

Disarmament Is a Fig Leaf for Israel's Campaign to Dominate Lebanon

- Hezbollah's open book: No compromise with the enemy
- Iran condemns Israel's breach of truce and strikes on Lebanon



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Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes on towns in southern Lebanon on Thursday.

The end of the New Middle East project

Batool Subeiti

LONDON - The New Middle East project is over. So are the maps the occupation entity's Prime Minister flaunted at every summit, like a prophetic vision in a book after 3,000 years.

Trump adopted that vision and presented it as the conclusion of the longest war in 3,000 years. The entity's grand map included managing peoples who dreamed of the Kushner-style prosperity without homelands. It is the region the Israeli entity would govern. Trump no longer speaks of it after having "ended" it. He even shifted to saying a Palestinian state might or might not exist — it makes no difference.

The New Middle East is finished. It ended in failure to achieve any of the stated goals the entity declared for its multi-front war. Trump does not like failures, which allowed the 3,000-year war of backing come to an end. He does not like Netanyahu either, who proved a failure. On the Palestinian front there was complete failure in everything except destruction. Prisoners were released only through a deal. The deal was made possible as the Palestinians resisted. Its leaders,

Voices of resistance dominate Beirut forum

By Layla Saad

BEIRUT — The 34th session of the Arab National Conference opened in Beirut on Friday with the participation of more than 250 political, intellectual, and academic figures from across the Arab world.

The gathering aimed to reassess the Arab nationalist project, articulate a collective strategy to confront Western hegemony and normalization with Israel, and reaffirm support for resistance movements in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, and other scenes of confrontation.

Representing Hezbollah's Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem, the party's Arab Relations Officer, Ammar al-Moussawi, affirmed that Hezbollah "is not regretful for the decision to support Gaza," describing it as "one of the most honorable and noble choices in the history of the resistance."

Al-Moussawi said that the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation was "a moment of unparalleled steadfastness and dignity," adding that "two years after the operation,

Truce with no peace for Palestinians

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire, the Israeli regime continues to trample on the rights of Palestinians in Gaza.

The besieged Palestinian territory faces sustained Israeli attacks, showing there is no real security or peace on the ground. In recent incidents, a Palestinian child was seriously injured when an occupying regime's drone bombed the Shujayya neighborhood in eastern Gaza City.

Israeli artillery also shelled Bani Suhaila, east of Khan Younis, and struck the Tuffah and Daraj neighborhoods in eastern Gaza City. This is while Israeli occupation forces opened fire toward the southeastern areas of Khan Younis, where residents are already living in damaged homes and overcrowded shelters.

These attacks, including the killing of nearly 150 Palestinians in a single day, further show how the American-brokered ceasefire was a farce that has done little to stop the Zionist regime's military aggression or protect civilians. Analysts note that the regime's ongoing attacks during a declared ceasefire highlight the lack of enforcement or accountability in such agreements.

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Many of Iran's arms not used during Israeli aggression, declares top commander

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian military commander says the Iranian Armed Forces have not yet shown many of their capabilities.

Brigadier General Hassan Hassanzadeh, a Tehran commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), added the country stood up to the Israeli regime and the U.S. during the 12-day Israeli-imposed war on Iran, ► Page 2

Trump says he was 'very much in charge' of Iran war despite earlier denials

TEHRAN – U.S. President Donald Trump claimed responsibility for Israel's June aggression against Iran, walking back his prior denials of involvement and substantiating Iranian allegations that Washington had been complicit in the deadly war from its outset.

Trump made the announcement on Thursday in remarks to reporters. "Israel attacked first. That attack was very, very powerful. I was very much in charge of that," he said, adding, ► Page 2

Pezeshkian inaugurates major development projects in his visit to Kordestan

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian visited Kordestan Province on Thursday as part of his "National Unity Tour," inaugurating several infrastructure and industrial projects while emphasizing justice, local governance, and collective participation as foundations for Iran's progress.

During the one-day trip, Pezeshkian met with intellectuals, ► Page 4

Iran and the power of the drone

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – In the global landscape of the 21st century, technology has become one of the main sources of power and autonomy. It is no longer enough to have a strong army or access to natural resources: real independence depends on a country's ability to develop its own technological solutions and sustain its strategy without relying on others. In that sense, Iran has made drones a pillar of its sovereignty—a tool that blends innovation, resilience, and political ambition. ► Page 3

UNESCO recognizes Cyrus Cylinder as one of world's earliest human rights charters

TEHRAN - UNESCO's General Conference on Thursday adopted a resolution recognizing the Cyrus Cylinder as one of the world's earliest declarations promoting cultural diversity and human rights.

The resolution, titled "Cyrus Cylinder: An Early Charter of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity," was jointly proposed by Iran and Tajikistan and approved by a majority of member states at the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Samarkand.

As highlighted by UN cultural body, the recognition aims to strengthen intercultural dialogue, promote shared human heritage, and support the organization's programs related to justice, human rights, non-discrimination, and cultural tolerance. ► Page 6



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New Tehran mural mixes modern and ancient history to send a message to enemies

TERAN – A new mural in Tehran's Enghelab Square, titled "You Will Kneel Again," depicts famous commanders, kings, and mythical figures from Iran's long history. The mural appears to convey a message to the United States and Israel, following their June attack on Iranian territory that resulted in the deaths of approximately 1,100 Iranians. Despite significant propaganda efforts during their 12-day offensive, the U.S. and Israel failed to create a rift among the Iranian people or between the populace and the government. Instead, Iranians united under the country's flag.

Exclusive Interview

After its drone success, Iran's next breakout hit could come from the sea

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Iran's military attaché to Pakistan accepted the "Best Foreign Exhibitor" award at PIMEC 2025

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

An active and trust-based approach to diplomacy

In an interview with Ali Bigdeli, a senior analyst on European affairs, Shargh examined the diplomatic freeze between Iran and Europe. It wrote: Following the activation of the snapback mechanism, relations between Tehran and Europe have entered a phase of stagnation and diplomatic freeze. However, the issue of prisoner exchanges between Iran and certain European countries—particularly France—appears to be pursued as a form of soft diplomacy. Despite the prevailing chill in diplomatic relations, signs of efforts to reopen indirect channels and foster humanitarian engagement are emerging. Although the French Foreign Minister has emphasized that the matter of French nationals is unrelated to nuclear negotiations, in practice, such gestures could indirectly soften the atmosphere between Iran and the European Union in the short term. The simultaneous and parallel release of foreign nationals and increased cooperation with the IAEA could help prevent new resolutions from being issued. Nevertheless, these steps alone are insufficient to revive the negotiation process. To overcome the current impasse, Iran must pursue a more proactive nuclear diplomacy alongside confidence-building measures to prevent the crisis from escalating into a political and security deadlock.

Jam-e-Jam: You closed the door to negotiation, so don't complain

Jam-e-Jam criticized the IAEA's unprofessional conduct and breach of commitments. It quoted Esmail Kowsari, a member of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, as saying: From the moment the Agency violated professional principles, it could no longer expect the Islamic Republic of Iran to remain passive in the face of broken promises and distorted reports. If Mr. Grossi and his colleagues now complain about inspection restrictions, they must recognize that these are the consequences of their own misconduct. They themselves closed the path and attacked Iran mid-negotiation, committing a grave offense. This occurred despite no change in Iran's approach to inspections or cooperation with the Agency before the conflict. As Iran has repeatedly stated, it will not alter its policies under pressure. In the current circumstances, we cannot trust the Agency unless it admits its errors and takes responsibility. Yet instead of acknowledging their mistakes, they take pride in their reports. The Agency has shared all its findings on Iran's nuclear facilities with the United States and the Zionists. Thus, the core issue is not technical inspections, but the hegemonic policies of global arrogance—led by

the U.S. and the Zionist regime that exploit the Agency as a tool to pressure Iran.

Iran: A crisis of trust between Tehran and IAEA

In a recent analysis, the Iran newspaper highlighted the evident contradictions in Rafael Grossi's statements. On one hand, Grossi acknowledges that there is currently no need to refer Iran's case to the UN Security Council. On the other hand, by using phrases such as “cooperation must seriously improve,” he perpetuates a climate of pressure. None of his remarks addresses the more critical issue: the attacks by the United States and Israel on safeguarded Iranian nuclear sites; an event that, under the IAEA Charter, should have prompted immediate condemnation. More importantly, Grossi continues to expect Iran's cooperation with the Agency despite the absence of any clear technical framework for inspecting the damaged facilities. This contradiction lies at the heart of the trust crisis between Tehran and the IAEA: the Agency demands full cooperation without first restoring the necessary security and technical protocols, while Iran insists that a defined framework must be established for its current situation. Until a new oversight mechanism is determined in the aftermath of the attacks, expecting full cooperation from Iran is unreasonable.

Khorasan: Real deterrence comes from missiles, not signed agreements

The Zionist regime launched a sudden assault on Iran's military infrastructure, targeting radar systems, air defenses, and command centers of the armed forces. Israel imagined that Iran will be defeated within a few hours, but it failed to assess the capabilities of Iran's missile. During the 12-day war, despite Israeli claims of destroying missile launchers and missile sites, Iran's firepower intensified daily. By the fourth day, Tel Aviv was seeking intermediaries and proposing a ceasefire. Iran agreed to conditionally halt operations on the condition that it would deliver the final blow. At dawn on June 24, Iran launched its heaviest missile barrage toward Israel. Since that day, Israel has not dared to repeat its aggression against Iranian territory. In the logic of the Zionist regime, deterrence is not built through diplomacy or agreements, but through real power and reciprocal response. In wartime, pacifism without strength is more a missed opportunity than a rational strategy. A paper agreement only holds weight when backed by missile capability and the will to respond, and this is precisely what must remain central in Iran's strategic calculations.

