

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials

1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED

46th year

No. 15243

Saturday

January 10, 2026

Dey 20, 1404

Rajab 20, 1447



Leader: A United Nation Would Overcome Any Enemy

Ayatollah Khamenei insist the Islamic Republic would in no way compromise on confronting the mercenaries

Donald Trump's hand is tainted with the blood of over a thousand ordinary Iranian citizens. The U.S. president must focus on managing his own country's problems.

The Islamic establishment would not shy away from confronting those who engage in acts of sabotage

The Iranian people should maintain and strengthen their unity and preparedness.

► Page 3

Iran's top security body vows no leniency for rioters and foreign-linked saboteurs

TEHRAN – Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) issued an official statement on Friday addressing recent "terrorist" activities carried out by rioters and agents linked to the intelligence services of the Zionist regime and the United States.

According to the statement, these agents have been engaged in a "hybrid war" against the Iranian people. ► Page 3

Police violence in US and Trump's prescriptions for Iran

By Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN - The police pull the trigger, a politician offers encouragement, and a 37-year-old mother collapses to the ground—this is not fiction, but a real scene in the United States. The question now is this: if the very same image had been broadcast from Iran, how would the world have judged Iran? And what kind of media storm would Western outlets have unleashed against it?

Reni Nicole Good, a 37-year-old woman and the mother of a six-year-old child, was killed by direct fire from U.S. immigration officers despite being unarmed and posing no attack on the police. Her only "crime" was protesting and failing to comply with a stop order. A killing that Donald Trump described as the "right of the police" is, when applied to Iran, labeled a "violation of human rights."

The release of the first images of this American woman killed by U.S. police confronted public opinion ► Page 2

ICE killing of a woman in Minneapolis provokes a storm of protests across the U.S.

Large-scale demonstrations have erupted across the United States after an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent killed a woman in Minneapolis.

Demonstrations and vigils were held in major cities in the United States, drawing thousands of protesters condemning the killing and opposing ICE's expanded enforcement operations.

The protests were triggered by the killing of Renee Nicole Macklin Good during an ICE operation in Minneapolis, part of a nationwide crackdown on immigrants that has intensified under the administration of President Donald Trump. ► Page 5

Trump backs ICE narrative in fatal Minnesota encounter as videos raise questions

It took just seven seconds for an encounter between Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and a driver in Minneapolis to turn deadly, NBC News reported.

Videos of those moments, captured by witnesses' cellphones and posted to social media, show how the confrontation escalated into gunshots that left a mother dead behind the wheel. The clips also contradict an account provided by President Donald Trump.

Trump, in a social media post hours after the Wednesday morning shooting, said the driver — later identified as Renee Nicole Good — "violently, willfully and viciously ran over the ICE Officer." ► Page 5

Book on Martyr General Qassem Soleimani honored at Jalal Literary Awards

TEHRAN- "Qassem," a book on the life of Martyr General Qassem Soleimani, authored by Iranian resistance literature researcher Morteza Sarhangi, was honored at the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards.

The book received the prestigious literary prize in the documentation section at the 18th edition of the event, Mehr reported on Friday.

Back in December, the 7th edition of the book "Qassem" was published. The first edition of the book was published just a few months ago, concurrently with Tehran International Book Fair, by the Khatt-e Moqaddam Publications in Tehran. ► Page 8

Araghchi meets top Lebanese officials, visits Nasrallah tomb in Beirut

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made a high-profile visit to Lebanon on Friday, meeting his Lebanese counterpart Youssef Rajji upon his arrival in Beirut.

The visit came at a delicate time as the Zionist regime of Israel, the United States, as well as certain factions within Lebanon are putting pressure on the country's officials to downgrade ties with Iran.

Recently, Lebanese Foreign Minister Rajji had said he was ready to meet his Iranian counterpart in a third country. However, Araghchi said friendly countries don't need intermediaries. ► Page 2



There should be distinction between rioters and peaceful protestors: Tehran Friday prayer leader



TEHRAN – The Tehran Friday prayer leader told worshippers that “intelligent protestors” who are concerned about Iran’s independence and power will set a distinction between themselves and the “violent ill-wishers” and “disruptors of public order”, suggesting this is an “absolute necessity”.

The comments by Hojatoleslam Mohammad Hassan Aboutorabi-Fard follows more than a week of protests over a sharp depreciation of national currency and the ensuing prices rises, especially food staples. However, some violent protestors are misusing the situation by destroying public properties and attacking security forces.

The protests first started in Tehran’s Bazaar (marketplace) and gradually spread to some other parts of the capital’s great Bazaar and other cities across the country. On Thursday night, sporadic protests took place in Tehran as certain hooligans set buses and ambulances on fire.

Aboutorabi-Fard said the country has faced “bitter events” in recent days, suggesting that special attention should be paid to the concerns and criticisms of entrepreneurs and

trade associations.

He added setting a distinction between civil protestors and rioters is a “great social responsibility”, adding that creating security and fostering national unity is necessary to counter problems.

The Friday prayer leader insisted that “our youth should know that violent protestors” are dancing to the tune of the “unachievable goals” of foreign enemies.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the cleric said common people, shopkeepers, and businesspersons are demanding “economic stability” and this entails putting a brake on inflation and the depreciation of national currency.

Aboutorabi-Fard praised the sacrifices of security forces in protecting public security and social order, saying, “We are firmly standing with FARAJA (law enforcement forces) and those forces protecting security.”

The cleric added these forces are “patiently tolerating” injuries inflicted on them by violent protestors.

According to the Tasnim news agency, a number of security forces were killed in the Thursday night’s riots.

Iranian Parliament mulling ways to regulate peaceful protests: MP



TEHRAN – Parliament representative Mohammad-Saleh Jokar on Friday underscored the fundamental importance and the responsibility of governmental institutions to address the concerns of citizens.

According to the Mehr news agency, Jokar emphasized the constitutional right of citizens to express grievances and stressed the critical need for authorities to actively listen and resolve the economic challenges faced by the populace.

Jokar, who represents the people of Yazd in the Parliament, highlighted the historical dedication of the Iranian people to the nation’s interests.

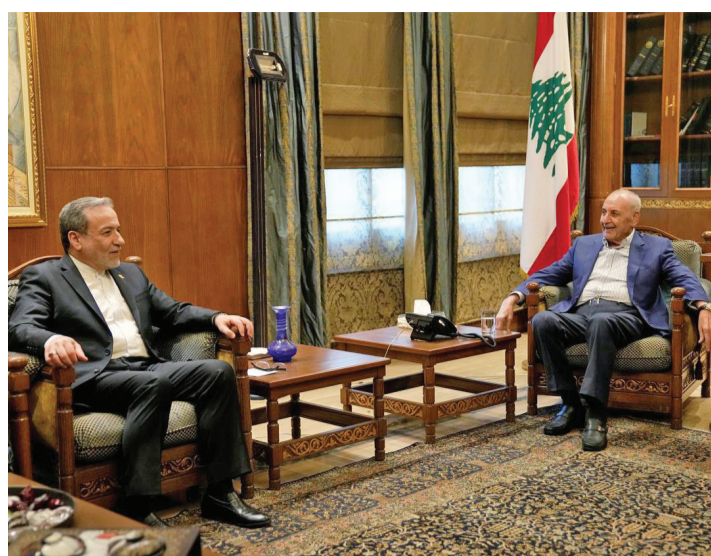
“The people of Iran are noble,” Jokar stated. “They have consistently demonstrated their

commitment to the system [Islamic Republic] through active participation and significant influence across various sectors.”

