now on, officials will give more support to this sport.

Gholami also mentioned that before going to Bahrain, two planned overseas training camps were canceled.

“We were supposed to go to Armenia, but that trip was canceled due to financial issues and closed air routes. Then we were to have a camp in Thailand; the World Federation offered some assistance for this camp, but again, due to high costs and financial issues, it was canceled. I hope the federation will organize more complete camps for us so we can repeat these performances.”

Iran volleyball star Saber Kazemi passes away

TEHRAN – Iranian volleyball mourns the loss of one of its brightest talents, Saber Kazemi, who died in Tehran at age 26 after suffering brain death.

Known for his powerful spikes and humble personality, Kazemi was more than a player—he was a symbol of determination, discipline, and quiet strength.

Born in 1998, he represented Iran’s national team in several competitions. Kazemi helped Iran win two gold medals at the 2018 and 2022 Asian Games and was a member of the national team at the 2020 Olympic Games.

Kazemi, a member of the Qatari club Al Rayyan, was in a coma for 20 days following a traumatic brain injury in Doha.

The Tehran Times extends its deepest sympathies to Kazemi’s family, loved ones, and friends during this time of loss.

Iran handed easy draw at AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026

TEHRAN – The AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026 has all the ingredients to be a sizzling affair following the Official Draw in Jakarta on Wednesday.

The 16 teams were divided into four groups during the draw held at the MNC Conference Hall with the top two teams from each to advance to the quarter-finals.

Hosts Indonesia were drawn in Group A alongside Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Korea Republic and – with their fans behind them – will be hopeful of advancing to the knockout stage.

Thailand, runners-up in the previous edition, will have Vietnam, Kuwait and Lebanon for company in Group B.

Hoping to deny four-time champions Japan

from Group C progression will be Uzbekistan – who have finished second four times, Tajikistan and Australia.

Reigning 13-time record champions Iran will headline Group D, with Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia their challengers.

Draw Result

Group A: Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Korea Republic

Group B: Thailand, Vietnam, Kuwait, Lebanon

Group C: Japan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Australia

Group D: Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia

Valizadeh runner-up at 2025 Heyball World Champion

TEHRAN – Sina Valizadeh of Iran claimed a silver medal at the 2025 Men’s Heyball World Champion.

Valizadeh lost to Briton Gareth Potts 7–4 in a gripping final.

Potts, already a legend in the cue sports world, added yet another world title to his illustrious career, displaying clinical accuracy and mental strength throughout the match.

Valizadeh, who took down in-form players including Jack Whelan on his way to the final, finishes as runner-up after an outstanding campaign that showcased his world-class potential.

The bronze medals went to Jack Whelan (Britain) and Arfan Dad (Pakistan) — both of whom delivered exceptional performances throughout the knockout stages.

The competition was held in Brisbane, Australia.

Iran’s men’s volleyball edge Bahrain: Riyadh 2025

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s volleyball team defeated Bahrain 3-2 (25-21, 22-25, 25-16, 22-25, 15-7) at the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Wednesday.

The players of the Iranian team wore black armband to honor late Saber Kazemi and two teams observed a minute’s silence.

Iran will meet Qatar on Thursday.

The 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games, also known as Riyadh 2025, are an inter-continental multi-sport event organized by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA), which are being held from Nov. 7 to 21 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The event has brought together more than 3,000 athletes from 57 nations, competing across 25 sports in pursuit of glory at one of the Islamic world’s premier multi-sport events.

Sepahan, Ahal settle for draw: 2025/26 ACL Two

TEHRAN – Iran’s Sepahan and Ahal FC of Turkmenistan played to an entertaining 2-2 stalemate in their AFC Champions League Two 2025/26 Group C tie on Tuesday.

The draw sees Sepahan move within two points of group leaders Al Hussein of Jordan with the two to meet next on Nov. 25.

Arash Rezavand gave the lead the hosts just nine minutes into the match.

Against the run of play, Ahal found the equalizer in the 27th minute when Alibek Abdurahmanov intercepted a poor cross-field pass and drove towards forward before playing the ball to Suleyman Mirzoyev for an easy tap-in.

Bagtyyar Gurgenov put the visiting team a lead in the 62nd minute but his goal was cancelled out by Mohammad Askari in the seventh minute of added time.

Iran, Kuwait move to clear trade barriers in joint committee talks

TEHRAN— Iran and Kuwait have agreed to step up efforts to remove trade obstacles and strengthen bilateral exchanges during the two countries' 13th Joint Economic Committee meeting held in Kuwait.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mohammad Ali Dehghan-Dehnavi, deputy minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and Marwa Al-Juaidan, deputy minister of Commerce and Trade of Kuwait, with the participation of representatives from customs, port, and commercial institutions of both countries.

Discussions focused on expanding bilateral trade, addressing challenges faced by Iranian businesses operating in Kuwait, and outlining steps to facilitate smoother commercial exchanges.

The head of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce said the resumption of the committee's work after more than a decade marks a turning point in rebuilding economic relations and could pave the way for a comprehensive roadmap to deepen future cooperation.



He noted that key topics under review include residence and visa regulations, foreign work permits, investment facilitation, and cooperation in fisheries, tourism, and agriculture in Kuwait.

The two-day visit of the Iranian delegation, led by Dehghan-Dehnavi, includes representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran Customs Administration, and other technical experts.

Iran's road network handles 9.5m tons of transit cargo in 7 months

TEHRAN – Iran's road transport network carried more than 9.49 million tons of transit cargo in the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March to October 2025), according to the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization.

Mohammad Hedayati, director-general of the organization's Transit and International Transport Office, said that over 7.59 million tons of exported goods were moved in nearly 320,000 truck trips, while around 1.46 million tons of imported goods passed through the country's borders in more than 66,000 trips.

Hedayati said the latest figures reflect Iran's growing capacity in international freight movement and its potential to enhance economic ties with neighboring countries.

He noted that Iran currently has 2,712 ac-

tive companies in international freight transport and 67 companies in passenger services. A fleet of 51,000 public vehicles—with an average age of 12 years—operates on international routes, supported by 63,000 professional drivers.

Iran also operates 26 border terminals across 12 provinces, serving as key gateways for regional trade and passenger movement.

Hedayati emphasized that the strong performance of the sector owes much to the country's transport infrastructure and the sustained efforts of the private sector.

The official has previously announced that transit of commodities through the roads of Iran is anticipated to reach 17.5 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

TEDPIX loses 21,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 21,000 points to 3.202 million on Wednesday, which is the fifth day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

The Iranian government has intensified efforts to stabilize and strengthen the capital market through coordinated policymaking and regular consultations between top economic officials.

Mohammadreza Dashti Ardakani, deputy for legal and parliamentary affairs at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, said on October 17 that the ministry holds weekly meetings centered on the capital market, with participation from the head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) and senior deputies.

"The government's economic team is fully committed to supporting small shareholders, which remains one of our top priorities," Dashti Ardakani said on the sidelines of the ministry's second coordination council of deputies, advisers, and parliamentary liaisons, held at the Securities and Exchange Organization headquarters.

He added that both short-term and long-term programs are being developed to ensure the market's sustainable growth.

"The economic team continuously monitors capital market trends. Protecting the interests of investors, especially retail shareholders, is a permanent agenda item in these sessions," he said.

Dashti Ardakani emphasized that the Economy Minister closely follows market developments and that the ministry is working



intensively to steer the stock market back toward stability and growth.

He also highlighted the full coordination between key state institutions to strengthen the capital market, noting that the Supreme Council of the Stock Exchange and the Ministry of Economy are jointly implementing several supportive measures.