Trump says he was ‘very much in charge’ of Iran war despite earlier denials

From page 1 ► “When Israel attacked Iran first, that was a great day for Israel because that attack did more damage than the rest of them put together.”

Although the U.S. publicly engaged in the 12-day war by employing its warplanes to attack three Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22, the Trump administration had initially claimed Washington had no involvement in the Israeli attacks—a denial also made during Israeli strikes on Doha in September.

The war was launched against Iran even as the country prepared for a sixth round of nuclear negotiations with the U.S. in the Omani city of Muscat. Around 1100 Iranians were killed during the U.S.-Israeli aggression, most of whom were civilians.

Trump's remarks did not come as a shock to the Iranian public, which rarely differentiates between the U.S. and Israel. Iran's government, however, acknowledged the admission, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei stating that the U.S. must be held responsible for the “atrocities” it committed.

“Remember when U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio declared, on 13 June 2025, that Washington had no role in the Israeli



Dozens of residential buildings were targeted in Iran during the June war

regime's act of aggression and terrorism against Iran?” he asked in a post on X. “That statement was an outright lie, of course; from the very beginning, it was clear that the United States was a full participant in Israel's crime of aggression against the nation of Iran,” the spokesman added.

Baqaei explained that Trump's remarks stand as “an unambiguous acknowledgment of U.S. responsibility for a wrongful act and a serious breach of international law.”

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Mai Sato, has said that the 12-day war against Iran as a “clear and blatant violation of the UN Charter”.

Iran condemns Israel's breach of truce and strikes on Lebanon

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry has, in a statement, categorically condemned the Israeli regime's large-scale strikes on different areas of Lebanon, dismissing them as “blatant violation of the sovereignty of an independent country,” and “a crime against international peace and security.”

“The continuation of Tel Aviv's warmongering and expansionist policies has posed a serious threat to regional peace and stability, and if these actions go unanswered, it will have dangerous consequences,” the statement added.

In the statement, Iran called on the international community, the United Nations and the regional countries to show serious reaction to these actions and take the Israeli regime to task.

Israeli officials have confirmed that the recent attacks on Lebanon were carried out in coordination with the United States, despite the ceasefire brokered by Washington last year.

Israel's broadcasting corporation (Kan) cited Israeli officials as saying that the strikes in Lebanon were carried out “in coordination with the Americans,” who have been present at Israel's so-called Northern Command base since the ceasefire was reached last November.

The sources claimed that the strikes came as the Lebanese



Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Army “does not operate uniformly across the country when it comes to disarming the Hezbollah movement,” and that its “pace of its operations is estimated to be slower than expected.”

The officials said “the United States also recognizes that Hezbollah must be disarmed, in accordance with the decision of the Lebanese government.”

In August, Lebanon's Prime Minister Nawaf Salam tasked the country's army to develop a plan to restrict weapons to the state by the end of the year, a decision that aims at disarming the Hezbollah Resistance movement that has for decades defended the country from external aggression, especially from the

Israeli enemy.

Hezbollah has condemned the government's decision to disarm it as a “grave sin,” warning that such a move would weaken the country against Israeli aggression. The popular Resistance group declared it would ignore the decision entirely, treating it “as if it did not exist.”

In a further escalation of its violations of the ceasefire agreement, Israel's warplanes carried out heavy airstrikes on several southern Lebanese towns on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on Thursday decried the Israeli airstrikes as “full-fledged crime.”

“What Israel committed today

in southern Lebanon constitutes a full-fledged crime under international humanitarian law, which criminalizes the targeting, terrorizing, and forced displacement of civilians,” Aoun said.

He also described the Israeli escalation as “a heinous political crime,” stressing that “Every time Lebanon expresses openness to peaceful negotiations to resolve outstanding issues with Israel, the latter intensifies its aggression against Lebanese sovereignty, flaunts its disregard for UN Security Council Resolution 1701, and continues violating its obligations.”

The Lebanese army also denounced the Israeli strikes as “a continuation of the enemy's destructive approach aimed at undermining Lebanon's stability, expanding devastation in the south, and prolonging the war to maintain the threat against the Lebanese people.”

Israel launched its aggression against Lebanon in October 2023 in response to Hezbollah's pro-Palestinian airstrikes against the occupied territories. The regime, however, agreed to the truce after failing to stop the Resistance operations and cripple Hezbollah as it had sought.

Since the ceasefire began on November 27, 2024, Israel has breached it hundreds of times and carried out near-daily fatal strikes on Lebanon.

Many of Iran's arms not used during Israeli aggression, declares top commander



Photo shows one of Iran's numerous underground missiles bases, which are scattered across the country. Israel did not manage to damage any of the bases during the war, according to the IRGC

From page 1 ► which amounts to defeating the entire NATO.

He said the U.S. is enraged at Iran's military might, adding the Israeli regime is on the verge of collapse and does whatever it can to survive.

On June 13, Israel initiated an overt and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, sparking a twelve-day conflict that claimed the lives of at least 1,064 individuals within the country, including military commanders, nuclear

scientists, and ordinary civilians. The United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites, an action in blatant violation of international law.

In retaliation, the IRGC executed a precisely orchestrated series of missile and drone strikes over the twelve days. These targeted assaults, unfolding in 22 distinct operational waves, effectively dismantled crucial Israeli military, intelligence, and technological infrastructure, ultimately compelling a cessation

of hostilities. Since then, Iran has consistently affirmed its readiness to deliver a crushing response to any military aggression or any move jeopardizing its national security.

Over the past decades, Iran has achieved remarkable breakthroughs in its missile industry, successfully developing a comprehensive range of state-of-the-art missiles domestically. Iran's Armed Forces deployed these locally-developed missiles to counter the Israeli regime's act of aggression. Throughout the twelve days of this imposed war, Iran launched over 500 ballistic, cruise, and hypersonic missiles. These included missiles like the “Emad,” known for its pinpoint accuracy; the highly maneuverable “Kheibar Shekan”; the medium-range “Haj Qasem”; and, deployed for the first time, the “Sejjil,” boasting a 2,000-kilometer range and hypersonic speed. These strikes inflicted profound and multifaceted impacts on Israel's military-industrial infrastructure.

However, analysts contend

that Iran refrained from using a substantial portion of its available weaponry during the conflict. Iranian attacks successfully struck several key targets in the occupied territories, including the Kirya (often referred to as Israel's “Pentagon”), Camp Moshe Dayan (a training and operations center for military intelligence officers), Tel Nof (one of the most fortified airbases in the occupied territories), Nevatim (Israel's primary base for operating U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighters), Hatzetim (another vital air base), and the Ovda airbase (a significant Israeli military installation reportedly housing command-and-control systems and electronic warfare capabilities).

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Al Jazeera in an interview published last week that Tehran possesses greater preparedness and capability now compared to during the 12-day war. “The only way to prevent a war is to be ready for it,” he stated a few days later at a gathering in Iran's western province of Hamedan.

Tehran's return to Khartoum: Reviving the Global South axis against the West

By Fatemeh Kavand

In days when the sound of gunfire and the cries of defenseless children in the city of El-Fasher have shattered the world's silence, the Islamic Republic of Iran has once again shown that, in moments of human tragedy, it unites politics with morality. The recent phone call between Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and his Sudanese counterpart, Mohi al-Din Salem, was not merely a diplomatic exchange but rather a reflection of Iran's moral and human-centered diplomacy on the international stage — a diplomacy that relies not on the game of power but on human dignity and the sovereignty of nations.

While many Western powers limit themselves to issuing performative statements — and from behind the scenes, continue to fuel the very conflicts they denounce — Iran has openly condemned the killing of civilians and reaffirmed its support for Sudan's territorial integrity. This position is a natural continuation of Tehran's

consistent policy in other crises such as Syria, Yemen, and Palestine: defending legitimate governments against separatism and foreign intervention.

Today, Sudan stands as a victim of regional and transregional rivalries — nations that proclaim “human rights” while in reality pursuing resources, influence, and new markets. Iran, however, approaches the issue not for oil, not for bases of power, but from a position of Islamic brotherhood and respect for every nation's right to self-determination. Such a stance distinguishes Iran from the interventionist policies of the West and places it as a responsible actor within the Global South.

The message of Araghchi's call to Khartoum was unmistakable: the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns violence, genocide, and injustice wherever they occur, and it stands firmly beside the oppressed. Iran seeks to be the voice of justice and humanity in a region long preyed upon by the greed of global power brokers. At a time

when the West has turned even “human rights” into a tool of political pressure, Iran speaks of peace and unity in Sudan — in the language of dignity and Islamic principles, a voice that rises not from fleeting interests but from a deep faith in humanity.

The highs and lows of Tehran-Khartoum relations

At a time when the global order is undergoing transformation and nations from Asia to Latin America are striving to define positions independent of traditional power blocs, Iran's return to Khartoum holds a meaning far deeper than the resumption of ordinary diplomatic ties. It symbolizes the political and civilizational awakening of the Global South against the hegemonic system that for decades has imposed an unjust world order through media dominance, economic coercion, and military might.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

After its drone success, Iran’s next breakout hit could come from the sea

Iran’s self-sufficient naval tech wins ‘Best Foreign Exhibitor’ at PIMEC 2025 — and daws a crowd of potential customers

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Over the past few years, Iran has, for the first time in its history, entered the global arms market and begun competing with world powers.

Its drones offer a prime example: analysts believe countries are now either seeking to purchase Iranian-made models, such as the Shahed series, or looking to replicate their designs. Similarly, while likely not yet available on the open market, Iranian missiles garnered international attention and awe in June when they pierced through multiple layers of American, European, Arab, and Israeli air defenses, successfully hitting targets in the occupied territories. But Iran’s advancements aren’t limited to the skies. At sea, the nation has also made significant strides, a fact widely highlighted during the second Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) held in Karachi this week.