For more than a week, certain cities in Iran, including Tehran, has been the scene of protests over price rises following a sharp fall in national currency. Now, voices are emerging to regulate peaceful protests in order to rob the opportunity from hooligans who misuse the situation by causing damage to public property and causing social disorder.

“The demands of the Iranian people must be addressed and pursued; and they have a right to voice their concerns,” he said. “The Iranian Parliament will address the procedures for future gatherings and demonstrations, will be present for discussion during the upcoming plenary session of the Parliament.”

Araghchi meets top Lebanese officials, visits Nasrallah tomb in Beirut



FM Araghchi meets Lebanon’s Parliament speaker Nabi Berri (R). Araghchi shaking hands with his Lebanese counterpart Youssef Rajji (R)



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made a high-profile visit to Lebanon on Friday, meeting his Lebanese counterpart Youssef Rajji upon his arrival in Beirut.

The visit came at a delicate time as the Zionist regime of Israel, the United States, as well as certain factions within Lebanon are putting pressure on the country’s officials to downgrade ties with Iran.

Recently, Lebanese Foreign Minister Rajji had said he was ready to meet his Iranian counterpart in a third country. However, Araghchi

said friendly countries don’t need intermediaries.

In an interview with the Tehran Times last week, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said the new Iranian and Lebanese ambassadors were starting their diplomatic missions.

Iran’s top diplomat was also due to hold separate meetings with Lebanon’s Parliament speaker Nabih Berri, President Joseph Aoun, and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam.

Araghchi, who is accompanied by an Iranian trade delegation, also

met Lebanon’s economy minister.

Earlier on Wednesday, Araghchi paid tribute to the martyred Lebanese resistance leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah at his tomb, declaring that “We continue to support the resistance and its great goals in confronting the occupation and oppression of the Zionist regime.”

“On behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all the people of Iran, I send greetings to all fighters for the path of truth, justice, and resistance,” Araghchi stated.

He added, “The Islamic Republic

of Iran has always supported the independence, national unity, and the territorial integrity of Lebanon and will continue to do so.”

The foreign minister also called for an “end to the occupation of all occupied lands by the Zionist regime, especially the occupied parts of Lebanon.”

Araghchi further said, “We seek to expand our relations with all stakeholders of the Lebanese government and hope that relations between Iran and Lebanon will expand in all political, economic, cultural, scientific, and other fields.”

Police violence in US and Trump’s prescriptions for Iran

Fatemeh Kavand

TEHRAN – The police pull the trigger, a politician offers encouragement, and a 37-year-old mother collapses to the ground—this is not fiction, but a real scene in the United States. The question now is this: if the very same image had been broadcast from Iran, how would the world have judged Iran? And what kind of media storm would Western outlets have unleashed against it?

Reni Nicole Good, a 37-year-old woman and the mother of a six-year-old child, was killed by direct fire from U.S. immigration officers despite being unarmed and posing no attack on the police. Her only “crime” was protesting and failing to comply with a stop order. A killing that Donald Trump described as the “right of the police” is, when applied to Iran, labeled a “violation of human rights.”

The release of the first images of this American woman killed by U.S. police confronted public opinion with a serious question: if this incident had occurred in a country other than the United States, how would Western media and politicians have reacted? The answer is clear—the same narrative that has for years been repeated about Iran. This time, however, the crime scene is on U.S. soil, and the victim is an American woman.

At a time when American police pull the trigger with ease and politicians issue orders to arrest protestors, those same figures adopt a language of threats and feigned concern toward Iran. This double standard is not an occasional mistake; it is the core structure of American policy—a policy that does not reject violence, but manages it.

In response to this killing, Donald Trump, instead of offering accountability or expressing regret, openly defended the police’s actions. This stance is not a verbal slip but a precise reflection of the dominant outlook within the American power structure—an outlook that defines order through force and considers security guaranteed by bullets.

Double standards as doctrine

In the American political lexicon, “protest” is a fluid concept, dependent on geography. Protest on U.S. soil is framed as a threat to public order and national security, but the same protest, if it occurs in Iran, becomes a “popular movement” and a “cry for freedom.” This distinction is neither accidental nor emotional; it is part of an established doctrine in Washington’s foreign policy.

The killing of Reni Nicole Good is a clear example of this double standard. An unarmed woman who, even according to the police’s own official account, posed no immediate threat, lost her life to direct gunfire. Yet the official U.S. narrative focuses not on the life lost, but on her “failure to comply with police orders”—as if verbal disobedience were a license for death.

When Trump calls police gunfire against such an individual “legitimate self-defense,” he is in fact defending an unwritten principle:



power creates legitimacy. Yet the same politician preemptively condemns any security measure taken by Iran, regardless of circumstances, threats, or the nature of unrest.

This duality has long been evident in U.S. behavior. American police forces are among the most heavily armed and deadly law enforcement bodies in the world. The annual number of people killed by U.S. police—particularly among minorities and protestors—exceeds that of many countries. Nevertheless, this reality has no place in Washington’s official narrative or in the mainstream Western media.

By contrast, Iran is placed in the dock even before the dimensions of any incident are clarified. The default assumption of Western media is that Iranian security forces are always “repressive” and protestors always “innocent”—an assumption detached from on-the-ground realities and serving purely political purposes.

Security for oneself, instability for others

Mike Pompeo’s remarks about “unrest in dozens of Iranian cities” and his explicit references to the role of foreign forces inadvertently reveal an old truth: the United States views instability in rival countries not as a threat, but as an opportunity. In this worldview, chaos is a tool of pressure, and protest—if it weakens independent governments—is considered valuable.

Within this framework, the killing of an American citizen by the police is portrayed as a domestic issue that can be justified, while any security response in Iran, even in the face of armed unrest, is elevated to a global crisis. The United States considers security its unquestionable right, but defines it as a conditional privilege for others.

From Washington’s perspective, protest is not a natural or social phenomenon; it is a geopolitical instrument. If this instrument weakens an adversary, it is legitimate. If the same instrument threatens domestic order in the United States, it must be suppressed by the harshest means. The outcome of this logic is what is visible on American streets: batons, tear gas, and bullets.

The case of Reni Nicole Good can be analyzed precisely within this framework. Her life was not lost due to an individual error, but as a product of a structural approach to security—one that deems human beings expendable in

the face of a predefined order.