"Fortunately, the government, parliament, and other branches share a unified view on enhancing the role of the capital market, and positive outcomes have already emerged," he said.

The deputy minister expressed appreciation for the round-the-clock efforts of market managers, adding that the current state of the Tehran Stock Exchange is viewed as satisfactory.

"A vibrant stock market has a direct impact on public optimism and satisfaction," he said. "All institutions must work together to boost investor confidence and reinforce the capital market as a key pillar of the national economy."

Shanghai CIIE: A dynamic platform showcasing Iran-China partnership

From Page 1 ► **A showcase of heritage and modernity**

Following the notable success of previous editions, the Iranian pavilion is poised to again captivate visitors with its iconic saffron and exquisite handwoven carpets. These products are not merely commodities; they are cultural ambassadors that have forged a strong connection with Chinese consumers. Recent reports on CIIE official platforms highlighted the "Iranian Saffron Day" event at a previous expo, which significantly boosted brand recognition and led to substantial on-site transactions and follow-up orders for Iranian exporters.

This year's narrative, however, expands dramatically. Building on this foundation of traditional excellence, the pavilion will prominently feature a new wave of Iranian companies. This time, numerous Iranian knowledge-based companies, backed by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, are bringing their innovative solutions to Shanghai. These firms represent sectors such as advanced materials, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and digital health. Their presence decisively counters any simplistic narrative that frames Iran's economy solely around raw materials and agriculture. It is a strategic



demonstration of the country's determined progress in science, technology, and value-added manufacturing.

A strategic conduit for economic diversification

The CIIE's core mission—opening the vast Chinese market to global products and services—aligns perfectly with Iran's national goals of economic resilience and diversification. For Iranian tech startups, the expo is an unparalleled open platform for market testing, finding Chinese partners, and attracting investment. The concrete business matchmaking services provided by the CIIE organization have been instrumental in facilitating these connections, turning potential into signed contracts.

This synergy powerfully com-

plements the broader framework of Iran-China relations. As a vivid example of South-South cooperation, the convergence of Iran's "Look to the East" policy with China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) finds tangible expression on the CIIE floor. When Iranian nanotechnology is explored by a Chinese manufacturer, or a new Iranian pharmaceutical product attracts investment, the bilateral ties are further consolidated and rendered more sustainable. It evolves from a traditional trade partnership into a collaborative, knowledge-driven engagement for the future—rooted in equality, mutual benefit and shared development.

Forging a shared future through concrete cooperation

The expanding Iranian pres-

ence at the CIIE, documented and celebrated on the event's official channels, reflects the dynamic and multi-faceted nature of the Tehran-Beijing partnership. In a complex global environment, this sustained cooperation—built on mutual respect, equal footing and shared interests—stands as a positive force for regional stability and common prosperity.

The CIIE is more than an event; it is a milestone. It is where the ancient Silk Road spirit is revitalized through modern commerce and innovation. As Iranian saffron, carpets, and nanotechnology find their way into the Chinese market and beyond, the CIIE solidifies its role as a key engine for a partnership that honors a rich shared history while confidently building a shared future. The world will see in Shanghai an Iran on the move, smoothly integrating its proud heritage with its aspirations for technological advancement—and a China that remains committed to fostering win-win cooperation and sharing development opportunities with partners around the globe.

Zheng Weiye, a planner and line producer at CGTN, Msc from the University of Warwick, with a focus on topics related to the CIIE, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and trade.

Iran's railway emerges as key transit link between India, Russia



TEHRAN – Iran's railway network is set to play a central role in connecting Mumbai to Moscow through the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), as senior Iranian and Indian officials push to accelerate regional transport cooperation.

In a meeting between Jabbarali Zakari, head

of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, and Rudra Gaurav Shresth, India's ambassador to Tehran, both sides underscored the importance of expanding railway collaboration and advancing the INSTC as a strategic trade route.

Zakari said Iran serves as the main link between India and Russia, adding that the development of the corridor remains one of the country's top railway priorities.

"With active cooperation among member states, the INSTC's progress will accelerate further," he said.

He noted that Chabahar Port will play a crucial role in boosting Iran's share of regional transit, with supporting infrastructure rapidly nearing completion.

The official also emphasized the importance of integrated sea-rail transport between Mumbai and Chabahar, which could

significantly increase freight capacity along the corridor.

Zakari announced that the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line will be completed within six months and enter operation three months later, calling it a key step in activating Chabahar's full potential as a regional hub.

He also revealed plans to establish a rail link between Afghanistan and India through Chabahar, which would shorten cargo transit time and distance between the two countries.

The Iranian railway chief expressed hope that closer technical cooperation and engagement between private companies in Iran and India would further strengthen regional connectivity.

Ambassador Shresth welcomed the growing momentum in bilateral rail collaboration, praising Iran's strategic role in enhancing regional trade routes.

Iran ConMine 2025 underway in Tehran as mining sector eyes digital transformation

TEHRAN – The 19th Iran International Exhibition for Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery and Related Industries and Equipment (Iran ConMine 2025) is underway in Tehran, bringing together senior officials, domestic and foreign mining companies, and industry experts to showcase the latest technologies and cooperation opportunities in the mining and mineral industries sector.

The event was inaugurated in the presence of Vajihollah Jafari, deputy minister of Industry, Mine and Trade for mining affairs; Masoud Samieinejad, head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO); Mohammadreza Bahraman, head of Iran Mine House; and representatives from several countries.

Held under the theme "The future of mining through artificial intelligence," the exhibition runs until November 5 at Tehran's International Permanent Fairground.

It is regarded as the country's largest and most influential specialized event for the mining and related industries.

A total of 185 Iranian and 29 foreign companies from countries including Spain, Belarus, Turkey, China, Japan, and South Korea are participating. Counting subsidiaries and holding groups,

the exhibition hosts over 400 enterprises across multiple halls.

This year's edition focuses on the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies—such as machine learning, the Internet of Things (IoT), big data analytics, and smart automation systems—in improving efficiency, safety, and sustainability across mining operations.

Organizers say Iran ConMine 2025 aims to contribute to the Seventh National Development Plan's objectives, including achieving 13 percent growth in the mining sector and attracting \$50 billion in investment through innovation-driven industrial expansion.

In late October, Mohammad Reza Bahraman said that Iran requires about €55 billion (around \$59 billion) in new investment to achieve its planned 13 percent growth target for the mining sector under the 7th National Development Plan.

Speaking at a press conference ahead of the 19th Iran ConMine Exhibition, he emphasized the importance of joint investment frameworks with neighboring countries to boost development in the sector.

He said the mining industry must explore new markets to ensure its long-term sustainabil-

ity, calling for closer cooperation between government and private stakeholders.

"For the mining sector to thrive, policy and economy must work hand in hand," Bahraman noted.

In mid-July, Iran's state-owned mining development agency, IMIDRO, announced a target of \$893.2 million in foreign currency savings through domestic production in the mining and mineral industries during the current Iranian year ending March 2026.

The initiative, aimed at reducing reliance on imports, will involve thirteen major companies.

The planned savings will be realized through the domestic production of parts, equipment, and technologies. According to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the largest contributions this year are expected from Khouzesan Steel Company with \$397 million, Mobarakeh Steel Company with \$250 million, the National Iranian Copper Industries Company with \$70 million, Golgozar Mining and Industrial Company with \$34.1 million, and Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company with \$33.7 million.

Additional participants include Gohar Zamin Iron Ore Company with \$30.1 million, Hormozgan Steel Company with \$26 mil-

lion, Kurdistan Steel Company with \$18 million, National Iranian Steel Company with \$12.5 million, Sangan Steel Company with \$7.5 million, Khorasan Steel Company with \$5.3 million, Iran Alumina Company with \$4.3 million, and South Aluminum Corporation with \$2.5 million.