The four-day event saw participation from 44 countries. Iran was allocated a large pavilion, staffed by a joint team from its Navy (part of Artesh) and Defense Ministry, and led by a representative of



Foreign dignitaries visit the Iranian pavilion at PIMEC 2025

Iran’s Navy Commander.

“Iran’s pavilion was, in some ways, even better than that of the host country. We had different maritime and naval equipment, all of which was made by Iranian youth,” said Captain Darioush Eskandari, who was personally appointed as the head of the delegation by Rear Admiral Shahram Imani.

Iran ultimately won the award for Best Foreign Exhibitor. Captain Eskandari told the Tehran Times

that participating countries found it difficult to believe Iran had manufactured its advanced vessels and submarines entirely on its own—a level of self-sufficiency achieved as a result of decades of Western sanctions.

“In the maritime industry, it is extremely rare for countries not to cooperate with others or to rely solely on their own equipment to build their seacraft. Over 90 percent of what we use in our boats, commercial ships, warships, and

submarines is made by Iranians. That figure is typically only 30% in other countries,” he explained, emphasizing that, despite this self-sufficiency, their technology has remained on par with the best in the world.

Among the Iranian naval assets that garnered the most attention were the Sina-class, formidable missile warships for decisive strikes, and the versatile Moj-class, known to be masters of agile coastal patrol.

Iran’s delegation held important meetings on the sidelines of the exhibition to discuss cooperation and trade. Discussions with Pakistani officials were particularly fruitful.

“We discussed the possibility of launching joint shipbuilding lines, both in Iran and Pakistan. We also held productive meetings with other countries, where many sought to learn more about our maritime industry and its potential benefits,” Captain Eskandari explained. He added that, overall, the Iranian presence in Karachi is anticipated to yield significant positive results for economic, diplomatic, and military partnership.

Iran and the power of the drone

How technological sovereignty became the core of the country’s national strategy

From Page 1 ► More than mere military devices, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) symbolize a response to decades of sanctions and external pressure. In the face of isolation, Tehran bet on self-reliance and managed to turn necessity into strategic advantage. Its drone program—spanning surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision operations—reflects not only technical progress but also a reaffirmation of independence in an international system that is fragmenting and reshaping itself.

In a world where great powers strive to preserve their influence, Iran has found in technology its own language of power. Its drones are more than weapons; they represent a country’s determination to preserve its decision-making autonomy and defend its interests without bending to others’ rules. They are, ultimately, a declaration of sovereignty in an era of global uncertainty.

According to reference documents such as the U.S. Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap, unmanned systems have become the fastest-growing segment of the global aerospace industry. This is not a mere technical evolution but a paradigm shift that redefines the very nature of air power. Industry estimates suggest that the share of drones in advanced air forces has grown from virtually zero in the 1980s to around 23% today, while manned aircraft continue to decline.

Against most Western expectations, Iran has not only understood this transformation but embraced it as a cornerstone of its defense strategy. Where others see a supporting instrument, Tehran sees a vector of technological autonomy and regional projection, integrating drones into a doctrine that combines deterrence, self-sufficiency, and adaptation to the shifting balance of global power.

Sanctions as a driver of innovation

For years, the dominant narrative in Washington and other Western capitals portrayed Iran as an isolated and technologically backward state, doomed to

military obsolescence under the weight of international sanctions. But that reading overlooks a key reality: sustained pressure not only punishes—it shapes. In Iran’s case, sanctions did not destroy its technological capacity; they transformed it into a force for invention and autonomy.

Deprived of access to global defense markets, the Islamic Republic’s security establishment was forced to look inward. More than a political choice, it became a matter of strategic survival. National plans such as the Comprehensive Aerospace Development Program and the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan formalized that orientation, turning technological self-sufficiency into a guiding principle. From that pressure emerged a domestic drone industry—adaptable, efficient, and capable of producing functional, affordable systems that combine simplicity, low cost, and operational effectiveness.

The drone thus became an answer to Iran’s structural defense dilemmas. It allows for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance at low cost; the projection of force without human casualties; and domestic production shielded from external constraints. The Shahed family—led by the now famous Shahed-136—embodies this philosophy: sufficient technology, mass production, and industrial resilience. In a world of global asymmetries, Iran has managed to turn scarcity into strategy and sanctions into incentives for innovation.

The role of Iranian drones cannot be understood without looking at the geopolitical chessboard on which Tehran’s strategy unfolds. Surrounded by U.S. military bases and facing regional rivals with privileged access to Western technology—such as Saudi Arabia and Israel—Iran has articulated a doctrine of “deterrence by denial,” rooted in asymmetric warfare. Within this framework, UAVs have become the most versatile and effective instrument of its defensive posture.

These systems enable Iran to exercise what some theorists call “denial power”: the ability to prevent a more powerful adversary



from fully controlling a space or to impose prohibitive costs for attempting to do so. Low-cost drones—or those transferred to allied actors such as Hezbollah in Lebanon or the Ansarullah in Yemen—can threaten critical infrastructure, commercial vessels, or energy facilities, thereby altering the strategic calculus of regional and global powers. A loitering munition costing a few thousand dollars can damage a warship worth billions or disrupt oil supplies, shifting the balance of power at minimal expense.

The impact of Iranian drones, alongside the country’s missile program, extends far beyond the military domain. Their development and deployment have strengthened Tehran’s diplomatic position by giving it additional leverage in dealing with the West. The spread of these systems serves as a constant reminder to Washington or Tel Aviv that a direct confrontation with Iran would come with unpredictable costs.

The Shahed and the paradigm shift

The fact that drones are here to stay in modern warfare is now taken for granted. But their importance is not merely technical: they have also expanded access to air power once reserved for nations with enormous defense budgets.

The Shahed-136 illustrates that logic. Its design deliberately avoids the complexity—and

cost—of radar-evading aircraft such as the U.S. RQ-170 Sentinel (which Iran claims to have captured and reverse-engineered), opting instead for a philosophy of sufficiency: a low-cost engine, GPS-based navigation (with its known vulnerabilities), and a significant payload. In practice, it functions as a cheap, reusable cruise missile designed for serial production.

This simplicity is its main operational virtue: it enables mass manufacturing, ease of maintenance, and deployment by actors with limited resources, while overwhelming air defenses built to intercept a small number of high-value targets. Against such systems, a swarm of dozens or hundreds of Shaheds presents both a tactical and economic dilemma: neutralizing each one with advanced surface-to-air missiles can cost many times more than the drone itself, leading to sustained financial and logistical strain for the defender.

The strategic effect is clear. This approach forces a reassessment of doctrines still anchored in qualitative technological superiority: innovation does not always mean developing the most advanced system, but designing one that pragmatically exploits the adversary’s economic and operational vulnerabilities. In that sense, necessity—being frugal under sanctions and restrictions—has become an operational strength and a modern lesson in applied asymmetry.

IRAN IN FOCUS

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SPORTS

Persepolis defeat Esteghlal Khuzestan: 2025/26 PGPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team defeated Esteghlal Khuzestan 3-0 in the 10th Matchweek of the 2025/26 Iran’s Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Friday.

Soroush Rafiei gave the hosts a lead at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium and Hossein Kanaanizadegan made it 2-0 from the penalty spot in the 78th minute.

Substitute Amin Kazemian scored the Reds’ third goal in the added time.

It was the first match of Osmar Loss in charge. The Brazilian coach was named as head coach of Persepolis last week as Vahid Hashemian’s replacement.

Elsewhere, Chadormalou defeated Aluminum 1-0, Fajr Sepasi were held to a 1-1 draw in Shiraz and Foolad defeated Paykan 1-0 in Ahvaz.

Chadormalou lead the table with 17 points. Esteghlal are second with 16 points and one game in hands.

Men’s volleyball team beat Qatar: 2025 ISG

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s volleyball team swept past Qatar in straight sets (25-22, 25-15, 25-18) in the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Thursday.

Iran had defeated Bahrain 3-2 in its opening match.

Peyman Akbari’s side will play Turkey on Saturday.

The 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) 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.

Iran to face Jordan 2025 Asian Women’s U16 Volleyball

TEHRAN – Iran will face Jordan in the 2025 Asian Women’s U-16 Volleyball Championship 9th-12th place.

The Persians defeated Australia (25-23, 16-25, 25-17, 22-25, 17-15) on Thursday.

Setayesh Nasr Esfahani came to the rescue for Iran, putting on the finishing touches to prevent Australia from pulling off a comeback.

She scored 17 points for the Iranians. Zahra Jafari Khoulenjaniv and Taraneh Jamchi chimed in with 11 points each, while Melina Ghofrani added nine, including the game-winning ace.

Kazakhstan will battle Australia also on Friday, followed by the Iran-Jordan match later in the day.

Saber Kazemi laid to rest

TEHRAN – Iranian volleyball star Saber Kazemi, who died in Tehran at age 26 after suffering brain death on Wednesday, was laid to rest on Friday in his hometown Aqqala, Golestan Province.

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.

Iran, Afghanistan futsal teams share spoils: Riyadh 2025

TEHRAN – Iran futsal team were held by Afghanistan in a 2-2 draw in Group B of the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Thursday.

Masoud Yousef scored two goals for Iran and Mojtaba Hosseini and Mehdi Norouz netted for Afghanistan.

Iran, who were held to a 2-2 draw by Morocco in their opening match, are scheduled to face Tajikistan on Saturday.

Group A includes Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Libya, and Azerbaijan.