Media narratives and the engineering of public opinion

Western media play a central role in reinforcing this double standard. In the United States, media focus on the “suspicious behavior of protestors” and the “threat to police.” Narratives are crafted in a way that portrays police gunfire as the last and most unavoidable option—even when the victim is an unarmed woman and a mother.

By contrast, the media narrative about Iran is written in advance. Images, headlines, and analyses all fit into a fixed framework: a repressive security force, a victimized protester, and a government with no right to defend public order. This narrative engineering directs global public opinion not on the basis of reality, but according to political interests.

The killing of Reni Nicole Good is described in Western media as an “incident” or a “clash,” but had the same event occurred in Iran, headlines would have spoken of “state ???” and “crimes against humanity.” The difference lies not in the nature of the incident, but in its geography.

In such an environment, even images and videos are not neutral. A single scene, depending on where it occurs, can generate two entirely different interpretations. The media do not reflect truth; they reproduce policy.

Human rights: A tool of pressure, not a universal value

If human rights were truly universal, their standards would remain constant. What is observed in practice, however, is the instrumental use of this concept. The United States employs human rights not to defend people, but to pressure non-aligned governments. In this view, human rights are not a moral language; they are a political tool.

This logic explains why the killing of a 37-year-old woman and mother of a six-year-old child in the United States is considered “legitimate self-defense,” while any security measure in Iran—even those aimed at protecting lives and national stability—becomes an international crisis. The criterion is not human life; it is the political standing of countries.

What emanates from Washington today is not a defense of freedom, but a defense of interests. The United States speaks the language of human rights with one hand and pulls the trigger with the other. This contradiction is not a mistake; it is the essence of American policy—a policy that demands order for itself and chaos for others.

“American human rights” are not an ethical principle, but a political project—a project in which a bullet can be sanctified and protest, depending on geography, can be either a virtue or a crime. In this equation, truth becomes the casualty, and what remains is the preservation of dominance and hegemony—even if it rests on a trigger.

Leader: A united nation would overcome any enemy

Ayatollah Khamenei insists the Islamic Republic would in no way compromise on confronting the mercenaries

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called on the Iranian nation to maintain their unity, stressing that such a united nation will overcome any enmity.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a speech regarding the recent violent acts committed by rioters in Iran.

In recent days, protests and public gatherings have been held in several Iranian cities across the country, primarily in response to economic challenges faced by segments of society.

Taking advantage of the situation, several groups of rioters started to engage in acts of “terrorism” and “sabotage” in certain cities across the country.

Iranian officials have acknowledged the legitimacy of these demands, stressing that citizens’ economic concerns are valid and must be addressed. The government has also adopted measures aimed at addressing the root causes of current economic hardships.

Authorities have emphasized that the majority of demonstrators have expressed their demands peacefully and within legal frameworks. Senior officials have underlined a clear distinction between peaceful protesters and individuals who seek to exploit public grievances for disruptive or violent purposes.



In an interventionist move, U.S. President Donald Trump expressed support for the rioters, saying that if Iran shoots protesters, Washington would come to their rescue.

Speaking on the recent developments in the country, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution called on the Iranian people to maintain and strengthen their unity and preparedness, stressing, “A united nation would overcome any enemy.”

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the Islamic Republic would in no way compromise

on confronting the mercenaries who act in the interest of foreign enemies.

Everyone should know that the Islamic establishment came to power with the sacrifice of hundreds of noble people, and it would not shy away from confronting those who engage in acts of sabotage, he underlined.

Referring to the violent incidents in certain cities on Thursday night, Ayatollah Khamenei castigated those who have damaged public properties in order to please the president of the United States.

noting that Donald Trump’s hand is tainted with the blood of over a thousand ordinary Iranian citizens, the Leader advised the U.S. president to focus on managing his own country’s problems.

He also referred to Trump’s remarks in which he admitted that he was in charge of the 12-day war initiated by the Israeli regime in Iran in June and killed hundreds of Iranian ordinary citizens, military personnel, and scientists.

Iran’s top security body vows no leniency for rioters and foreign-linked saboteurs

TEHRAN – Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) issued an official statement on Friday addressing recent “terrorist” activities carried out by rioters and agents linked to the intelligence services of the Zionist regime and the United States.

According to the statement, these agents have been engaged in a “hybrid war” against the Iranian people.

It highlighted while tactics may shift, the belligerence of the Zionist regime against the steadfast Iranian nation remains constant.

The council noted that while recent events initially stemmed from protests regarding market instability, they were quickly diverted toward insecurity through the “guidance and design of the Zionist enemy.”

The SNSC further pointed to recent remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump as evidence of a coordinated plot between the two regimes aimed at disrupting the lives of the

Iranian people.

The statement also emphasized that no honorable Iranian would permit the desecration of national and religious symbols. “No person of integrity allows national symbols such as the flag to be insulted, or worse, set on fire.”

The SNSC also condemned attacks on monuments honoring national icons, stating that “no dignified Iranian would tolerate insults or arson directed at the statue of the symbol of national resistance, [Martyred General] Haj Qasem Soleimani.”

Furthermore, the council expressed outrage over attacks on religious sites, asserting that “no free-hearted Iranian allows the symbol of national identity, such as the Houses of God [mosques], to be disrespected, or worse, set on fire.”

The SNSC made a clear distinction between citizens with legitimate economic concerns

and those engaging in sabotage.

It argued that individuals protesting economic conditions would not logically engage in actions that exacerbate economic damage or add the burden of insecurity to existing financial hardships.

The SNSC reaffirmed that the presence of security and law enforcement forces is dedicated to preventing chaos. These forces stand alongside the “proud and resolute nation” to neutralize the destabilization plans orchestrated by the Zionist regime and its “godfather,” the United States.

Regarding the legal consequences for those involved in the unrest, the SNSC maintained a firm stance.

The statement concluded by warning that “the security forces and the judiciary will have no leniency toward saboteurs.”

Multiple security forces martyred across Iran

TEHRAN – Multiple members of Iran’s security forces and a local judicial official have been martyred in a series of coordinated attacks carried out by armed terrorists and foreign-backed mercenaries across several provinces.

The capital, Tehran, witnessed a surge in violence on Thursday night. According to recent reports across Iranian news agencies and social media, at least two security forces were martyred by “terrorist agents affiliated with Mossad.”

These reports indicate that organized cells of 20 to 30 individuals, linked to both the Zionist spy agency and the MKO (Mujahedin-e-Khalq) terrorist organization, targeted public property, including BRT stations and private vehicles.

Reports indicate that these agitators attempted to push the atmosphere toward further violence through “staged killings” (kushte-sazi).

In a separate incident in the capital, at least “several personnel” from the Tehran Criminal Investigation Police were martyred by direct gunfire. Armed terrorists reportedly utilized Kalashnikov rifles to target the officers during the unrest.

The violence extended to North Khorasan Province, where the martyrdom of a high-ranking judicial official was confirmed. Ali Akbar Hosseinzadeh, the Prosecutor of Esfarayen, was martyred while conducting a field inspection of the city alongside security personnel.