Last year, Iran recorded \$882 million in foreign currency savings in the mining sector through the localization of components and equipment. Between 2020 and 2025, total savings from such efforts reached approximately \$3.44 billion.

Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries in the world. Having 15,000 mining areas, Iran has the sixth largest zinc, seventh largest copper, ninth largest iron ore reserves, and fifth largest gypsum and barite reserves globally. It also has three of the world's total lead and zinc reserves and huge coal reserves. Other mineral products such as chromate and manganese are also found in different regions of Iran.

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Quintessential rogues gallery — US, Western Europe, Canada, Australia, with Arab and Muslims in tow

By Professor Hossein Askari

PORTLAND - The fact that Israel has committed genocide in the Gaza Strip is beyond a doubt. For the human and physical fallout, simply look at the results on the ground and read the South Africa filing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). And as for intent (critical to proving genocide) listen to and read the statements of Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Isaac Herzog, Defense Minister Gallant and senior military leaders.

South Africa invoked the “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” to bring Israel before the International Court of Justice, the world’s highest court at the United Nations, on December 29, 2023. South Africa accused Israel of having committed and continuing to commit acts of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa's_genocide_case_against_Israel)

After two days of hearings, the court was persuaded on the basis of the presentation of the evidence and arguments to accept the case and allow it to move forward, something that might literally take years before a final judgement is handed down. While about 14 countries have intervened to express political or official public support for the case, including three Muslim countries, and a larger number of countries, including about 14 Muslim countries, have endorsed the case with political or official public support, Israel has continued its acts of genocide.

A few observations shed light on the state of morality in our world. Only three European countries have intervened to support the case — Belgium, Ireland and Spain. Most



Muslim majority countries have been silent or have only expressed support through the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). This is while the United States, the self-declared champion of the international rule of law, has gone totally rogue. Instead of enabling the case to move forward in an orderly fashion, the United States has tried to squash the case in every way it could. The U.S. has called the case “meritless, counter-productive, and completely without any basis in fact whatsoever.” Over 200 members of the U.S. Congress have denounced the case. Other lawmakers have introduced a bill to review U.S. relations with South Africa.

Students who have peacefully supported the Palestinians’ struggle have been expelled from their universities or even deported. Many have been fired from their jobs or job offers have been rescinded from those who have spoken against Israel’s genocide. All this in a country where free speech is purportedly sacred! And these are only the publicly known measures.

Most important has been the behind-the-scene arm twisting and threats to foreign leaders and officials

who might support the case. At the same time, the United States has gone totally off the rail in another case by sanctioning four judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the indictment of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and two other senior Israeli officials.

While the U.S. has been all in with Israel with its diplomatic-political support, it has done much more at the practical level enabling Israel to carry out its genocide in Gaza. The U.S. has supplied Israel with money, lethal arms (especially big bombs that are designed to obliterate entire neighborhoods) and intelligence. Israel COULD NOT have carried out its genocide without such U.S. support.

Could any country or any leader have halted this genocide? Yes. The list is long. First up, European countries as a group could have pressured the U.S. Ireland and Spain did indeed speak up, but they did not represent a united Europe. Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar with their financial clout could have persuaded President Trump to tell Israel to stop its genocide. The Muslim countries, with over two billion

adherents could have banded together to pressure President Trump to do the right thing. The list is long but “the flesh is weak.” Most disappointing is the acquiescence of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Yes, the rulers, the al-Sauds in Saudi Arabia and the al-Nahyans in the UAE, don’t much like the Palestinians but they rely on U.S. support to maintain their rule, to wield absolute power and to take all they want from the national treasury. It is all a matter of self-preservation for these unelected rulers who buy U.S. support and live a life of luxury. All the while the majority of ordinary Arabs and Muslims across the world abhor what they see in the news and suffer.

There is a clear way to show up the United States and all that it has done and is doing to enable the Israeli genocide and to stop the carnage in its tracks. It is clear that the United States has been totally complicit in all that Israel has done. A courageous member country of the United Nations could expose the US as an accomplice in the ongoing Gaza genocide at the ICJ. The South Africa case is indisputable. A handful of smart legal minds could adapt the same case delineating U.S. complicity and show beyond a doubt that this genocide would never have gone so far without full American acquiescence with the supply of arms, money and intelligence.

It only takes a little courage to stand up to U.S. complicity in the ongoing genocide.

Will a Muslim or Arab country step up to the plate?

Hossein Askari is an emeritus professor of business and international affairs, George Washington University

U.S. pressures Iraq ahead of elections

From page 1 ► “We expect a significant victory,” Sudani told Reuters, adding he wanted a second term. “We want to keep going on this path.”

The renewed U.S. demands for disarmament, therefore, are not occurring in a political vacuum but rather at a moment when Sudani’s consolidation of authority threatens to cement a government less susceptible to American influence.

By pressing the disarmament issue now, the U.S. appears to be testing Sudani’s willingness to distance himself from the factions that both underpin his legitimacy and reflect the nationalist sentiment gaining traction among Iraqi voters.

This timing suggests a broader American attempt to influence Iraq’s political course days before a critical election. However, the move risks backfiring as it would be seen domestically as further U.S. interference aimed at undermining Iraq’s sovereignty and the popular elements that continue to shape its political and military landscape.

Sudani tied the resistance’s disarmament to the pullout of U.S. forces, widely seen in Iraq as

an occupying army.

The U.S. and Iraq have agreed to a phased withdrawal of American troops, with a complete exit expected by the end of 2026. The initial drawdown began in 2025. The U.S. has previously violated withdrawal agreements under various pretexts, such as rebranding its forces from a combat role to an advisory one. Military experts argue that Iraq requires neither of these American roles.

Washington has been pressing Baghdad to disarm the resistance, which it claims is affiliated with the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).

The PMF was established in the summer of 2014 following a fatwa (religious decree) issued by Ayatollah Sistani in response to the defeat of the U.S.-trained Iraqi army.

This defeat occurred as Daesh rapidly advanced, seizing control of nearly two-thirds of Iraq. Since its formation, the PMF has become a central pillar of Iraq’s defense structure. It played a decisive role in the fight against Daesh, leading front-line battles for three years and ultimately



defeating the terrorist group in 2017.

It is now a key pillar of the Iraqi armed forces after its integration in 2016. Analysts argue that any calls to dismantle the PMF come from parties bent on fostering insecurity in Iraq.

On the other hand, anti-American resistance factions emerged in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003. Amid a security vacuum, these organizations were formed by locals determined to oppose foreign military presence and reclaim national sovereignty.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Washington’s truce mechanism aimed to turn Lebanon into next Syria

From page 1 ► According to the same source, Ortagus refused to provide any guarantees of halting Israeli aggression or withdrawal from occupied points.

Instead, she emphasized Lebanon’s “obligations to the international community,” a phrase that reflects Washington’s full adoption of the Israeli narrative, a narrative that blames Hezbollah’s arms for obstructing de-escalation and seeks to strip them through a security-political mechanism.

Diplomatic reports reveal that the U.S. administration plans to expand the committee’s mandate, adding foreign military experts and holding sessions abroad to give it an “internationally neutral” character.

Lebanese officials fear this is a prelude to internationalizing the southern front and weakening the state’s sovereignty.

Meanwhile, Israel continues to violate Resolution 1701 with daily incursions. Analysts in Tel Aviv describe this as part of a calculated campaign to impose new ground realities that would force Lebanon to accept “reforms,” the first step toward a controlled settlement under American-Israeli terms.