The futsal tournament of the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games runs from Nov. 4 to 21 at the Green Halls at the Prince Faisal bin Fahad Olympic Complex.

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.

Women’s volleyball lose to Turkey: 2025 ISG

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s volleyball team lost to Turkey 3-0 (25-19, 25-16, 25-13) in the 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Thursday.

Iran had lost to Azerbaijan in its opening match.

Team Melli Banovan will face Afghanistan and Tajikistan on November 11 and 12, respectively.

The 2025 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) 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.

Esteghlal complete Signing of Yazdani

TEHRAN – Olympic gold medalist Hassan Yazdani joined Esteghlal’s wrestling team.

Esteghlal, headed by Komeil Ghasemi, will compete at Iran’s Wrestling Professional League.

Yazdani has won one Olympic gold and two silver medals in freestyle wrestling.

The Iranian Premier Wrestling League is a professional wrestling league in Iran.

It is the highest level of wrestling competition in the country and has been held annually since 2003.

Shahrdari top Sageesse Anew in WASL opener

TEHRAN – Shahrdari Gorgan hardly showed any panic and went on to own Sageesse SC once more, 97-92, in the 2025-26 FIBA WASL-West Asia League opener at the Ghazir Club Stadium Wednesday night.

The Iranian champion lost the 75-68 lead they built early in the final frame and found itself down 81-84 with 3:36 to go, but plenty stepped up and made sure that no collapse would take place whatsoever.

Mobin Sheikhi knocked down a booming trey to put themselves ahead for good, before Amir Hossein Yazarloo came through with key free throws to cap an 8-0 run toward an 89-84 advantage with 1:41 remaining.

The home team did get to within a possession twice, the last of which at 95-92 after Yoyo Khayat’s trifecta, but Jordan Hamilton was there to ice the game with a perfect trip to the line with 6.3 seconds left to play.

Tehran, Moscow discuss expanding maritime transport cooperation

TEHRAN – Senior Iranian and Russian officials have held talks in Moscow to strengthen maritime and combined transport collaboration through the Caspian Sea, ahead of a joint meeting in Makhachkala.

According to IRNA, Saeid Rasouli, head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), met with Dmitry Zverev, Russia's deputy transport minister, and Tarasenko, head of the Federal Agency for Maritime and River Transport, at the Iranian Embassy in Moscow.

The discussions focused on developing maritime connectivity and boosting freight transport between the two countries, particularly within the Caspian corridor, which plays a key role in the International North–South Transit Corridor (INSTC).

Earlier, Russia's transport minister had reported a 12.8 percent rise in road freight transport between the two countries in 2024, describing Iran as an increasingly important logistics partner in the region.

On October 20, the head of the Russia–Iran Business Council said that over 80 percent of trade between Iran and Russia is now conducted in their national currencies, the rial and ruble, marking a major step toward financial independence and reduced reliance on third-party currencies.

Speaking at the 22nd meeting of the International Council for Cooperation among Caspian Chamber of Commerce members, Leonid Lozhechko said Iran and Russia are taking new steps to deepen bilateral economic ties by easing trade regulations, developing infrastructure, and expanding collaboration in technology, agriculture, and the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Lozhechko noted that the council is pursuing a strategic plan to enhance cooperation in advanced technologies, telecommunications, medicine, and particularly cybersecurity. He said about 60 percent of bilateral trade is related to agricultural products, with Russia exporting grains, wood, oilseeds, chemicals, aluminum, coal, and steel to Iran, while Iran supplies spare parts, energy products, ceramics, cement, and agricultural goods to Russia.

He stressed that one of the council's priorities is simplifying regulations under the Eurasian Economic Union framework to unlock the full potential of trade between the two countries.

Lozhechko added that representatives from Russia's ministries of industry, economy, and agriculture, as well as banks from both nations, participated in the event.

"We are determined to remove bureaucratic barriers so that trade between Iran and Russia can reach its true potential," he said.

Dmitry Kurochkin, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, highlighted the Caspian Sea's strategic importance in the emerging global economic order. He said the Caspian



region's rich energy resources, transit routes, and geo-economic position could transform it into a major global development hub.

He emphasized the INSTC's potential to turn the Caspian region into a multimodal transit corridor linking global transport routes and boosting exchanges among Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

Kurochkin also pointed to growing Russian business interest in Iran's market, citing Tehran's upcoming free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union and its membership in BRICS as opportunities to expand private sector cooperation.

He announced plans for joint investment projects through 2030 under the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) development framework, prioritizing agriculture, advanced technologies, textiles, and tourism.

Kurochkin said economic interactions among Caspian states have grown by 80 percent in the past two years and called for greater coordination in customs, logistics, and infrastructure to make the Caspian a central driver of sustainable growth and technological cooperation across Eurasia.

In early October, an official with Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran said that the share of industrial goods of Iran's exports to Russia has increased significantly over the past three years, and Iran's exports to this destination have almost doubled.

Akbar Godari, the head of TPO's Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia Office reported a significant growth in trade exchanges between Iran and Russia, stating: "Given the current trend and predicted trade plans, it is expected that Iran's exports to Russia will reach approximately \$1.4 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 20, 2026)."

"This is while at the end of the year 1403 (March 2025), our country's exports to Russia were about \$1.1 billion", the official added.

He further explained that according to statistics, the majority of imports from Russia consist of grains and oilseeds, which make up over 70 percent, with the remainder being production line machinery. In contrast, Iran's exports to Russia include 45 percent agricultural products, 37 percent industrial goods, 10 percent petrochemical and polymer products, and approximately 7 to 8 percent minerals.

idents through the Ghoocham Dam, developed with an estimated \$24 million in public investment.

Speaking at a meeting with local elites, Pezeshkian said true change begins with trusting local talent and delegating power to the provinces.

"Governors must act as the president of their province," he said, stressing that participation and justice are essential for governance and unity.

In a separate session with business leaders, Pezeshkian called justice the cornerstone of administration, noting that inequality weakens trust and efficiency.

He urged stronger inter-ministerial cooperation and the elimination of "island-style" bureaucratic systems that hinder investment and development.

"Real wealth lies not in material resources but in the creativity and innovation of the people," he said, adding that: "Kordestan, with its capable and determined citizens, can become a driving force for transformation across the country."

Iran, Kuwait sign comprehensive document at joint economic committee meeting

TEHRAN – The 13th session of the Iran–Kuwait Joint Economic Committee concluded with the signing of a five-point memorandum of cooperation between Mohammad Ali Dehqan-Dehnavi, Iran's deputy industry minister, and Marwa Baddah Al-Juaidan, acting assistant undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

According to the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, the agreement outlines five key areas of collaboration: trade and economic cooperation, industrial partnership, food security coordination, logistics development in air, land and sea transport, and joint work on standards and customs procedures.

The document was finalized during the committee's three-day session held from November 4 to 6 at the National Library of Kuwait.



The meeting brought together representatives from related Iranian and Kuwaiti institutions, aiming to enhance bilateral trade relations and facilitate cooperation in logistics, investment, and industrial development.

During the two countries' 13th Joint Economic Committee meeting held in Kuwait, Iran and Kuwait agreed to step up efforts to remove trade obstacles and

strengthen bilateral exchanges

The meeting was co-chaired by Mohammad Ali Dehqan-Dehnavi and Marwa Al-Juaidan, 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,

Tehran hosts deBlock 2025, Iran's 1st intl. conference on blockchain, cryptocurrencies

TEHRAN- The deBlock 2025, Iran's first international conference on blockchain and cryptocurrencies, was held on November 6 and 7 at the IIRB International Conference Center.

The event brought together media representatives, those active in cryptocurrency field, online currency exchanges, economic experts, regulatory bodies, and several ambassadors, serving as a convergence point for policy perspectives and technical and economic concerns in the field of blockchain and the digital economy.

deBlock Inaugurated with Ghalibaf's message: Crypto-assets, a necessity for Iran's future economy

The opening ceremony began with Ali Asghar Qaemi, a member of the Tehran City Council, reading a message from Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the Speaker of Majlis (the Iranian parliament). In his message, Ghalibaf emphasized the necessity of a strategic approach to regulation in the domain of crypto-assets, describing the development of a national roadmap for crypto-assets as an undeniable imperative. Noting the target of a 10-percent digital economy share in the Seventh National Development Plan law, he remarked that regulation without strategy could lead to market instability and capital flight. Ghalibaf also stressed the need for coordinated collaboration among the government, parliament, and key institutions to maximize the utilization of blockchain technology's potential. He described leveraging BRICS capacities as an opportunity for Iran's economic independence and introduced crypto-assets as a tool for diversifying the country's financial systems.

"The global economy is moving towards multipolarity, and international cooperation within frameworks like BRICS has created strategic opportunities for nations. For the Islamic Republic of Iran, this framework can serve as a tool for diversifying financial exchange methods and reducing dependence on the traditional financial system. The use of shared cryptocurrencies within the framework of bilateral or multilateral monetary agreements, particularly in BRICS-Plus interactions, can help strengthen economic independence and facilitate international transactions."

Ghalibaf also described the role of the Majlis in providing legal support for new financial technologies as key: "Majlis plays a key role in providing the legal foundations for the adoption and utilization of new financial systems. By looking towards globally accepted crypto-asset standards as a means to strengthen economic independence, the Islamic Republic of Iran can become a successful model in the region and the world, and even be recognized as a regional hub for crypto-assets."

Iran, Kenya eye trade expansion with innovation hub, direct flights

TEHRAN – Iran and Kenya are exploring new avenues to deepen bilateral trade and technological cooperation, including plans to establish a permanent Iranian product exhibition center in Nairobi, a joint innovation hub, and a direct Tehran–Nairobi flight, officials said during a meeting between the Kenyan ambassador and the Iran–East Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce.