According to North Khorasan’s judicial department, a group of rioters—most of whom identified as being from outside the province—set fire to the kiosk where the prosecutor and police were stationed.

The attackers then “prevented emergency services from providing aid” to those trapped inside. Second Lieutenant Sa’eid Kourani of the Law Enforcement Forces (FARAJA) was martyred during



these clashes in Esfarayen while working to restore order.

In response, the chief of Iran’s Judiciary, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei, issued a message of condolence and a stern warning to those behind the chaos.

The Judiciary chief emphasized that the punishment for “insurgent elements and rioters” would be “decisive, maximum, and without any legal leniency.”

Meanwhile, in Kermanshah, the IRGC’s Hazrat Nabi Akram (PBUH) Division announced that two of its members, Mohammad Sheidai and Mohsen Jamali, were martyred.

The two lost their lives during a confrontation with “separatist elements” active in the region.

The brutality of the recent attacks was further highlighted by video footage emerging from Marvdasht in Fars Province.

The footage depicts the martyrdom of a security defender at the hands of “armed mercenaries of the United States and Israel.”

Local reports described the killing as being carried out in a “Daesh-style” (ISIS) manner, reflecting the extremist tactics being employed by the armed groups currently targeting Iranian personnel.

Iranian women athletes emerge as a driving force



TEHRAN – It is impossible to emphasize social health while ignoring or downplaying the role and status of women. In Iran, women, as the cornerstone of the family, play a fundamental and essential role in social vitality and family well-being.

Their active presence in various cultural, social, and sporting arenas can serve as a driving force for development and for raising the level of public health. Experience has shown that wherever women have been given the opportunity to express their capabilities, not only has the quality of family life improved, but society as a whole has progressed more rapidly along the path of sustainable development.

One of the arenas in which women can play an effective role and showcase their abilities in the best possible way is sport. Attention from officials to this field has been enough in recent years to produce remarkable growth and numerous successes for Iranian women in international, Asian, world, and even Olympic events. Today, the Iranian woman stands as a symbol of dignity, respect, and strength.

Over the past 16 months, Iranian women’s sport has delivered a performance worthy of praise. During this period, countless honors were achieved for Iranian sport, with women playing a highly prominent and significant role. Across 352 overseas participations and 48 hosting events, a total of 1,047 medals were won by Iranian women’s sport, including 399 gold, 300 silver, and 348 bronze medals. These medals were earned across 400 international competitions, standing as a testament to the strength and authority of Iranian women athletes.

These women, acting as cultural and sporting ambassadors for Iran, showcased their abilities and achieved numerous successes. This international exposure brought valuable experience that will undoubtedly have positive effects on the path of elite and championship sport.

From July 28, 2024 until the end of that year, 18 female athletes represented Iran abroad in five sports: table tennis (12 athletes), football (2), rowing, volleyball, handball, and shooting (one athlete each), helping to portray the strength and stature of Iranian women. In 2025, over the past months, a total of 14 athletes competed in nine sports, including cycling (4), skiing and football (2 each), and table tennis, shooting, equestrian, chess, rowing, and mountaineering (one athlete each), all representing the country on the international stage.

During this time, four Iranian women also served as coaches abroad—two in football, and one each in shooting and table tennis—demonstrating their capabilities and technical expertise and proving that Iranian women have much to contribute in specialized sporting fields as well.

These achievements represent only part of the success attained by Iranian women’s sport, and there is no doubt that these figures will undergo further changes in the future.

Korea Republic U23 coach Lee pleased with draw against Iran

TEHRAN – Korea Republic head coach Lee Min-sung is pleased after his side drew 0-0 in the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026

Group C opener on Wednesday.

Both teams struggled to find a way through, managing just one shot on target each as Uzbekistan took charge of the group after its 3-2 win against Lebanon.

Korea will take on Lebanon on Saturday. “The players could not perform individually as there was too much pressure from Iran,” said Lee.

“We did not manage to find opportunities to score but the result did lead to a point,” he added.

Lee, however, was pleased with the performance of his backline.

“I am satisfied with our defense. They did their job and also created chances, which is important. But I would like to see a more fruitful outcome in the future,” said the 52-year-old former international.

Iran U23 team unfortunate not to score against Korea: Ravankhah

TEHRAN – Iran coach Omid Ravankhah said it was unfortunate his players could not find the back of the net despite playing well in the AFC U23 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 Group C opener.

The match between Iran and South Korea ended in a goalless stalemate.

“We faced a very strong team and I believe that overall, our players performed very, very well,” he said. “But it would have been better if there had been a goal.

“We dominated the game, had a bigger share of possession, made successful passes and created more scoring chances and we can deliver at a greater capacity if we work on our weaknesses.”

Iran will face the 2018 champion Uzbekistan on Saturday.

Moghanlou scores brace as Ittihad Kalba draw Al Wasl

TEHRAN – Ittihad Kalba football team earned a late 2-2 draw against Al Wasl in the 2025-26 UAE Pro League.

Serginho opened the scoring for the visitors in the 50th minute, but Shahriyar Moghanlou equalized the match in the 64th minute.

Ali Saleh restored Al Wasl’s lead in the 75th minute before Moghanlou struck again nine minutes from time to level the match.

Ittihad Kalba remain seventh in the standings with 16 points, 11 points behind leaders Al Ain, while Al Wasl sit third with 22 points.

Iran’s U23 difficult task ahead of Uzbekistan

TEHRAN – Iran will have a difficult task ahead of Uzbekistan in the 2026 Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2026 Group C.

The young Persians were held to a goalless draw against South Korea on Wednesday.

Iran looked competitive, disciplined and tactically coherent, but not yet decisive. With tougher tests ahead against Uzbekistan and Lebanon, Ravankhah’s side will need to turn their organized play into more effective attacks.

Still, as an opening match, Iran’s performance suggested a team building patiently toward consistency, a necessary step for long-term success at continental level.

Uzbekistan football has improved during the past years and they are a team to beat. Uzbekistan started the campaign with a win over Lebanon and it shows that they are in good situation, mentally.

Aras FTZ trade balance positive \$260m in 9 months



TEHRAN- The trade balance of Aras Free Trade Zone (FTZ), in Iran's northwestern East Azarbaijan Province, was \$260 million positive in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2025), the chairman of the board of directors and the managing director of Aras Free Zone Organization announced.

Hadi Moghadamzadeh told IRNA that the Aras FTZ achieved a positive trade balance, with exports of \$441 million in goods and services and imports of \$181 million, indicating the dynamism of production and strengthening of economic infrastructure in the region.

Commending the production capacity, investor confidence, and the effective role of the Aras Free Zone Organization in the country's economic and trade development, he reported a significant rise of 320 percent in domestic investment this year so far.

According to him, there were also an unprecedented leap in the realization of foreign investment, which saw a 447-percent increase to \$148 million, compared to \$27 million in the same period last year.