In Israeli circles, the current regional chaos is seen as a “golden opportunity to clip Hezbollah’s wings.” Yet, the same analysts acknowledge that a full-scale war could prove disastrous, given Hezbollah’s enhanced deterrent capacity and extensive battlefield experience.

The electoral front: Washington’s political leverage

Parallel to this external pressure, Lebanon faces a new internal crisis over proposed amendments to its electoral law, notably the abolition of the six expatriate seats and the redistribution of votes across the

128 existing parliamentary seats.

In this volatile situation, Lebanese Forces (LF) leader Samir Geagea has resurfaced as a key political actor, exploiting Western hostility toward the resistance to position himself as a “credible alternative.”

Geagea advocates “positive neutrality,” urging Lebanon to distance itself from the resistance axis and engage in indirect normalization through international frameworks like the ceasefire mechanism — a move perfectly aligned with U.S. strategy.

Analysts warn that Washington’s approach is intended to reshape Lebanon’s internal political balance, pushing select factions toward confrontation with Hezbollah, thereby isolating the resistance and undermining its national legitimacy.

Yet, Geagea’s opponents caution

that this path mirrors the disastrous alliances of the 1980s, when reliance on foreign intervention plunged Lebanon into another civil war.

It is increasingly clear that Lebanon is being pushed — through calibrated diplomatic and financial pressures — toward a new negotiating framework designed not for peace but for disarmament and submission.

Washington seeks to replicate in Lebanon what it achieved in Syria: a gradual erosion of sovereignty through “mechanisms” of mediation and control.

But despite the growing entanglement of foreign influence and domestic fragility, the equation on the ground remains intact. It is defined by Hezbollah’s deterrent power and the steadfast of the Axis of Resistance, not by the diplomatic committees or the illusion of international “stability.”

Trump’s gilded cage and the sycophancy doctrine

A global playbook of flattery fraying statecraft’s spine with spectacles and shadows

From page 1 ► Shinzo Abe’s old playbook — sumo shows, custom trophies, charm offensive — metastasized into a global technique.

Though visibly nervous, Japan’s new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi followed the script, presenting Trump with a putter once used by Abe and a gold leaf golf ball, while linking generous investment and defense pledges to the visit—an exercise in optics meant to flatter and pave the way for substantive concessions.

At the White House signing of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace accord, Ilham Aliyev and Nikol Pashinyan vied in a competition of adulation, hailing Trump as the “sole architect of peace.”

Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu, long adept at instrumentalizing Washington’s vanity, has refined the craft. At a July White House dinner, he theatrically presented Trump with a framed “Peace Prize nomination,” declaring him a man “forging peace in one country after another.”

The charade repeated at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit in October. Pakistan’s Shehbaz Sharif gushed that Trump was “the most genuine candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize,” and that he is “genuinely a man of peace.”

Trump, glowing, later replayed Sharif’s remarks at rallies as proof of his “world respect,” oblivious to the derision the comments sparked in regional press.

“The Prime Minister said to me, ‘Mr. President, you saved millions of lives. You stopped that India war from going nuclear.’”

Even at home, the pattern persists. During a White House tech dinner, Meta’s Mark Zuckerberg proclaimed a \$600 billion AI investment “inspired by Trump’s leadership,” only for a hot mic to catch him murmuring, “I wasn’t sure what number you wanted.”

The slip revealed what this new era of flattery demands: inflated figures and empty praise, offered not to shape policy, but to appease a presidency that confuses sycophancy with success.

Such gestures aren’t quaint ceremonialism. They are leverage, a soft auction in which praise is the entry fee for commercial and strategic favors.

That choreography does three things: it conceals, it redirects, and it corrupts.

It conceals itself because tightly staged visits keep protesters, watchdogs, and tough questions at bay; it redirects attention because headlines about “historic” handshakes often precede procurement promises and investment commitments that benefit narrow contractors; and it corrupts because access secured via personal flattery increasingly



feeds private ventures tied to Trump’s circle.

The recent proliferation of World Liberty Financial’s token sales—majority-owned by Trump’s family—and a large Abu Dhabi investment illustrate the point: what appears to be private innovation can also serve as a vector for geopolitical influence that overlaps with presidential favor.

The domestic corollary is obvious. When the White House’s foreign policy cadence aligns with deals that enrich allies — or family — the guardrails fray.

Reporting has tied high-profile crypto deals, chip export relaxations, and Trump’s surprise pardon of Binance’s Changpeng Zhao into a pattern where policy shifts and financial flows appear less like coincidence than quid pro quo.

That is not the ordinary give-and-take of diplomacy; it is a marketplace in which personal loyalty and private profit shape state action.

This posture will be on display at the C5+1 summit on November 6, when the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan visit Washington.

Expect the summit to be framed first as theater: photo ops, symbolic gifts, and promises that may read well in press releases yet leave implementation and procurement terms murky.

That gap is where leverage converts into extraction, and where local autocrats can trade away rights and revenues for headline-friendly pledges.

The deeper damage is reputational and institutional. A so-called superpower that allows its diplomacy to be shaped by vanity and private enrichment forfeits moral authority and invites humiliation.

The degradation is not merely embarrassing — it is dangerous. Statecraft is being hollowed into a marketplace of gilded favors, where flattery buys access and access buys policy.

Mamdani’s win lays bare failure of U.S. capitalism

From page 1 ► **Freezing rent for tenants living in rent-controlled apartments, which affects over two million New Yorkers.**

–Making all city buses free and improving their speed and reliability.

–Providing free childcare for every family in the city.

–Creating city-owned grocery stores to help lower food prices.

–Raising taxes on big companies and people earning over \$1 million a year to fund these programs.

For many voters, Mamdani’s message felt like a breath of fresh air. In a city where billionaires live next to people who can barely pay rent, his campaign said clearly: the economy should serve people, not profit.

The cost of U.S. capitalism

Across the United States, there is growing anger over the unfair results of decades of capitalism — a system that has produced enormous wealth, but only for a small group at the top.

The richest one percent of Americans now own more wealth than the entire middle class.

Many workers’ wages have barely increased in decades, even as prices for hous-

ing, food, and healthcare keep rising.

The housing crisis has made it impossible for many families to afford rent.

Millions are still without proper healthcare, while private insurance companies make billions in profits.

Climate change continues to worsen because corporations often put profit before the planet.

New York City shows all these problems in one place. It is home to Wall Street, the world’s financial center, but it is also home to one of the largest homeless populations in America. Mamdani’s victory shows that many people are ready to question this system and demand something fairer.

Mixed political reactions

Mamdani’s win has caused a major stir across the political world.

Progressive Democrats — politicians who want more equality and stronger social programs — praised his victory. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) said that New Yorkers had “come together and stood up to bullies and thugs in the White House,” a clear reference to President Donald Trump.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran shines at Malaysia's Culture and Food Exhibition

From Page 1 ► Habib-Reza Arzani, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Malaysia, visited the festival and met with Iranian participants, emphasizing the importance of cultural diplomacy through art and education.

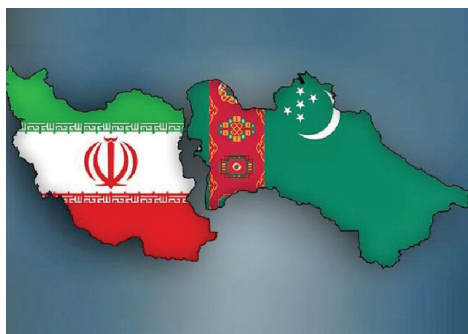
Iran secured the top award Among 45 participating countries including India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Japan, and Bangladesh.