According to the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) portal, Kenya's ambassador in Tehran met with Masoud Berahman,

head of the Iran–East Africa Joint Chamber, to discuss mechanisms for expanding economic, trade, and technology ties between the two countries.

The two sides outlined six key areas of cooperation:

Trade and investment: Creation of a joint Iran–Kenya committee under the chamber to oversee economic projects, reduce tariffs on selected goods, and launch a permanent exhibition center for Iranian products in Nairobi.

Agriculture and food industries: Development of joint projects in agricultural machinery,

tea and coffee processing, dairy production, and packaging.

Infrastructure: Participation of Iranian firms in Kenya's construction, housing, and road development projects.

Technology and digital economy: Collaboration in renewable energy, fintech, and artificial intelligence, and the creation of a joint Iran–Kenya innovation center.

Finance and logistics: Establishing a dedicated financial corridor between the two countries and an Iranian trade hub in Mombasa Port for regional exports.

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 visit of the Iranian delegation, led by Dehqan-Dehnavi, includes representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), and other technical experts.

'Most important aspect of Bitcoin is resilience and resistance against dominance of dollar'

Pouria Astaraki, founder and secretary of the conference, in another part of the ceremony, referred to Bitcoin as the first technological market for de-dollarization and stated: "The most important aspect of Bitcoin for me is its resilience and resistance against the dominance of the dollar."

"This technology, by creating an independent market, has effectively become the first technological front against U.S. financial hegemony, he noted.

He also reported widespread participation in the conference and announced that over a thousand pages of English-language articles will be published at the closing ceremony: "We managed to bring together people from BRICS member countries and Central Asia to bring the slogan 'The Future is BRICS' closer to reality."

'To overcome the crisis, we must move towards blockchain'

Continuing, Hakim Javadi, Head of the Nasr Organization of Iran, likening the blockchain revolution to the internet revolution, stated: "To overcome the crisis, we must move towards blockchain. This technology has created a revolution in building trust and is transforming traditional models." He emphasized that the deBlock conference is expected to provide a platform for defining new business models.

Digital economy's share must reach 10% in national economy

Shamseddin Hosseini, Chairman of the Parliament's Economic Committee, also reviewed the initial stance of Iran's political system towards cryptocurrencies, saying: "The first official encounter with virtual currencies occurred at the Anti-Money Laundering Headquarters, and they were banned. However, the Supreme Council of Cyberspace later countered this approach. The government also announced that it would retreat from the risks in this area and has entrusted it to the people."

Hosseini, referring to the provisions of the Seventh National Development Plan, stated: "According to this plan, the digital economy's share must reach 10 percent of the country's total economy, and achieving this goal is impossible without crypto-assets." He emphasized the necessity of creating confidence for smart governance and said: "Technology must lead to a higher quality of life, and the governing body must consider itself responsible for setting regulations in this field."

Pezeshkian inaugurates major development projects in his visit to Kordestan

From Page 1 ► clerics, and business leaders, highlighting Kordestan's potential to become a model for balanced national development.

He said Iran's challenges could only be overcome through inclusion, knowledge-based policymaking, and decentralization of power to provincial authorities.

Among the inaugurated projects were:

Garan Dam irrigation plan in Marivan, converting 2,000 hectares of dry farmland into irrigated land, with a reported investment of about \$93 million and the creation of 12,000 jobs.

Bozhaneh greenhouse complex in Divandarreh, covering five hectares and producing tomatoes year-round with modern irrigation technology, built with roughly \$50 million in investment.

Arya UPVC window factory in Sanandaj, launched with about \$93 million in private and bank financing, expected to create over 600 direct and indirect jobs.

Dehgolan water supply project, providing sustainable drinking water to 70,000 res-

Tourism and cultural exchange: Promoting medical and educational tourism and exploring the launch of a direct Tehran–Nairobi air route to facilitate business travel.

Both sides agreed to draft memorandums of understanding and joint action plans to advance the outlined initiatives.

The Kenyan ambassador praised the chamber's proactive approach in fostering bilateral engagement and called for continued cooperation at the operational level.

Disarmament is a fig leaf for Israel’s campaign to dominate Lebanon

By Shahab Sarmad

TEHRAN – Israel’s latest deadly airstrikes in southern Lebanon are not breaches of a ceasefire. They are the continuation of a war strategy dressed up as security enforcement.

Nearly a year after the truce with Hezbollah was signed, Israel has turned the ceasefire into a one-sided license to bomb, occupy, and intimidate. Thursday’s attacks that killed at least one person and injured multiple others, timed just hours after Hezbollah reaffirmed its right to resist, expose the reality: Israel is not reacting to threats — it is manufacturing them. Disarmament is not the goal. It is the excuse.

A ceasefire in name only

The Israeli military claimed Thursday’s strikes targeted Hezbollah military installations, accusing the group of refusing to disarm under the terms of the November 2024 agreement. But Hezbollah has consistently stated that it remains committed to the ceasefire — and will not disarm while Israel continues to violate Lebanese sovereignty with near-daily attacks.

President Joseph Aoun condemned Thursday’s strikes as a “full-fledged crime under international humanitarian law,” saying Israel’s actions criminalize the targeting and terrorizing of civilians. “Nearly a year has passed since the ceasefire took effect, and during that period Israel has spared no effort in showing its rejection of any negotiated settlement,” he added.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the southern Lebanese village of Tayr Debba on Nov. 6, 2025. (MAHMOUD ZAYYAT/AFP via Getty Images)

Israel’s strategy: Intimidation and control

Experts see Thursday’s strikes as a clear escalation — especially since they came just hours after Hezbollah released a public letter reaffirming its right to resist. Israeli warplanes also flew low over Beirut’s southern suburbs, a tactic widely viewed as psychological warfare.

UNIFIL, the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, warned that Israel’s strikes threaten civilians and undermine efforts by the Lebanese military to assert control over southern territory. While the U.S. continues to pressure Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah, it has done little to restrain Israel’s repeated violations of the ceasefire.

Hezbollah’s position: Defense, not capitulation

Hezbollah responded by rejecting any political negotiations with Israel, saying such talks would “not serve the national interest.”

The group reaffirmed its right to defend Lebanon against an enemy that “imposes war and does not cease its attacks.”

Since the ceasefire took effect in November last year, Israel has maintained troops in five areas of southern Lebanon and carried out regular strikes. Hezbollah insists that Israel is exploiting the disarmament process to tighten its grip on Lebanese territory — and that resistance is not a choice, but a duty.

Unilateral violence

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Gaza — warned a week ago that operations in Lebanon could intensify. Defense Minister Israel Katz echoed the threat, saying, “Maximum enforcement will continue and even intensify.”

This posture mirrors Israel’s behavior in Gaza, where a ceasefire with Hamas has not stopped daily

attacks. Israel continues to decide unilaterally what constitutes a violation and responds with force, often against civilians.

Lebanon pushes back

President Aoun has signaled a shift. After Israeli forces crossed the border and killed a municipal worker in an overnight raid in late October, he ordered the Lebanese army to confront any further incursions. Though the army has largely stayed out of the conflict, Aoun — a former military commander — appears to have lost patience with Israel’s violations.

Under the ceasefire terms, Lebanon’s army is tasked with disarming Hezbollah in the south by the end of the year. But Hezbollah insists that Israel’s continued attacks and occupation make disarmament impossible — and dangerous.

Aggression by design

Israel’s actions in Lebanon are not about protecting its borders. They are about control, coercion, and keeping Lebanon weak. The demand to disarm Hezbollah is not a step toward peace — it is a tactic to remove the only force capable of resisting Israeli aggression.

Lebanon’s leadership is beginning to respond. But without international pressure on Israel, the violence will continue. The ceasefire, in practice, has become a one-sided arrangement — where Israel bombs at will, and the Lebanon government is expected to remain silent. Hezbollah’s stance, in this context, is not only justified — it is essential.

Hezbollah’s open book: No compromise with the enemy

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT—Amid rising tremors along Lebanon’s southern frontier, Hezbollah unveiled an open letter directed both to the Lebanese people and to the nation’s three top officials: the President of the Republic, the Speaker of Parliament, and the Prime Minister.

The document frames the Resistance’s posture as a legally grounded exercise of the right to defend against an enemy (Israel) that, in Hezbollah’s account, continually imposes war through persistent attacks.

Read against the wider diplomatic pressure pushing Beirut toward direct negotiations with the enemy. The letter functions as a strategic repositioning with several political and operational implications.

Reaffirming the right to legitimate defense

The central assertion of Hezbollah’s open book is straightforward: the Resistance’s actions are a legitimate form of defense against the Israeli enemy that refuses to cease hostilities.

By asserting that ‘defense’ transcends the binary of a state’s formal declaration of war or peace, Hezbollah reshapes the legal and moral framework by which its actions are to be evaluated.

This legal-philosophical framing is intended to blunt attempts to delegitimize the Resistance domestically and internationally. It signals that Hezbollah does not seek to usurp

the state but to exercise what it presents as an inalienable right when the state is unable or unwilling to halt external aggression.

Dual messages to state leadership and nation

To the presidents and the formal institutions of the Lebanese state, Hezbollah says: use the Resistance as a bargaining chip to relieve external pressure.

In other words, rather than treating the Resistance solely as a liability to be disarmed, state actors can leverage its deterrent value to extract more favorable terms from foreign interlocutors.

This is an attempt to recast Hezbollah from an obstacle into a strategic asset for national negotiation.

Crucially, Hezbollah informed the three senior officials of Lebanon beforehand—an element that signals coordination at the highest political level and frames the communiqué as part of a national, not purely partisan, posture.