Moghadamzadeh continued by referring to the production in the Aras FTZ, and said the level reached 395,000 billion rials with a growth of 169 percent compared to the same period last year.

As previously reported, the value of commodities and services export from Iran's free zones increased by 19 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21, 2025), as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

The report said that the worth of exported products and services from the country's free zones stood at \$994 million in the mentioned eight-month period.

On December 10, Reza Masrou, the secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free Trade and Special Economic Zones, announced the finalization of the transformation document for free zones and the drafting of the digital economy document for free zones within the government, stating that the implementation of these documents will transform the future roadmap of the free zones.

Elaborating on the details of the transformation document, the official stated: "This document has been formulated based on an examination of the systemic issues and an assessment of these zones against global experiences. Each free zone has been specialized according to its real advantages. For example, Kish is defined as a financial and digital economy hub, Aras is focused on logistics and transit, and other zones have been defined based on their capacities."

According to Reza Masrou, the free zones are required to develop and submit their five-year roadmaps based on this document.

Pointing out that one of the axes of the seventh generation of free zones globally is the digital economy, he added: "The digital economy document for free zones will also be finalized within the next two weeks. This document includes the legal requirements for transforming free zones into the country's digital economy hubs."

The official further stated that a significant part of development challenges are rooted in existing laws, emphasized: "The amendment to the Free Zones Law has been reviewed in the High Council and approved in a specialized workshop, and it has now been submitted to

the relevant ministry as a bill to undergo legal procedures so that it can be sent to the parliament after government approval."

Regarding the progress of completing unfinished projects, Masrou said: "Dozens of infrastructure projects are underway in the free zones, ranging from small-scale projects to projects worth tens of billions of tomans. The main challenge for these projects is financing."

He added: "With the notification of the guideline for partnership with the private sector and the use of modern financing methods, the pace of project completion has accelerated. Monthly meetings are also being held to monitor and remove construction obstacles."

The Free Trade and Special Economic Zones High Council has recently announced that the process of converting customs offices located in free zones into specialized customs for importing specific goods will be accelerated with the aim of facilitating trade processes and providing better services to importers.

According to the announcement by the Supreme Council, the proposal from the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free Trade and Special Economic Zones regarding the establishment of specialized customs has been submitted to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), and necessary cooperation and coordination are underway by the customs authorities. This measure aims to effectively utilize the four-billion-dollar import quota to the mainland through free zones and accurately identify entry points with trade advantages.

It should be noted that the establishment and development of specialized customs offices will not only accelerate trade processes but also play a significant role in enhancing safety, creating sustainable employment, and strengthening the local economy in free zones.

On November 20, Economy Minister Seyed Ali Madanizadeh said that Iran plans to create an independent banking system dedicated to its free trade zones as part of a broader effort to overhaul the country's economic governance, adding that free zones will serve as the launchpad for structural reform.

Speaking at a meeting with business leaders in the Aras Free Zone, Madanizadeh said the government aims to expand economic freedoms, lift restrictions and accelerate decentralization in the country's most commercially active regions.

He said the administration has begun implementing a new transformation plan for free zones, built around decentralization and specialization of activities in each zone. The pilot phase will begin in East Azarbaijan Province, centered on the Aras Free Zone.

Madanizadeh said the government is moving to establish an independent bank dedicated to the financial needs of free zones. Aras will also be assigned a lead commercial bank to coordinate services, and steps are being taken to establish an independent chamber of commerce for the zone.

He said the government has adopted a supportive stance toward investors and producers operating in free zones, and confirmed that all ministerial directives limiting trade activity in these areas will be revoked. A new Free Zone Development Secretariat has been launched inside the Ministry of Economy, with Aras designated as its pilot site.

Semi-finished steel production increases 7.4%

TEHRAN- The production of semi-finished steel in Iran rose 7.4 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2025), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As reported, the steel products production also rose 1.1 percent in the mentioned nine-months period, year on year.

Semi-finished steel (also called intermediate steel products) is steel that has been cast into a simple, basic shape after its initial production but has not yet been rolled or forged into its final form.

Think of it as the raw material for finished steel products. It's the crucial middle step between molten steel and the steel beams, car parts, sheets, or rods we use.

There are three primary forms of semi-finished steel, created by a process called continuous casting: Billets: Small, square or round cross-sections (typically under 6 inches/150mm). These are the starting point for long products like rebars, wire rods, merchant bars, and seamless tubes. Blooms: Larger square or rectangular cross-sections (bigger than billets). They are often further processed into structural shapes like I-beams, rails, and heavy columns. Slabs: The largest form, with a wide,



rectangular cross-section but relatively thin. Slabs are rolled flat to make finished flat products like hot-rolled coils, steel plates, sheets for automobiles, and appliances.

Semi-finished steel is an important economic indicator because: It measures early-stage industrial activity. This is often a leading indicator of future activity in construction, automotive, and manufacturing sectors, as that semi-finished steel will be turned into final products months later. It

represents flexibility and supply. Semi-finished steel can be stored and then later processed into various final products based on market demand. A country with high semi-finished output can export these intermediates to other nations that lack the initial steelmaking capacity but have finishing mills. It's the core product of many mini-mills. Modern electric arc furnace (EAF) mills often specialize in producing semi-finished steel (especially billets) from scrap metal, which is a faster and more flexible process.

Free trade agreement with Eurasia boosts Iranian products competitiveness

TEHRAN- Iran's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has increased the competitive status of Iranian products.

The agreement has created new opportunities for the promotion of Iran's trade with the five members of the union.

As the experts believe, it seems that economic cooperation between Iran and the EAEU will become a turning point in the near future.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has reported, the value of Iran's export to the Eurasian Economic Union member countries rose 10 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21, 2025), as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

The IRICA report put the worth of Iran's export to the mentioned countries at \$1.46 billion during the said eight-month period.

The official statistics indicate that Iran's trade with the Eurasian Economic Union has followed an upward trend in recent years. According to the IRICA report, the value of trade between Iran and member countries of this union has risen from \$2.5 billion in the past to nearly \$5 billion currently. This growth is a clear sign of the positive impact of implementing Iran's preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union, and forecasts suggest that under current conditions, this trade value could be assessed at up to \$20 billion.

The implementation of this agreement, which entered its operational phase in May, has created new opportunities for boosting Iran's trade with the five member countries of

the Eurasian Economic Union. Iran's free trade agreement with Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan has laid the groundwork for facilitating the export of goods, reducing tariffs, and increasing the competitiveness of Iranian products.

Experts believe that this agreement will not only strengthen Iran's export capacities but will also lead to the development of stable, long-term economic relations between Iran and the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

In this regard, Mirhadi Seyedi, International Affairs Advisor to the Head of the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), told the Mehr News Agency: "According to Iran Customs statistics, the country's exports to member states of the union during the first eight months of the current year increased by 10 percent, reaching \$1.46 billion."

He stated that this increase demonstrates that the implementation of the free trade agreement has had a tangible impact on Iran's export. However, further measures are required to achieve the target of \$20 billion.