Dr. Assemi, an AI specialist and professor at the University of Malaya, accepted the prize during the closing ceremony attended by Malaysia's Minister of Higher Education, Zambray Abd Kadir, and several ambassadors.



This achievement once again highlighted Iran's strong presence in promoting its rich cultural heritage, handicrafts, and traditional cuisine on the global stage.

Turkmen bloggers to be in Iran's free zones to introduce tourist attractions



TEHRAN—A joint meeting was held between the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkmenistan and the Deputy Head of the Secretariat of Free Zones High Council, in which agreements were reached to develop cultural and tourism interactions between the free and special economic zones of Iran and Turkmenistan. It was decided to plan for the presence of Turkmen bloggers and influencers in Iran's free zones to introduce the tourist attractions of these areas in the cyberspace.

It was also decided to review and increase the development of Turkmenistan's investment in Iran's free zones, ISNA reported.

Emphasizing the deep historical, civilizational, and cultural commonalities, the two sides referred to more than 1,000-kilometer border between Iran and Turkmenistan as a 'border of friendship' and emphasized the necessity of utilizing the capacity of free and special economic zones to strengthen the mutual relations.

In this meeting, a series of executive agreements and joint programs between the two parties were reviewed, some of which are as follows:

- Examining the possibility of launching a direct flight between Turkmenistan and the islands of Kish, Qeshm, and Chabahar with the aim of developing bilateral tourism

- Planning a trip by the Turkmen ambassador to Chabahar in the near future to examine the possibility of Turkmen investment

Khorramabad to host specialized exhibition on off-road tourism

TEHRAN — A specialized exhibition of off-road tourism and related equipment is set to be held in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province, with the participation of professionals and enthusiasts, the provincial tourism chief announced on Tuesday.

Atta Hassanpour said the exhibition also aims to highlight Lorestan's natural and cultural attractions, strengthen cooperation among those active in tourism, ecotourism, and related industries, and support manufacturers of travel- and off-road-related equipment.

He noted that the event could serve as an effective step toward enhancing the province's economic and tourism growth. "Lorestan, with its unique natural landscapes, historical monuments, and rich indigenous culture, is among the country's most significant tourism destinations. Holding such exhibitions helps better highlight these potentials," he explained.

According to Hassanpour, the exhibition will run from November 17 to 21, daily from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Lorestan International Fairground. The event will host par-



ticipants from the tourism and ecotourism sectors, off-road equipment manufacturers, and travel and adventure enthusiasts.

He also expressed gratitude for the cooperation of relevant institutions in organizing the exhibition, adding: "We hope that by continuing to hold such events, the path toward sustainable tourism development in Lorestan will become even more firmly established."

17th Kerman's Handicrafts Exhibition inaugurated

TEHRAN - The 17th Kerman's Handicrafts Exhibition was opened at the permanent location of Kerman International Exhibitions, southeast of Iran, on the evening of Tuesday, in the presence of the inspector of Cultural Heritage Ministry's Handicrafts Department, the governor-general, the provincial handicrafts chief, and with the participation of artists from various provinces.

Parvaneh Heydari, the deputy provincial handicrafts chief, stated that a number of handicrafts artisans and activists from all over the country have gathered here to showcase their capabilities, ISNA reported.

She added: "Handicrafts are cultural and value-generating activities, and we have all the raw materials and producers in the country, and we can associate and help the economy with the handicrafts in the current situation."

Heydari asked Kerman provincial officials to be with the handicraft artisans, and continued: "We are with the artisans in Handicrafts Department to take steps for market making and selling the products."



She emphasized that handicrafts need the support and empathy of all state institutions and the private sector in order to grow.

Artists from 16 world handicraft cities of Iran are also present at the exhibition.

Also, Head of Kerman Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and

Tourism Department Morteza Nikrou said that for the first time, handicraft artists from all over the country have participated in this exhibition.

Referring to the display of handicrafts in more than 280 exhibition booths, he added that 80 booths belong to Kerman province. "Artists from 16 world handicraft cities of our country are also present at the exhibition."

Nikrou stated: "We will also hold a handicraft exhibition on the eve of Nowruz (March 2026).

It was held in Rafsanjan last year and the exhibition was well received."

The 17th Kerman's Handicraft Exhibition will run until November 7.

Visiting hours are from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Being home to seven UNESCO World Heritage sites, eye-catching gardens, and ancient monuments, Kerman city can be considered as a perfect museum illustrating various periods in Iranian history.

Located in the southeast of Iran, Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Lut Desert.

Kerman, with an area exceeding 180,000 square kilometers, is one of Iran's vastest provinces. It enjoys a variety of climates including warm, semi-dry, extremely dry, moderate, and cold.

Visit to museums free for teenagers during November 6-7

TEHRAN—Visiting all museums and cultural-historical collections in the country will be free for teenagers and their parents on Thursday and Friday (November 6-7), said Deputy Cultural Heritage Minister Ali Darabi.

According to Mehr news agency, he added that the decision was made at the request of the Secretary of High Council of Cultural Revolution and in line with the continuation of the cultural activities of the Youth Week and with the aim of raising the awareness of the new generation about cultural heritage and the role of museums in transferring knowledge and historical identity.

Darabi stated that according

to this notification, all museums and palace museums under the Ministry of Cultural Heritage throughout the country are obliged to provide free visits to teenagers with their parents on the two mentioned days.

He emphasized that museums can play a more effective role in familiarizing families with the country's historical and cultural values, in addition to their main duties, by implementing cultural and educational projects on special days.

This project aims to strengthen the connection between the young generation and the country's cultural heritage and is implemented within the framework of the 'Heritage and Museum



Bell' program.

The cultural heritage officials have invited families to have an

educational and enjoyable experience with their children by attending the museums in their cities.

10 beautiful cities you should visit during travel to Iran



TEHRAN--Iran stands out as a land where urban life is deeply intertwined with centuries of history, spirituality, and stunning natural diversity.

Mehr News Agency has compiled a list of some prominent and famous Iranian cities that all Iranian citizens and tourists must visit at least once in their lives.

From ancient capitals to sacred centers and modern metropolises, Iranian cities embody the essence of civilization — places where culture, creativity, and community converge.

Tehran, the beating heart of modern Iran

As the capital and largest city,

Tehran represents the pulse of contemporary Iran. Beneath its fast-paced urban life lies a wealth of history — from the majestic Golestan Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to vibrant bazaars and museums that narrate the story of a nation balancing tradition and progress. Framed by the snow-capped Alborz Mountains, Tehran also offers a unique blend of natural and urban experiences.

Isfahan, the city of 'Half the World'

The elegant mosques and palaces showcase Iran's golden age of urban design. The city's symmetrical gardens and turquoise domes continue to inspire visitors from across the

world.

Shiraz, the city of poets, gardens

Renowned as the city of love and poetry, Shiraz is home to Iran's literary icons — Hafez and Sa'di. The tranquil Eram Garden, vibrant Nasir al-Molk Mosque, and nearby ruins of Persepolis, the ancient Achaemenid capital, make Shiraz a cultural and historical treasure.

Mashhad, the spiritual capital of Iran

Mashhad attracts millions of pilgrims annually as the resting place of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam. Beyond its grand shrine complex, the city is a center of learning, hospitality, and cultural exchange, blending devotion with urban vitality.

Tabriz, crossroads of civilization

Situated in the northwest, Tabriz has long served as a major trade hub on the Silk Road. Its historic Grand Bazaar, one of the world's oldest covered markets, symbolizes Iran's role in global commerce and craftsmanship. The city also boasts rich Azarbaijani culture and stunning architecture.