Hezbollah explicitly warned against “submitting to aggressive blackmail” or falling into negotiation traps that serve the enemy’s interests and yield no guarantees.

To the Lebanese populace the message is reassurance and justification. Hezbollah tells citizens that any future military response would be driven by clearly articulated reasons—ongoing Israeli attacks—and not caprice.

By communicating reasons for potential actions, Hezbollah aims to preempt internal divisions in case violence resumes and to secure a measure of public legitimacy for its choices.

Timing, context and immediate fallout

Timing is everything. The communiqué appeared amid Israeli media talk of escalation and diplomatic pushes by Washington and regional actors to bring Lebanon into direct talks with the Israeli enemy.

Tel Aviv’s immediate reaction was swift: psychological and military pressure on southern towns (evacuation alerts in villages such as Aita al-Shaab, Taybeh, and Kafr Dunin), intense air strikes, and claims of strikes on alleged Resistance infrastructure.

Thursday saw close-range operations that underlined how rapidly rhetoric translates into kinetic pressure on the ground.

Domestically, the statement coincided with a cabinet session that reviewed the army’s southern deployments.

President Aoun publicly reiterated that negotiation remains the tool to end aggression, while urging stability; meanwhile senior army officials reportedly proposed freezing any plan to “concentrate” (censor) weapons as long as Israeli raids continue — a sign of institutional unease and competing calculations inside state structures.

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

Voices of resistance dominate Beirut forum

From page 1 ► the enemy still flounders in confusion, waging a war with full Western backing led by the United States, yet unable to retrieve its captives except through negotiation.”

Al-Moussawi criticized Western leaders who “rushed to the Israeli entity after the operation,” noting that their actions revealed that the Zionist regime is “an integral arm of the Western colonial system.”

He recalled that “even U.S. President Donald Trump praised Israeli soldiers in the Knesset, confirming complete partnership in the wars waged against the peoples of the region.”

Al-Moussawi stressed that the

confrontation is not merely with Israel but “a Western colonial war seeking to weaken the region,” asserting that Hezbollah’s participation in the Gaza front was “a conscious, moral, and national choice.”

Al-Moussawi praised the roles of the resistance fronts in Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, and Iraq, particularly Ansarallah in Yemen, for their “strategic contribution in besieging the Zionist entity and striking deep inside the occupied territories.”

In a televised speech, Sayyed Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, the leader of Ansarallah, also pointed out that the Israeli enemy is seeking to impose “a new Middle East under Zionist domination,” warning

that “some still remain heedless of their responsibilities amid two years of open aggression.”

Al-Houthi emphasized that the resistance axis—from Gaza to Lebanon—had “forced the enemy to halt its aggression through steadfastness and the golden equation of the army, the people.”

He praised Hezbollah’s “pioneering and decisive role” on the support fronts and condemned attempts to “distort Iran’s supportive role toward Arab causes.”

The Yemeni leader urged Arab nations to “preserve and strengthen all elements of power to defeat Israel’s project and protect regional sovereignty.”

Addressing the confer-

ence, Ziad al-Nakhleh, Secretary-General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, said despite unprecedented destruction, “the resistance remains in the field with its weapons intact,” stressing that “all factions stood united both militarily and politically,” a unity that enabled steadfastness “against overwhelming aggression.”

Other speakers reiterated the centrality of the resistance and Arab unity. Ma’an Bashour, the founding president of the Arab National Forum, said that “the idea of resistance remains the core guarantee for the renaissance of the Arab nation.”

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

The end of the New Middle East project

From page 1 ► This failure, combined with a ceasefire, points to an important truth and result. No matter how much it is denied or hidden, this two-year campaign ended in the entity’s defeat. Yes, it ended with heavy material and human losses for the resistance, and for resistances across the region, but it ended with the entity unable to achieve its objectives. The global public opinion turning against the entity, threatened to expose the entire Western project. This exposure is irreversible. It will reflect on the governments that the entity depends on for its survival, on the lifelines that supply the entity with oxygen. When this exposure trickles from the public to the level of administrations and governments, it will inevitably weaken the lobbies that influence political decision-making.

Groups will emerge that must declare their opposition to continued feeding and cooper-



ation with the entity, which could mean an end to this project in and of itself. If the project does not expand, it will end; if it does not grow, it will shrink. This war ended as a result of the failure of its capacity to expand. A formal declaration of victory will be crowned by international recognition of Palestinian existence and the right to establish a state — and by the entity’s failure to achieve its aims.

Truce with no peace for Palestinians

From page 1 ► **Ongoing genocide**

For Palestinians, the situation remains the same, daily bombardment by the occupying regime, limited aid access, and no sense of peace. The U.S. truce has not brought calm; it has only exposed the gap between diplomatic statements and the daily reality of violence in Gaza.

One of the criteria of the crime of genocide is the deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about a population’s physical destruction, in whole or in part.

The ongoing Israeli regime’s blockade of Gaza is creating exactly such conditions.

The United Nations said on Friday the regime’s authorities have rejected 107 requests for the entry of crucial aid since the October 10 truce.

With vital supplies blocked from entering, Palestinians are facing severe shortages of food, clean water, and medicine. As winter approaches, families are struggling to survive without shelter or proper nutrition, and reports of starvation are once again surfacing.

Aid agencies say that trucks carrying nutritional food, fuel, and medical supplies are being delayed or denied entry, worsening the humanitarian disaster. Experts argue that this deliberate restriction of life-sustaining goods reflects the Zionist regime’s intent to destroy Palestinian life by depriving civilians of the means to survive.

Even as ceasefire talks continue in an effort to transition to the second phase of the so-called peace plan, the regime’s strict blockade signals that the suffering of Palestinians is not something accidental but systematic.

Legal scholars and human rights organizations warn that these acts meet the threshold of a genocidal campaign, using starvation, disease, and exposure as weapons to bring about

the physical destruction of Palestinians in Gaza, in whole or in part.

Occupation growing

Palestinian media outlets reported that Israeli bulldozers continue to raze and destroy homes in the southeastern part of Khan Younis.

Demolishing homes east and southeast of Khan Younis appears to be part of a broader plan to entrench and expand the Israeli regime’s illegal occupation of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The systematic destruction of Palestinian homes serves not only to clear land but to dismantle the social and physical structures of Palestinian life, making long-term occupation and control easier to maintain.

By erasing residential areas and displacing families, the Zionist regime effectively strengthens its territorial grip, creating new zones of occupation that extend military and administrative dominance deeper into Gaza.

This process mirrors earlier patterns in other occupied territories, where demolition and land clearance have preceded permanent control and illegal settlement infrastructure.

Analysts argue that this ongoing campaign is designed to alter the geography of Gaza, transforming it from a densely populated Palestinian area into fragmented zones under sustained occupation of Israel.

The razing of homes east of Khan Younis as well as Rafah on the Egyptian border and east of Gaza City in the north, essentially represents more than temporary military action; it is a calculated effort to consolidate occupation, weaken Palestinian claims to their land, and redefine the boundaries of sovereignty within the Gaza Strip.

Longest U.S. government shutdown grounds flights, exposes deep divisions

By staff writer

TEHRAN – The longest government shutdown in U.S. history has moved beyond legislative gridlock and into systemic crisis. What began as a budgetary impasse has now disrupted core infrastructure, with flight cancellations at Boston’s Logan Airport marking a visible rupture in federal functionality.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), citing safety concerns and staffing shortages, has begun reducing flight capacity at major airports nationwide—a move that underscores the fragility of a system unable to operate without political consensus.

These cuts are not strategic—they are symptomatic. The FAA was already understaffed before the shutdown. With air traffic controllers and TSA agents now working unpaid, absenteeism is rising and operational safety is at risk. The agency’s emergency order to slow air traffic is a last resort, not a policy innovation. It reflects a government that cannot absorb shocks without compromising public welfare.

The shutdown’s origins lie in Congress’s failure to pass a budget for the new fiscal year. Despite repeated attempts at tempo-

rary funding resolutions, partisan trench warfare has prevailed. The result: federal workers unpaid, public services suspended, and critical infrastructure forced into emergency mode. While lawmakers continue to receive salaries, frontline workers face financial strain and passengers are left to absorb unreimbursed costs for lodging and meals.

This episode exposes the brittle architecture of American governance. The U.S. system, often praised for its checks and balances, now functions as a blockade. Shutdowns have become normalized, each one eroding public trust and revealing the vulnerability of institutions that tie essential services to legislative compromise. The Logan Airport disruptions are emblematic: a nation that cannot guarantee safe air travel during peacetime signals not just a temporary lapse but a structural weakness.

This is not merely a budget dispute—it is a governance failure. The shutdown reveals a political architecture that incentivizes brinkmanship over compromise, spectacle over service. In a moment that demands institutional maturity, the U.S. system has instead delivered a cautionary tale of democratic decay.



Persian handicrafts on show at Shanghai Intl. Import Expo

TEHRAN – Several Iranian companies are participating in the 2025 Shanghai International Import Expo, which runs through November 10, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced on Thursday.

Farzad Ojani, head of the ministry's department for marketing and commercialization of handicrafts, said that six manufacturing and trading firms are attending the six-day expo held in Shanghai.

Ojani said the participation is part of efforts to expand export markets and strengthen trade opportunities for Iranian handicrafts with the support of the ministry's handicrafts and traditional arts department.

Highlighting China's growing potential as a key export destination, Ojani said the country's rising middle class and increasing interest in cultural and artistic goods offer valuable opportunities for showcasing Iranian craftsmanship.

"The rapid growth of the middle class, increasing purchasing power, and rising interest in cultural and artistic products among Chinese consumers present valuable op-



portunities to showcase authentic Iranian craftsmanship," he said.