Seyedi emphasized that the value of trade between Iran and member countries of this union has increased from \$2.5 billion in previous years to nearly \$5 billion at present.

In mid-August, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), said that steel and petrochemicals are expected to account for 50 percent of the objectives set under Iran's free trade agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

He said the FTA, which entered into force on May 15, 2025, is unprecedented for Iran, re-

ducing tariffs on 87 percent of traded goods.

He noted that while previous preferential trade agreements with the EAEU had expanded trade volumes, this latest agreement presents a unique opportunity for deeper integration.

"Trade agreements create both opportunities and challenges. The overall outcome is positive for both sides if vulnerabilities are addressed and opportunities maximized," Dehnavi said. He emphasized that steel and petrochemical industries are major drivers of production and exports, and leveraging them effectively could achieve half of Iran's FTA objectives.

The official called on the private sector to actively engage in Eurasian markets, pointing to research identifying which Iranian products have the highest export potential. "Private companies should focus on maximizing profitability, while policymakers ensure collective benefits such as employment, economic growth, and foreign currency inflows," he said.

Dehnavi also noted that export opportunities vary across member states, highlighting Russia as one of the most lucrative markets for Iranian products and promising further studies to optimize engagement in the region.

According to Elham Haji Karimi, head of the Iran-EAEU FTA secretariat, the agreement, signed in December 2023 after more than two years of negotiations, covers 11 chapters, including trade in goods, technical measures, sanitary standards, rules of origin, customs cooperation, dispute resolution, government procurement, and sectoral cooperation in transport, energy, automotive industries, and free trade zones.

Knowledge-based companies' participation prominent in IRAN PETROCHEM 2026



TEHRAN- Iranian knowledge-based companies have had an outstanding presence in Iran's third petrochemical industry exhibition, which was held on Kish Island during January 6-8.

As reported, the event brought together more than 200 domestic companies amid renewed focus on technology, investment and export growth in one of the country's main hard-currency earning sectors.

The event, titled Iran Petrochem 1404 (IRAN PETROCHEM 2026) was held at the Kish International Exhibition Centre and was described by organizers as

the country's largest specialized gathering for the petrochemical, refining and related industries.

Participants were showcasing their latest products, technologies and capabilities, with the exhibition serving as a platform for technical and commercial talks as well as investment negotiations with domestic and foreign counterparts.

As recently announced by the head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), petrochemical projects under Iran's Seventh National Development Plan are about 60 percent complete, with all first-year targets for the sec-

tor achieved in 2024.

Speaking at the first petrochemical industry investors conference in Tehran, NPC Head Hassan Abbaszadeh said the sector's capacity is expected to reach 131.5 million tons by the end of the plan period.

He said total planned investment under the program stands at \$26 billion, about half of which has already been realized, adding that projects covered by the plan have reached roughly 60 percent physical progress.

Abbaszadeh said the industry met 100 percent of its first-year targets in 2024 and posted solid performance in the first half of the current year, with an additional 7 million tons of capacity expected to come on stream by year-end through new start-ups.

He added that around 44 petrochemical projects have been identified for the subsequent development plan, with financing cited as a key priority for the sector.

Abbaszadeh said about 70 percent of Iran's petrochemical output is exported, making the

industry well suited for the creation of foreign-currency project funds. He noted that roughly 22 percent of installed capacity is currently idle, largely due to challenges in securing stable feedstock supply.

To address this, he said the industry is pursuing measures including flare gas recovery, upstream field development, expansion of renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects.

Abbaszadeh also said only about 15 percent of the petrochemical sector is currently owned by "real" private investors, with the remainder held mainly by pension funds. The Seventh Development Plan, he said, targets further divestment and greater private-sector participation.

He urged households to curb gas consumption during winter peak demand, noting that residential and commercial use can account for up to 80 percent of national gas output during cold months, constraining supply to industries such as petrochemicals.

ICE killing of a woman in Minneapolis provokes a storm of protests across the U.S.

Large-scale demonstrations have erupted across the United States after an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent killed a woman in Minneapolis.

Demonstrations and vigils were held in major cities in the United States, drawing thousands of protesters condemning the killing and opposing ICE's expanded enforcement operations.

The protests were triggered by the killing of Renee Nicole Macklin Good during an ICE operation in Minneapolis, part of a nationwide crackdown on immigrants that has intensified under the administration of President Donald Trump.

In Minneapolis, marches and vigils took place in several parts of the city as some outraged residents condemned the shooting and called for ICE to leave. Protesters shouted "Go arrest ICE," demanding that local law enforcement forces



detain the ICE agent who killed the woman.

The main gathering was near the scene of the shooting, which is about one mile from where George Floyd was killed in 2020 by a city police officer, sparking worldwide

anti-racism protests.

Protest rallies were reported in other US cities, including New York, New Orleans, Miami, Seattle and other cities nationwide.

In Los Angeles, dozens gathered at Placita Olvera to call for an end

to immigration raids that have brought terror to American communities.

Minneapolis Public Schools announced that classes were cancelled for the rest of the week, "due to safety concerns". It comes after federal agents reportedly made arrests outside a high school on Wednesday.

Macklin Good, 37, was a US-born citizen from Colorado who had recently moved to Minneapolis and never been charged with anything involving law enforcement beyond a traffic ticket.

Trump and the US Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, have claimed that the woman was trying to run over the agent with her vehicle, which DHS called "an act of domestic terrorism," but videos circulating online and witness accounts to reporters have undermined those statements.

Trump backs ICE narrative in fatal Minnesota encounter as videos raise questions

It took just seven seconds for an encounter between Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and a driver in Minneapolis to turn deadly, NBC News reported.

Videos of those moments, captured by witnesses' cellphones and posted to social media, show how the confrontation escalated into gunshots that left a mother dead behind the wheel. The clips also contradict an account provided by President Donald Trump.

Trump, in a social media post hours after the Wednesday morning shooting, said the driver — later identified as Renee Nicole Good — "violently, willfully and viciously ran over the ICE Officer." Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem accused the driver of trying to run the officer over, saying "she hit him" in "an act of domestic terrorism." The agency called her a violent rioter.

All said the officer fired in self-defense.

"It is hard to believe he is alive," Trump said.

A close look at the videos shows that Good's car did not knock down the officer, whose legs were to the side of the SUV as it moved by him while he fired. The officer walked away from the scene unassisted. Noem said he was treated at a hospital and released.

In the videos, the confrontation, which is under investigation by the FBI, begins with Good's Honda Pilot SUV partially blocking traffic on a residential street in south Minneapolis with several federal vehicles in her path. Bystanders are shouting and blowing whistles. Next to the SUV, a woman, and an ICE officer, later identified as Jonathan Ross, are recording each other with their phones.

Good, in the driver's seat, waves cars past her. Ross begins walking around her SUV. Two more federal officers pull up, get out of their car and approach Good, telling her to get out. One grabs the driver's door handle and reaches inside the open driver's side window.