Yazd, city of windcatchers

Recognized by UNESCO for its unique desert architecture, Yazd reflects centuries of adaptation to harsh climates. Its windcatchers (badgirs), Zoroastrian Fire Temple, and maze-like alleys speak of endurance, faith, and harmony with nature.

Kerman, a live museum

Kerman combines natural beauty with cultural depth. From the Ganjali Khan Complex to the surreal landscape of the Lut Desert, one of the hottest places on Earth, Kerman represents the coexistence of civilization and wilderness.

Kashan, desert city of rosewater

A smaller yet enchanting city, Kashan is famed for its traditional houses, such as the Tabatabaei House, and for hosting the Fin Garden, another UNESCO site. It is also the heart of Iran's rosewater and carpet traditions.

The ancient city of Kashan, which sits where Iran's vast desert, Dasht-e Kavir, begins, has long been famed for its traditional rosewater destinations, atmospheric places, and hospitable people.

Hamadan, old land of civilization, pristine nature

Among the oldest cities in the world, Hamadan dates back to the Median Empire. The Tomb of Avicenna, Ganjnameh inscriptions, and Ecbatana ruins reveal its enduring historical importance.

Rasht, city of silver rains

Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, is known for its vibrant markets, cuisine, and proximity to the Caspian Sea and Masuleh village. Its lush nature and mild climate make it a northern paradise.

UNICEF helps strengthen Iran's emergency health response

TEHRAN – In an effort to ensure Iran's health system is strong and ready to protect everyone, especially the most vulnerable, when a crisis strikes, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has procured portable tents and rapid-response backpacks.

It is a step forward to ensure that children, women, and everyone in need can access medical care during a disaster or emergency. They are focusing on two projects to help people immediately, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on November 4.

1. Portable Emergency Health Tents

When an earthquake or flood hits, regular clinics can be damaged. To fix this, UNICEF is buying special, easy-to-use Primary Health Care (PHC) Emergency Portable Tents.

Here's why these tents are important:

Care for Everyone: They make sure people still get basic medical care, and they are specially set up to help pregnant women and even assist with giving birth.

Ready to Go: They are lightweight and designed to be set up very quickly, even in remote or hard-to-reach areas.

Full Clinic in a Tent: Each tent is fully equipped, like a small hospital unit. It can give essential health services to about 200 people every single day.

They've been tested! This idea worked great after the Kerman-shah earthquake, and now 10 tents are being delivered to different ar-



eas.

2. Quick-Action Backpacks for Health Teams

Emergencies can also cause the rapid spread of diseases (epidemics). To stop this, UNICEF has procured rapid response backpacks.

These backpacks let health teams:

Be Fast Diagnosticians: They contain tools and equipment to quickly investigate a disease outbreak and determine its cause.

Give First Aid: They have essential supplies for giving immediate first aid and basic care to affected people.

Go Anywhere: They are lightweight and easy to carry, so health workers can quickly reach people in remote areas, even where clinics are broken.

Keep Working: These allow health workers to continue providing care and looking for problems for several days without needing to

return to a main clinic.

UNICEF is making sure these quick-action backpacks are delivered to health teams, and they will also train the staff on how to use them best.

Supporting health ministry

One of UNICEF's top priorities is to support the country in adding new vaccines to the immunization program to protect children against more diseases and reduce their mortality, ISNA quoted Mohammad Eslami, an official with UNICEF, as saying.

He made the remarks on October 12, while addressing a workshop on immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases in Kerman province, ISNA reported.

Despite sanctions, UNICEF is doing its utmost to provide the vaccines needed and to assist the Ministry of Health to ensure that no child is left behind, the official added.

Highlighting the importance of

cold chain systems, Eslami said the main objective is to provide cold chain equipment to preserve the potency of the vaccines.

Currently, the cold chain conditions in the country are good, and the Ministry of Health, with the support of UNICEF, is providing new, standard cold storage facilities to install in areas without out cold chain system.

UNICEF has also provided 17 standard refrigerated vehicles for transporting vaccines, at a safe temperature range, to different parts of the country, he added.

The official went on to say that families and children should learn about the key role of vaccination in preventing life-threatening diseases. Therefore, teaching target groups is among UNICEF's main activities that will be implemented this year, Eslami further noted.

For his turn, Omid Zamani, an official with the WHO, lauded the country's achievements in immunization programs and said vaccine coverage in Iran is around 97 percent, which is satisfactory.

However, in some border areas and areas inhabited by migrants, children and adults may not have adequate access to vaccination. So, it is essential that the country accurately identifies and covers these areas, as well, he said.

Referring to Rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines added to the national immunization program last year, the official said that in the next five years, three more vaccines will be introduced to the national immunization program.

SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

FAO awards GIAHS certificate to Qazvin's Baghestan

TEHRAN – The ancient traditional gardens of Qazvin (Baghestan) has received the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) certificate awarded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Currently, there are six designated sites in Iran, ranking the country fourth in the world. China, Japan, and South Korea, with 25,17, and 9 sites, are placed first to third.

The 2025 GIAHS Award Ceremony took place on October 31 at FAO headquarters in Rome, within the celebrations of FAO's 80th Anniversary. The event celebrated 28 new agricultural heritage designations across 14 countries, bringing the total number of globally recognized heritage systems to 102.

Under the FAO's GIAHS program, the selection criteria stipulate that sites must be of global importance, have value as a public good, supporting food and livelihood security, agro-biodiversity, sustainable knowledge systems and practices, social values and culture, as well as outstanding landscapes.

The GIAHS sites in Iran include Qanat Irrigated Agricultural Heritage Systems in Kashan, Qanat-based Saffron Farming System in Gonabad, Grape Production System in Jowzan Valley, Estahban Rainfed Fig Orchards Heritage System in Fars Province, Traditional Walnut Agricultural System in Tuyserkan, in Hamedan Province, and Ancient Traditional Gardens of

Qazvin Baghestan.

The traditional Gardens of Qazvin are a flood-spreading system that dates back thousands of years, when the city of Qazvin developed. Situated in the foothills of the Alborz ranges, the creation of the gardens surrounding the city has protected its inhabitants from floods, adapting to and taking advantage of the watershed to produce nuts and local delicacies.

Baghestan hosts a rich agrobiodiversity where approximately 100 local varieties of pistachio, almond, grape, apricot, walnut, and plum trees coexist. Grape, pistachio, and almonds represent the species with the highest number of local and endemic varieties. For instance, 25 varieties of grapes have been identified, which trace their history back to the 16th century.

Launched by FAO at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and formally endorsed as a FAO corporate programme in 2015, the GIAHS initiative identifies and safeguards remarkable agricultural systems where communities maintain an intricate relationship with their territories.

Evolving and resilient, they are characterized by agrobiodiversity, traditional knowledge, invaluable cultures, and unique landscapes, sustainably managed by farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and forest people in ways that support livelihoods, adaptive management, and knowledge exchange.

DOE chief to attend COP30 in Brazil

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, will participate in the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30), which is scheduled to be held in Belém, Brazil, from November 6 to 21.

Ansari will also attend the Belém Climate Summit from November 6 to 7. The event will bring together world leaders, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to discuss priority actions to tackle climate change.

COP30 will focus on the efforts needed to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, the presentation of new national action plans (NDCs), and the progress on the finance pledges made at COP29.

The COP30 Action Agenda will be organized around six key areas, reflecting the breadth and urgency of action needed to meet collective commitments under the Paris Agreement and previous COPs: Transitioning Energy, Industry, and Transport; Stewarding Forests, Oceans, and Biodiversity; Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems; Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure, and Water; Fostering Human and Social Development; and Cross-cutting Enablers and Accelerators.

In August, Ansari and the members of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) discussed ways to strengthen the country's participation in the COP30.