Ojani described the Shanghai Import Expo as an important gateway for Iranian products to reach China's market, adding that it provides a platform to display Iran's handicraft potential, develop export opportunities, and build connections with Chinese buyers and investors.

The Iranian pavilion features a range of handicrafts including enamelwork, printed textiles (Qalamkar), kilims, leather goods, filigree art, woodturning, and traditional jewelry, according to the ministry.

Iran, South Africa emphasize expanding cooperation in handicrafts

TEHRAN—Deputy Minister of Handicrafts Maryam Jalali-Dehkordi in a meeting with Se-hloho Francis Moloi, South Africa's ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasized the strengthening of joint relations in handicrafts sector.

In this meeting, which was held at Sa'dabad Historical and Cultural Complex with the aim of exploring ways to develop cooperation, the two sides exchanged views on various fields, including facilitating the export of handicrafts, sharing experiences and technical knowledge, and removing the legal obstacles, Mehr news agency reported.

Another main focus of the discussion was to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a joint innovation center so that artists and artisans from the two countries can create works and exchange experiences in an appropriate context.

Referring to the attractiveness, diversity, and desirability of Iranian handicrafts, South African ambassador expressed interest that the two countries, relying on their civilization and rich history, can transfer their common



'narratives and stories' to each other in the form of handicraft products and introduce them to the world.

Iranian handicrafts boast a rich history, deeply embedded in the country's cultural and artistic heritage. From intricate Persian carpets and porcelains to decorative pottery, metalwork, and textile arts, Iranian crafts are renowned worldwide for their artistry and intricate designs. Each province carries its own distinct styles, materials, and techniques, reflecting the cultural and environmental diversity.

Gorgan festival to highlight nomadic life

TEHRAN—Gorgan will hold the 17th Iranian ethnic culture festival during November 16-18. The three-day event will host cultural, artistic and handicraft groups from all over the country and nine foreign countries.

According to Mehr news agency, Reza Ghiasizadeh, the executive director of the festival, stated on Wednesday afternoon that this edition of the festival will be held at the Gorgan International Exhibition Center, adding that 80 handicraft pavilions from different provinces, 50 pavilions from Golestan artisans and 10 international pavilions from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and India will be present.

He added that in the section of institutions related to the field of cultural heritage, about 40 booths have been planned for institutions such as the Technical-Vocational Organization, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee (IKRC),

Iranian museum wins a Guinness world record

TEHRAN—Yekta Specialized Stamp Museum, with more than 2.5 million stamps, has been registered in the Guinness Book of Records.

Announcing this, museum director Seyyed Hassan Mousavi said that this success is the result of years of effort and dedication in collecting and preserving cultural and historical artifacts related to stamps, coins, and banknotes, IRIB reported.

He said that Yekta Stamp Museum, which is located in Karaj, Alborz province, is not limited to displaying stamps alone. It also has four separate sections including stamps, coins, banknotes, and a specialized library, each of which reflects the history, art, and culture of Iran and the world, he added.

The museum director also said that in the stamp section, more than 2.5 million pieces have been collected, from the first official printings of Iranian stamps to contemporary examples, as well as international stamps.

This collection includes rare and historical stamps that depict examples of political, social, and cultural developments in Iran and the world, he pointed out.

Regarding the banknotes and coins section, he said that banknotes from the Pahlavi era, World Wars I and II, and examples from different historical periods are on display for those interested in this section. A collection of coins from the Safavid and Qajar eras is also kept, which have great historical and research value, he added.

UNESCO recognizes Cyrus Cylinder as one of world’s earliest human rights charters

From Page 1 ▶ As highlighted by UN cultural body, the recognition aims to strengthen intercultural dialogue, promote shared human heritage, and support the organization's programs related to justice, human rights, non-discrimination, and cultural tolerance.

Egypt, Iraq, Colombia, India, Nigeria, Algeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Senegal, Armenia, and Poland were among the countries voting in favor of the resolution.

The resolution encourages UNESCO member states to raise public awareness of the Cyrus Cylinder, translate its text into various languages for educational purposes, and use its values to promote peace and cultural co-existence.

It marks the first time an ancient Iranian artifact has been formally recognized at the global level as a document associated with the origins of human rights.

The Cyrus Cylinder, a small clay tablet measuring about 23 centimeters in length and 11 centimeters in width, is inscribed in Akkadian cuneiform and housed in the British Museum. It dates back to



around 539 BCE, when Cyrus the Great, the founder of the Achaemenid Empire, captured Babylon in present-day Iraq.

The inscription describes how Cyrus defeated Babylon's king Nabonidus with the favor of the god Marduk and subsequently allowed religious freedom in the city. It records that Cyrus returned displaced peoples to their homelands and restored their temples and deities.

One passage reads: "I commanded that all sanctuaries which had been closed should be opened. I brought back to their places all the gods of these sanctuaries. I gathered all their peo-

ple and returned them to their dwellings."

The cylinder remained buried for more than 2,400 years until it was discovered in 1879 by British archaeologist Hormuzd Rassam during excavations in Mesopotamia.

The Cyrus Cylinder, an ancient clay artifact inscribed in Akkadian cuneiform, dates from the 6th century BC. It records the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus the Great in 539 BC and his restoration of religious sanctuaries and displaced peoples. The object was discovered in 1879 in the ruins of Babylon, in present-day Iraq, and is being kept in the Brit-

ish Museum.

The cylinder gained renewed attention in the late 1960s when Iran's last Shah of Iran described it as the "world's first charter of human rights."

Cyrus the Great (born c. 590–580 BC, Media, or Persis [now in Iran]—died c. 529, Asia) was a conqueror who founded the Achaemenian empire, centered on Persia and comprising the Near East from the Aegean Sea eastward to the Indus River. He is also remembered in the Cyrus legend—first recorded by Xenophon, Greek soldier and author, in his Cyropaedia—as a tolerant and ideal monarch who was called the father of his people by the ancient Persians. In the Bible, he is the liberator of the Jews who were captive in Babylonia. In the Bible, Cyrus is famous for freeing the Jewish captives in Babylonia and allowing them to return to their homeland. He conciliated local populations by supporting local customs and even sacrificing to local deities. The capture of Babylon delivered not only Mesopotamia into the hands of Cyrus but also Syria and Palestine, which had been conquered previously by the Babylonians.

Blue Mosque of Tabriz to undergo emergency restoration with minimal intervention

TEHRAN – The centuries-old Blue Mosque of Tabriz will undergo emergency restoration with minimal intervention to prevent further loss of its original tilework, a local official said.

On Wednesday, Vahid Navadad, East Azarbaijan province's deputy director for cultural heritage, said moisture accumulation over decades had caused damage to the decorative layers and tilework of the monument, leading experts to initiate urgent stabilization measures.

Referring to precious efforts, he said that after funds were allocated for emergency restoration in early 2023, a natural drying process began in 2024, followed by reinforcement and protection of the mosque's remaining decorations.

Navadad explained that many conservation efforts in the 1970s used acrylic coatings, which trapped moisture behind decorative layers and caused extensive damage to tiles and the underlying mortar. In some areas, he said, the damage had advanced so far that proper restoration was no longer possible.

According to Navadad, the current resto-

ration team is working based on the principle of preservation with minimal intervention. He said the team has focused on comprehensive documentation and photogrammetry before taking any physical action.

He added that the current efforts include documentation with more than 3,000 photographs, structural stabilization, and preservation of existing elements, with no reconstruction work undertaken so far.

Due to the fragile condition of the decorative layers and the risk of further tile loss, Navadad said the team decided to stabilize all remaining tiles in place through localized consolidation methods. This approach, he said, has prevented additional damage and maintained the authenticity of the monument.

Navadad also reported that during the documentation process, several previously unnoticed inscriptions and texts were identified. These findings, he said, could reshape the historical understanding of the mosque's founders, designers, and craftsmen. The results will be published in a specialized article for researchers and the media.

He said the provincial heritage office remains committed to protecting the monument, emphasizing that the ongoing restoration follows international principles of reversibility, minimal intervention, and comprehensive documentation.

Completed in the mid-15th century, the Blue Mosque of Tabriz (better known as Masjed-e Kabud) was among the most glorious buildings of the time. Once built, artists took a further 25 years to cover every surface with the blue majolica tiles and intricate calligraphy for which it's nicknamed.

The mosque is named after, and celebrated for, its unrivalled tile decoration of which there is still evidence upon the ruined walls of the building. Both interior and exterior surfaces were once covered in a variety of tile revetment; remains of tile mosaic, underglaze-painted and overglaze-painted tiles, and luster tiles attest to the richness of the decorative scheme. Patterns are rendered in subtle colors with extensive use of cobalt blue as a ground for inscriptions and arabesque designs in gold and white. The dome was a deep blue, stenciled with gold patterns.

Second Announcement

2040803

National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0240004

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING 5-1/2 IN., 20PPF, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS "VAM", "NEW VAM" THREAD, R-3 API SCT/ ISO	2,200LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 44,207/88 EURO or 35,702,060,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS

www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://iets.mporg.ir> www.setadiran.ir

Iraq seeks to benefit from IRCS's expertise, services

TEHRAN – The Iraqi deputy minister of interior has announced the country's willingness to benefit from the services and products, as well as the experiences of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

An Iraqi delegation, led by Salah AL-Obaidi, is paying a three-day visit to the IRCS to become more familiar with the capacities and capabilities of the society, the IRCS website reported.

"We also look forward to boosting ties in the pharmaceutical, therapeutic, and rehabilitation sectors due to the high capabilities of Iranian experts, the close relationship between the two countries, and their proximity," the IRCS website quoted AL-Obaidi as saying on Thursday in a meeting with Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the IRCS.