As he does that, Good reverses, then moves forward, turning her wheels to the right, away from the officers. By then, Ross has come around to the driver's side of the SUV, and he draws his gun. At the moment he fires his first shot, the car's wheels are directed away from him. His legs appear to be clear of the car. He fires the second and third shots into the open driver's side window as the car is moving.

Good, struck in the head, loses control of the SUV, which accelerates and crashes into a parked car about 140 feet away.

Yemeni southern separatists announce disputed disbanding of STC

Yemen's main southern separatists have decided to disband following talks in Saudi Arabia, the secretary-general of the organization has said, although the announcement was dismissed by its spokesman, who called it "ridiculous", Al Jazeera reported.

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) Secretary-General Abdulrahman Jalal al-Subaihi said in a broadcast on Yemeni television on Friday that the dissolution of the group was taken to preserve peace and security in the south and in neighboring countries.

He praised "the measures taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the solutions it has provided that meet the needs of the people of the South".

However, STC spokesman Anwar al-Tamimi, who is in Abu Dhabi, rejected the announcement coming out of Saudi Arabia.

"This news is ridiculous," he told the AFP news

agency, confirming he remained out of contact with the delegation in Riyadh, indicating a split was emerging within the group.

In a post on X, al-Tamimi said decisions related to the STC could only be made by the council in its entirety and under its president.

"This will be done immediately upon the release of the Southern Transitional Council delegation currently in Riyadh," he wrote. "The Council will continue its positive and constructive engagement with all political initiatives in a manner that enables the people of the South to determine their future."

Separately, the STC's National Assembly issued a statement urging supporters to take part in demonstrations planned for Saturday in the Yemeni cities of Aden and Mukalla, rejecting what it described as "partial or evasive solutions" to the southern cause.

Tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE

have grown after the STC, which Riyadh says is backed by Abu Dhabi, launched an offensive against Saudi-backed Yemeni troops in December.

On Thursday, the Saudi Arabia-led coalition in Yemen said the STC leader Aidarus al-Zubaidi had fled to the UAE via Somaliland after skipping the talks in Riyadh, accusing the UAE of smuggling him out of the country.

Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman welcomed the announcement on the dissolution of the STC, describing it as a "courageous step" towards safeguarding the future of the southern issue, and said the move would help pave the way for inclusive southern dialogue under Saudi sponsorship, according to remarks posted on X.

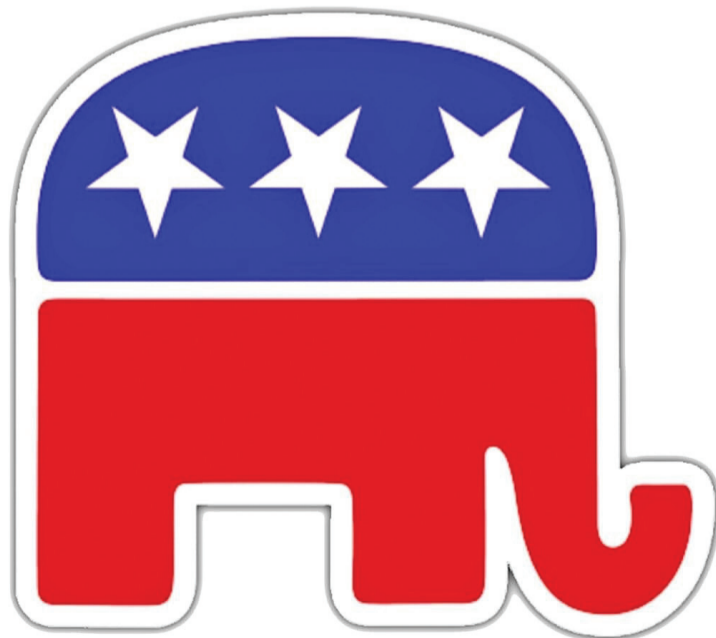
The STC was established in April 2017 as an umbrella organization for groups that seek to restore southern Yemen as an independent state, as it was between 1967 and 1990.

Republicans' November 2026 nightmare

By Dr. Mahdi Zolfaghari

TEHRAN - A review of Donald Trump's recent statements on the social network Truth Social reveals a profound paradox in his mindset ahead of the next election race. While public opinion and credible polling data, including the results of the DDHQ Institute, which shows his average approval rating at around 44.1 percent, paint a realistic picture of his situation, Trump has locked himself into a purported and unrealistic approval rating of 64 percent. This huge gap between claim and reality is rooted in his inability to accept negative signals from the political environment. Trump attributes this glaring discrepancy directly to "public opinion engineering" and the purposeful manipulation of polls by his rival. He is trying to portray the current situation as "much hotter" than it is, drawing on the achievements of his presidency—including strengthening the border, curbing inflation, bolstering the military, and his supposedly "superb" economic performance. This approach is a clear attempt to create a par-

allel narrative in which any contrary data is simply a conspiracy. However, political reality presents him with more serious challenges. The impressive victories of Democrats in the 2025 midterm elections, especially at the local and state levels, are a major wake-up call for the Trump campaign. On the other hand, the numerous legal cases, especially those related to the Epstein affair and the accusations against his inner circle, are putting additional psychological pressure on him. As he heads into 2024, Trump remains focused on his core promises, including bringing prices back down, implementing a massive deportation of illegal immigrants, and immediately reversing the policies of the Biden administration. The key issue is the Republican Party itself. Reports suggest growing disarray and quiet rebellions within the party's core. His feuds with influential figures like Marjorie Taylor Greene suggest that his continued leadership is becoming a structural challenge. Veteran Republican strategist Karl Rove sums it up well: The American political community is



fed up with Trump's "revenge-driven campaigns and scurrilous rhetoric." Rove theorizes that Trump has convinced himself that he no longer needs to defend complex policy agendas; All he has to do is beat the drum that he is the "greatest, best, most amazing" leader in history, and people will automat-

ically accept this superiority. This one-sided "talk therapy" stands in stark contrast to the nightmare of November 2026, where the reality of the ballot box will reveal his true popularity.

Mahdi Zolfaghari is an Associate Professor of Asian Studies at Allameh Tabataba'i University

U.S. imperial domination: Trump and the EU preparing for 'direct confrontation'

U.S. media have revealed that the European Union is preparing to lock horns with President Donald Trump in the wake of his growing threats to take control of Greenland.

"We must be ready for a direct confrontation with Trump," an EU diplomat briefed on ongoing discussions told Politico Europe. "He is in an aggressive mode, and we need to be geared up," the diplomat added.

The newspaper said European governments are "desperately searching for a plan to stop him."

After a military operation in Venezuela and the abduction of President Nicolás Maduro, it seems Trump has been further emboldened to carry out his threat of acquiring the Danish semi-autonomous region of Greenland.

Earlier this week, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt admitted that "President Trump has made it well known that acquiring Greenland is a national security priority of the United States." She added, "The president and his team are discussing a range of options to pursue this important foreign policy goal, and of course, utilizing the US military is always an option at the commander-in-chief's disposal."