During the meeting, Ansari highlighted the private sector's potential for having an active presence in COP30. She also noted that the current administration has entrusted the climate change negotiation committee to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, saying that the DOE is trying to change it and take responsibility for the committee.

The official proposed signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to enhance collaborative efforts, particularly joint research projects, between the two organizations.

For his part, Samad Hassanzadeh, the head of ICCIMA, stated that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a vital infrastructure measure, stressing that the private sector had a noticeable capacity for active participation in COP29.

Presenting the country's investment capacities and opportunities at global levels, utilizing technology in content delivering, setting up Iran's pavilion in COP30 for holding negotiations, modernizing the aging fleet and eliminating regulations that are no longer necessary to reduce pollution and optimize the country's economy, establishing a joint permanent committee between DOE and ICCIMA, reaching agreements with international parties to create a voluntary carbon market to connect global markets, making efforts to overcome resistance to international environmental activities were among discussed issues.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran well rid of 153 swarms of desert locusts

Some 153 swarms of desert locusts from Saudi Arabia which penetrated into the southeastern provinces have been controlled, Esmail Najjar, head of Iran's Crisis Management Organization has said.

Since the [Iranian calendar] month of Bahman (starting on January 21) we fought swarms of desert locust in approximately 532,000 hectares of farming lands, IRNA news agency quoted Najjar as saying on Saturday.

Provinces of Bushehr, Fars, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Hormozgan, Kerman, Khuzestan, and Sistan-Baluchestan have been affected by the locusts which incurred major losses on farming lands and gardens.

Farm lands in the aforementioned provinces have undergone aerial spraying of chemical insecticides and ground pest control operations, he stated.

He went on to say that a budget of 300 billion rials (around \$7 million) is required to completely eradicate the outbreak.

۱۵۳ دسته از ملخ های صحرایی نابود شدند

رئیس سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور گفت: ۱۵۳ دسته از ملخ های صحرایی که به استان های جنوب شرقی کشور حمله ور شده بودند، نابود شده است.

اسماعیل نجار روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا درباره آخرین اقدامات برای مبارزه با ملخ های صحرایی در کشور، گفت: از بهمن ۹۷ تاکنون در ۵۳۱ هزار و ۸۸۸ هکتار مبارزه با ملخ های صحرایی انجام شده است.

تاکنون در استان های خوزستان، بوشهر، فارس، هرمزگان، کرمان، سیستان و بلوچستان، جنوب کرمان، و کهگیلویه و بویراحمد اراضی و باغات مورد هجوم ملخ های صحرایی و خسارات جبران ناپذیری قرار گرفته اند.

این مناطق با استفاده از هواپیما سمپاشی هوایی و از طریق نیروی انسانی سمپاشی زمینی شده است.

وی درباره اختصاص منابع مورد نیاز مبارزه با ملخ ها صحرایی نیز توضیح داد و گفت: برای مبارزه با ملخ های صحرایی ۳۰ میلیارد تومان بودجه نیاز است.

© ISNA/Mehdi Alizadeh



Saffron harvest in northeastern Iran

The saffron harvest in Farouj County, North Khorasan Province, begins in late October and usually continues until late November.

Iran exported more than 99.5 tons of saffron, valued at over \$94 million, in the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21–September 22). The United Arab Emirates, Spain, China, Afghanistan, India, Germany, and the United Kingdom were the main importers of Iranian saffron.



NOVEMBER 6, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who is sure of God's compensation, shows much generosity himself.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:23 Dawn: 5:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:32 (tomorrow)

“CHAOS: The Manson Murders” to be reviewed in Tehran

TEHRAN- The Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen American film director Errol Morris' 2025 documentary film “CHAOS: The Manson Murders” on Sunday.

Iranian film critic Fatemeh Shahbandeh will attend a screening of the film followed by a review session.

“CHAOS: The Manson Murders” is an adaptation of the 2019 nonfiction book “CHAOS: Charles Manson, the CIA, and the Secret History of the Sixties”, authored by investigative journalist Tom O'Neill with Dan Piepenbring.

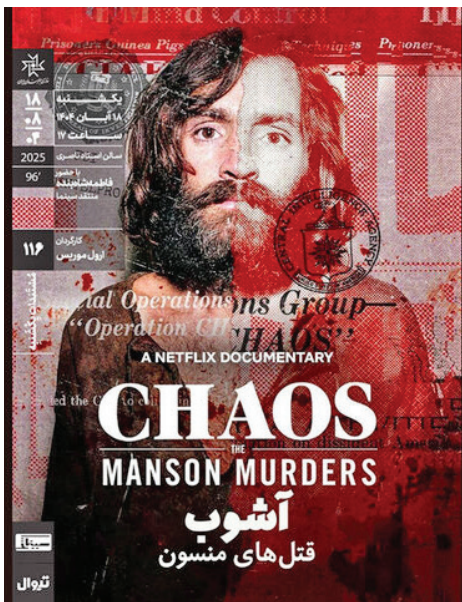
This documentary explores the infamous Manson murders through a lens of deep investigation, aiming to uncover hidden truths and challenge conventional narratives surrounding one of America's most notorious crimes.

In an interview published by Screen International in December 2023, Morris revealed that after completing his then-upcoming film “The Pigeon Tunnel”, he planned to begin production on the Manson documentary for Netflix. By late January 2025, Netflix officially listed the film under the title “CHAOS: The Manson Murders”.

The film had its world premiere at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City during the Documentary Fortnight series on March 6, 2025. It was subsequently released globally on Netflix on March 7, 2025, making it accessible to a wide audience interested in true crime and historical investigations.

Critical reception to “CHAOS” has been mixed. On Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds a 56 percent approval rating based on 34 critic reviews, with the consensus noting that while the documentary attempts to untangle numerous threads surrounding the Manson case, it ultimately emphasizes the enduring fascination with the murders rather than providing definitive answers. Metacritic assigned the film a score of 62 out of 100, indicating generally favorable reviews from critics.

Among the critics, The New York Times's Alissa Wilkinson found the film compelling, highlighting how Morris shifted focus from the murders themselves to the psychological and manipulative aspects of Charles Man-



son's influence over his followers. Wilkinson, however, expressed some disappointment that the film adhered to what she described as the “now-established Netflix true crime style,” implying a certain formulaic approach.

Conversely, Daniel Fienberg of The Hollywood Reporter criticized the documentary for its pacing and storytelling approach. He described the film as “a story about the need for stories when it comes to explaining the unexplainable,” lamenting that Morris's approach resulted in a somewhat dull presentation with 45 minutes of “bland regurgitation.”

Charles Manson was a notorious American cult leader and convicted murderer. Born in 1934, Manson was a charismatic figure who led a cult-like group known as the Manson Family in the late 1960s. The group was responsible for a series of brutal and shocking murders, including the deaths of actress Sharon Tate and several others in 1969. Manson's ideology, a twisted mix of counterculture ideals and racist hatred, led to the brutal killings. He was arrested in 1969 and sentenced to death, but his sentence was commuted to life in prison after California abolished the death penalty in 1972. Manson died in prison in 2017.

Shahram Mokri's “Black Rabbit, White Rabbit” to attend festivals in Saudi Arabia, Singapore

TEHRAN – The latest film by the Iranian director Shahram Mokri “Black Rabbit, White Rabbit” will compete in two international film festivals in Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

The 36th Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) and the 5th Red Sea International Film Festival (RSIFF) will screen the film in their competition sections, ISNA reported.

The SGIFF will run from November 28 to December 8 and the RSIFF is scheduled to be held from December 4 to 13.