The official lauded the IRCS services during the Arbæen pilgrimage and its humanitarian efforts in war-hit countries like Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon.

He went on to say that Iraq is following up on signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for sending Iraqi patients to Iran for treatment, but the signing of the MOU has been delayed due to the outbreak of the 12-day Israeli war against Iran.

For his part, Kolivand reaffirmed readiness to promote bilateral ties



with Iraq and expounded on the IRCS capabilities, highlighting that the society has medical centers in 15 countries, including Dubai, Iraq (Najaf), as well as many Asian, African, and South American countries.

Helal (the IRCS) textile companies produce relief tents, mats, clothing, and essential items. The pharmaceutical companies manufacture different kinds of medicines, medical equipment, and prostheses (artificial limbs), he noted.

With ICRC assistance, IRCS is ready to share expertise

In May, Kolivand announced readiness to share its scientific

and educational experiences as well as operational expertise with other red crescent societies with the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The IRCS is willing to share its expertise in different fields, such as diagnosing individuals with mobility problems through screening, providing rehabilitation services, and training individuals living in areas affected by landmines on how to identify and avoid mine hazards, Kolivand noted.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Nicolas Von Arx, Director of Operations for NAME (North African and Middle East),

and the representative of the ICRC in Iran, Vincent Cassard.

Also, Kolivand called on the ICRC to hold a congress to commemorate the efforts of the international rescuers who have lost their lives to save others, and proposed hosting the congress. By supporting measures and humanitarian activities of red crescent societies, the ICRC will boost motivation among them, he noted.

Referring to unilateral sanctions, the official said, "We expect the International Committee of the Red Cross to play its role in facilitating the import of medicine and medical equipment by the Iranian Red Crescent Society."

Iraq wants to boost ties in the pharmaceutical, therapeutic, and rehabilitation sectors due to the high capabilities of Iranian experts.

The official went on to ask the ICRC to equip Red Crescent helicopters with night vision cameras to enhance their ability in rescue operations.

Average age of first-time mothers continues to rise

TEHRAN – According to a report by the National Organization for Civil Registration, the average age of women in Iran giving birth to their first child stood at 27.6 years in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21, which has increased compared to 27.5 years in the year earlier.

The average age of the father at the birth of his first child was 32.3 over the five months, the report added. The average age of first-time mothers in urban areas was 28.3, and in rural areas was 24.4. The average age of first-time fathers in urban areas was 33.1, and in rural areas was 30.7, Borna news agency reported.

During the same period, 272,238 marriages were registered across the country. The average age at first-time marriage for women and men was 24.2 and 28.3, respectively.

Within these seven months, a total of 540,528 births were registered in the country in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year. Baby boys and girls accounted for 280,647 and 259,881 births, respectively. According to the report, 421,264 births were registered in urban areas and 119,264 in rural areas, Mehr news agency reported.

During the period, 11,169 multiple births were registered in the country. Out of which, 10,806 were twins, 352 were triplets, and 11 were quadruplets.

Transition into an aging country 'inevitable'

Considering the fact that the fertility rate

in Iran is stabilized at around 1.6 children per woman, which is much lower than the rate required to replace its aging population, the transition of society from young to middle-aged has become inevitable.

According to the first five-year national development plan (1989-1993), the policies focused on lowering the total fertility rate from 6.4 children in the Iranian year 1365 (1986) to 4 children in 1390 (2011) and reducing the population growth rate from 3.2 to 2.3 percent in the same period, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Javad Mahmoudi, an official with the National Institute for Population Research, as saying.

However, the measures taken back then led to a wide transformation and change in population indicators and a noticeable decrease in population growth and fertility rate far beyond the set goals of the first development plan in the country, the official noted.

In the next 30 years, the population aged 60 years or older is projected to hold a 32 percent share of the whole population; that is, the elderly will account for one-third of Iran's population by 2050, the official noted.

A total of 540,528 births were registered in the country in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year that started in March 2025, the Civil Registration Organization has announced.

Baby boys and girls accounted for 280,647 and 259,881 births, respectively. According to the report, 421,264 births were registered in urban areas and 119,264 in rural areas, Mehr news agency reported.



During the period, 11,169 multiple births were registered in the country. Out of which, 10,806 were twins, 352 were triplets, and 11 were quadruplets.

In the past Iranian calendar year that ended on March 20, the average age of women in Iran giving birth to their first child stood at 27.5 years, according to a report by the National Organization for Civil Registration.

The average age at which men became fathers was 32.3, the report added. The average age of first-time mothers in urban areas was 28.2, and in rural areas it was 24.4. The average age of first-time fathers in urban areas was 32.8, and in rural areas it was 30, IRNA reported.

The average age of first-time fathers and mothers was highest in Tehran (34.8 and 30.6), and lowest in Sistan-Baluchestan (27.2 and 22.6).

ENGLISH IN USE

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Female Asiatic lion to join male companion

Iran will play host to a female Asiatic lion from Ireland to accompany the recently returned male lion under a population management program aiming at endangered species reproduction by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, a veterinarian at Eram Zoo has said.

The female lion, born 4 years ago, now is coming back to its motherland after being extinct for 8 decades, YJC quoted Iman Memarian as saying.

The lion has undergone genetic tests under the EAZA supervision, and the results have showed that the animal is completely healthy.

Both will be kept at Tehran Zoological Garden separately for a period, and then will live together.

شیر ماده ایرانی به جفت نر خود می پیوندد

دامپزشک پارک پردیسان و مدیر باغ وحش ارم از پیوستن شیر ماده ایرانی از ایرلند به جفت نر خود تحت نظر برنامه تکثیر گونه‌های در خطر انقراض خبر داد.

ایمان معماریان در گفتگو با باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، اظهار کرد: شیرماده ایرانی که در باغ وحش دوبلین ایرلند به دنیا آمده و ۴ ساله است، پس از ۸۰ سال در راه بازگشت به وطن است.

شیر ماده ایرانی از نظر ژنتیک و نبود بیماری چک شده و هیچ گونه مشکلی نداشته، این شیر پس از استانداردسازی مورد تایید اتحادیه باغ وحش‌های اروپا به ایران جابه جا شد.

دو شیر ماده و نر ایرانی مدتی جدا از هم زیست خواهند کرد و به صورت تدریجی این دوگونه به هم معرفی خواهند شد.

Iran, UN underscore climate justice

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, and the secretary general of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, have emphasized the significance of climate justice in the face of coercive sanctions.

The officials met on the sidelines of 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.

Referring to unilateral, cruel sanctions against Iran, Ansari said the environment sector needs to be protected against coercive measures, and international collaborations focusing on common global interests need to be pursued without any restrictions, IRIB reported.

For his part, Guterres affirmed the same view. Highlighting the significance of understanding the consequences of climate change on different countries, the official said climate justice and equal solutions to address the damage from climate change are among the main priorities of the United Nations' sub-agencies.

The head of the DOE also held a meeting with the Brazilian first lady, Rosângela Lula da Silva, known as Janja. Lula da Silva highlighted the role of the two countries in regional and global arenas, calling for the expansion of ties between Brazil and Iran, particularly in social and environmental fields.

She expressed hope that Iran's participation in COP30, act as a turning point to expand the growing relations between the two countries.

For her part, Ansari referred to the vast potential for cooperation, voicing Iran's readiness to share experience and knowledge in addressing climate change. She said that the enhancement of environmental ties, along with other sectors, will foster constructive interactions between the two countries. The official also stressed the role of women and indigenous knowledge in conserving the environment.

During a meeting held between Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz and Ansari, the two officials reviewed previously reached agreements, during the global Zero Waste Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from October 17 to 19, and underlined fostering relations in the environment sector as an effective factor in improving the environment in the region.

COP30 has brought together world leaders, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to discuss priority actions to tackle climate change.

It 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; Stew-

arding 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.

Environmental diplomacy

Being transboundary, many complicated environmental challenges can be addressed through environmental diplomacy, which means negotiations among two or more countries.

Environmental diplomacy is used globally to settle problems such as conflicts over sources of energy, water, and climate change, IRNA reported.

The fact that all the countries share the same environment necessitates fostering environmental diplomacy to settle disputes over water resources, environmental pollution, and climate change impacts.

Environmental diplomacy is an effective and required tool to mitigate and eliminate the severe consequences by fair distribution of responsibilities among involved countries as they present their national interests and solutions.

Sand and dust storms (DSDs) are a typical example of meteorological hazards in West Asia, where many countries are involved, as some generate them and some others are affected by them.

SDSs hit countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Iran, and sometimes parts of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and even Afghanistan and Pakistan.

These dust particles have devastating impacts on respiratory health and ecosystems; they result in the closure of airports, schools, and offices, affect electricity transmission infrastructures, and bring about economic losses.

Removing pollution from the Aras River and securing the Hirmand River water rights, as well as some wetlands, are other examples where environmental policies have been used to resolve the conflicts.

Tehran Convention is a big achievement whereby the Caspian Sea littoral states protect the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution, but also targets the preservation, restoration, and protection of the Caspian Sea species and habitats.

Therefore, to mitigate climate change impacts and achieve sustainable development goals, environmental policy is required to be strengthened to help Iran, as well as its neighboring countries, benefit from available resources and secure our rights at the international level.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with other executive bodies such as the ministries of energy, industry, and agriculture, as well as the Department of Environment, can establish a center to focus on specific missions and follow up on discussions and goals in line with national interests and improve the living conditions of citizens through environmental diplomacy.



Golestan, a hub for tobacco cultivation

The northern province of Golestan has become one of the main tobacco producers in the country.

According to official statistics, more than 1,000 hectares of land across the province were under tobacco cultivation during the past Iranian calendar year (March 2024-March 2025), and approximately 1,800 tons of the crop were harvested.