The 139-minute movie is a production of Tajikistan and the UAE. It has been selected as Tajikistan's official submission to the Oscars 2026 to represent the country in the best international feature film category.

Mokri develops multiple plot strands in this engrossing, multi-layered, playful and skilled drama centering around Sarah, the victim of a suspicious car crash who is swaddled in bandages and at odds with her controlling husband.

What turns out to be a film-within-a-film zooms out to include the remake of a classic Iranian movie in Tajikistan, a prop master worried about a prop gun and an actress looking for her big break. Of course, their fates collide through multiple fluid, bravura circular takes, often covering the same time frame, bold touches of magical realism, and an eternal mystery.

In this spinning story, Mokri adheres to Anton Chekhov's principle that every element introduced must pay off – each detail turns into



both promise and distraction, its meaning fractured across mirrored scenes, time loops and reenactments.

The continuous long take becomes a choreography of precision and misdirection, shaping what is seen and believed. Mokri exposes how cinema deceives by allowing it to perform its own paradox: sleight of hand and its undoing.

The cast of the 2025 movie includes Babak Karimi, Hasti Moham-mai, Kibriyo Dilyobova, and Bezhn Davlyatov, among others.

Founded in 1987, the Singapore International Film Festival is the

largest and longest-running film event in Singapore. As an illustrious cornerstone in the local arts calendar, the festival is known for its dynamic programming and focus on groundbreaking Asian cinema for Singapore and the region.

SGIFF celebrates the power of cinema, especially its ability to inform, transform and inspire. It highlights global independent film, with a focus on Southeast Asian films.

Launched in 2019, the Red Sea International Film Festival represents the Foundation's main initiative; an international Saudi platform that celebrates excellence in film, opening its doors to the world.

The annual event embraces the vibrant creative energy of Jeddah, the Kingdom, and the Arab region as a whole, presenting programs for film lovers, filmmakers, and the industry at large.

Each year, the festival adopts a dedicated theme, all geared towards the art of film and culture, making it a new destination for Arab and international cinema with lively, diverse programs designed around the audiences. There is something for everyone; from local creatives, cinephiles, and families, to international industry professionals curious about the inside track on this new market.

20th Resistance Theater Festival set to promote culture of sacrifice, justice



TEHRAN- The call for the 20th International Resistance Theater Festival has been officially announced, inviting international artists to collaborate in this edition of the event.

Under the banner “Iran, An Eternal Stage of Resistance,” the festival aims to expand the discourse of resistance and promote the culture of sacrifice, steadfastness, and justice across Iran, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

The event seeks to harness the experience of nineteen previous editions to identify and support talented resistance theater artists nationwide and internationally, the report added.

The festival will be held across six main categories, Playwriting Competition, Stage Theater, Street Theater, Scientific-Research Seminar, Workshops and International.

The call emphasizes the creation of artistic works inspired by the Israel and the U.S.'s 12-day

aggression against Iran, alongside themes highlighting martyrs and fighters of the Islamic Revolution, the Sacred Defense, the Resistance Axis, nuclear martyrs, the heroic struggles of the Palestinian and Gaza people, and the role of women in resistance.

The scientific and research segment aims to develop theoretical literature on resistance theater, foster interdisciplinary dialogue among artists and researchers, and examine the social role of committed theater in the contemporary world. Additionally, the workshops will be held across various provinces, featuring masterclasses in play-

writing and street theater.

According to the secretariat, submissions are open from mid-November to April 2026.

Organized by the Theater of Revolution and Sacred Defense Association and the Cultural Foundation for Revayat-e Fat'h, the festival is scheduled to be held in Tehran and various cities across the country during the Sacred Defense Week (September 22 to 29, 2026).

The 20th International Resistance Theater Festival, directed by Mohammad Kazemtabar, will be hosted throughout Iran, welcoming audiences and artists from across the nation.

Superman star David Corenswet joins 5,000 pledging boycott of Israeli film bodies ‘complicit in genocide’

More than 5,000 actors, directors and producers have joined the pledge not to work with Israeli film institutions they say are “complicit in genocide and apartheid against the Palestinian people” since it launched in September.

The signatories include Superman star David Corenswet, who has joined the initiative that featured roughly 1,200 signatories when it was first announced. The American actor, 32, who will also star in 2026's Supergirl, is a rising star in Hollywood. Many interpreted the recent Superman film, which grossed more than \$600 million at the global box office, to be critical of Israel.

Other signatories include Academy Award winners Olivia Colman, Mark Ruffalo and Javier Bardem, as well as actors Josh O'Connor, Ayo Edebiri, Riz Ahmed and Tilda Swinton. Acclaimed directors Ava DuVernay, Yorgos Lanthimos, Adam McKay and Joshua Oppenheimer are also among those supporting the pledge, published by advocacy group Film Workers for Palestine.

Arab film and television figures including actors Bassem Youssef, Dhafer L'Abidine, Dina Shihabi and Khalid Abdalla as well as directors Farah Nabulsi, Annemarie Jacir and Hany Abu-Assad have also added their names to the list.

“In this urgent moment of crisis, where many

of our governments are enabling the carnage in Gaza, we must do everything we can to address complicity in that unrelenting horror,” the group said in a joint statement.

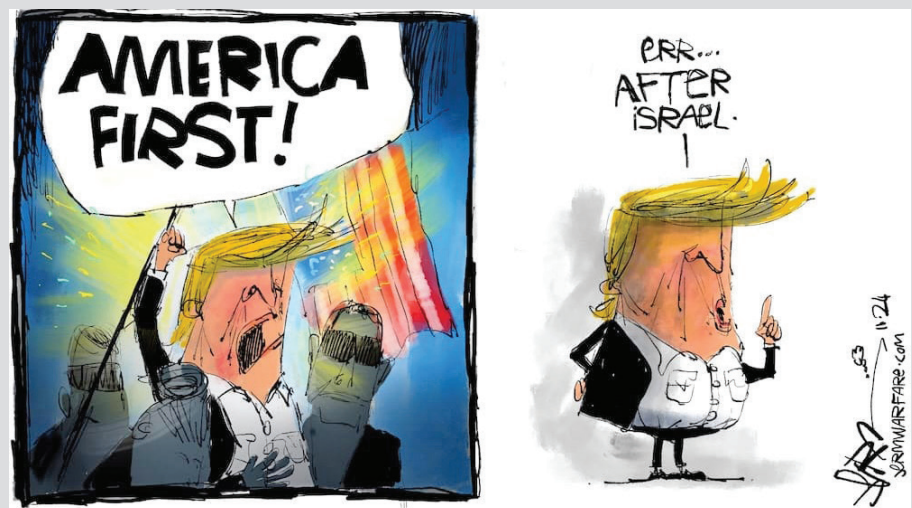
The signatories say they are responding to appeals from Palestinian filmmakers urging the global industry to “refuse silence, racism and dehumanization” and to “do everything humanly possible” to end complicity in their oppression.

The pledge cites the International Court of Justice's ruling that there is a “plausible risk of genocide in Gaza” and that Israel's occupation and apartheid policies are unlawful. It defines complicity as including “whitewashing or justifying genocide and apartheid, and/or partnering with the government committing them.”

Film Workers for Palestine said: “Despite operating in Israel's system of apartheid, and therefore benefiting from it, the vast majority of Israeli film production and distribution companies, sales agents, cinemas and other film institutions have never endorsed the full, internationally recognized rights of the Palestinian people.”

Organizers said the declaration takes inspiration from the 1987 campaign Filmmakers United Against Apartheid, founded by Martin Scorsese, Jonathan Demme and others to oppose US distribution of films in apartheid South Africa.

Cartoon of Day



America First!
Cartoonist: Jeremy Nell from South Africa