Leavitt's comments came as European leaders pushed back. France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom, together with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, issued a joint statement affirming Greenland's sovereignty and calling on Washington to respect Greenland. Frederiksen had earlier warned that any attack on a NATO ally would spell "the end" of the military alliance and post-

World War II security.

Greenland's has strategic significance for the United States. It sits at a critical juncture in the North Atlantic, acting as a bridge between North America and Europe. During World War II, the "Greenland Air Gap" — an oceanic corridor beyond land-based aircraft range — became a dangerous hunting ground for Nazi U-boats attacking Allied shipping. Today, Greenland remains essential for controlling Atlantic Sea lanes, early-warning missile detection, and air and naval operations. Whoever commands Greenland in a major conflict wields decisive influence over North Atlantic defense. Besides, as climate change melts Greenland's ice, previously impassable Arctic waters are opening new shipping lanes. These routes could significantly reduce travel times between Europe, North America, and Asia, while granting control over resource-rich areas and emerging strategic corridors. Global powers like China and Russia are already eyeing the Arctic for economic and military reasons — and Trump seems intent on asserting US dominance in the region before they do. Furthermore, Greenland sits atop vast, largely untapped reserves of oil and gas, minerals, and rare-earth elements — the building blocks of modern technologies and advanced weaponry. Its thawing tundra makes mining increasingly feasible. While Denmark and Greenland have expressed openness to partnerships, Trump's rhetoric suggests he seeks full control, reflecting a desire not just for strategic influence but for resource extraction and economic gain. Moreover, Greenland already hosts a US base, including key facilities for missile detec-

Interior minister: U.S. strikes on Venezuela killed 100 people

Some 100 people were killed in the US military operation in Venezuela that led to the kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro on Saturday, Venezuelan Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello said.

The minister made the remarks on state television, where he also honored those killed in the operation.

"Venezuela will not surrender because it is a nation with history and a legacy," Cabello said, according to Reuters news agency.

"The whole world now knows that Nicolás Maduro is a prisoner of war and the United States violated all the norms of international coexistence," he added.

Separately, Cabello said Maduro suffered a leg injury and his wife Cilia Flores a head injury

during the raid.

Caracas had not previously provided an overall death toll for the operation.

The Venezuelan army had posted a list of 23 soldiers killed, and Cuban officials said 32 members of their military and intelligence services died.

Meanwhile, Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodríguez declared a week of mourning for military personnel killed in the operation, and Cabello praised her as "courageous" on state television.

During their first hearing in a New York court on drug and weapons charges, Maduro and Flores pleaded not guilty after being taken to the United States.

Hakim: Iraq's sovereignty hinges on airspace control

Ammar al-Hakim, leader of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, has stressed that true sovereignty cannot be achieved without full control over the country's airspace. Speaking at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army, Hakim reflected on the institution's history and its revival after 2003 in the face of terrorism and severe challenges.

Hakim noted that alongside the army, other forces such as the security services, the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and the Kurdish Peshmerga emerged to confront threats directly and play a decisive role in defending Iraq.

Highlighting strategic requirements in the defense sector, Hakim placed particular emphasis on air defense, describing it as a strategic matter that has become essential in light of evolving threats such as drones, precision missiles, and electronic jamming capabilities. He called for responsible planning, adequate fund-

ing, advanced training, and prioritization at the national level to strengthen Iraq's air defense systems.

The Wisdom Movement leader also underscored the need for deeper institutional coordination among Iraq's diverse security forces, including the federal police, counterterrorism units, rapid response forces, PMU, and Peshmerga. He argued that effective integration of roles, missions, and objectives would prevent disruptive overlaps and ensure the army remains the central pillar of Iraq's defense system.

Hakim emphasized the need to modernize Iraq's military intelligence and early warning systems, warning that future conflicts will increasingly take the form of information warfare. He stressed that superior intelligence capabilities can help prevent disasters before they happen.

Israel attacks civilian infrastructures in southern Lebanon

The Israeli army targeted civilian infrastructures in southern Lebanon, marking a new violation of the November 2024 ceasefire.

Israel targeted a construction site in Hassan Bek Square in Al-Tayeh Town in southern Lebanon using a drone attack.

Almost a year since the ceasefire has been established in southern Lebanon and Lebanese

government and resistance fully adhered to, Israel has violated the ceasefire daily and targets Lebanese border towns and villages with its aggressive attacks.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem in his recent speech on the developments in Lebanon emphasized that Israel has so far violated the cease more than 10,000 times.

Kerman, a cultural melting pot and home to UNESCO sites



Mansion and its scenic reflection inside Kerman's Fat'h Abad Garden

TEHRAN – Home to several UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Persian gardens, serene deserts, eye-catching mansions, and labyrinthine bazaars, Kerman is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time.

The vast province, with an area exceeding 180,000 square kilometers, enjoys a variety of climates, including warm, semi-dry, extremely dry, moderate, and cold. It is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south.

Shahzadeh Garden

Shazdeh Garden (Prince Garden) is a green oasis lying in the heart of the desert. Located near Mahan in the province of Kerman, Shazdeh Garden is one of the historical Persian gardens with a rectangular plan.

The first attempt of constructing the Shazdeh Garden dates back to the thirteenth century at the end years of the Qajar dynasty by the order of the ruler of Kerman and Sistan.

Similar to other great Persian gardens such as Eram Garden or Dowlatabad Garden, it is also inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

What is very amazing about Shazdeh Garden is that it is located in the desert, where nothing exists but dry plains. However, the entrance of the garden welcomes tourists to the earthly paradise.

Putting a step inside Shazdeh Garden, one can see the pools streaming along with the garden, the trees offering shade to the pathway, and the flowers spreading perfume everywhere.

Later, the façade of an old pavilion appears from behind the fountains, and the stairs lead the visitors toward the pavilion.

The perfect plan of Shazdeh Garden, the architecture of the pavilion, and its interior design and decorations all reflect the Iranians' art, culture, and lifestyle.

Bazaar-e Sartasari

Kerman's magnificent 'Sartasari' ('end-to-end') Bazaar is one of the oldest and most memorable trading centers in Iran (after the UNESCO-listed Bazaar in Tabriz).

Within are several museums, bathhouses and religious structures, while the vivacity of the whole experience is enough in itself to keep visitors interested for at least an hour or two, especially in the morning and late afternoon.

Vakil Bathhouse

Bathhouses have had great importance during ancient times, and because of this, many of them were built in downtown and central places.

Vakil Bathhouse aka Hammam-e Vakil is situated next to a bazaar of the same name, which was constructed some 170 years ago, during the Qajar era.

It is believed that the place was constructed upon the order of the Kerman ruler during that time, according to an inscription inside.

Artistic architects of Kerman used fantastic tile and ceramic works to decorate this place and also amaze the next generations.

The site, which is now a real bathhouse anymore, has been repurposed to a traditional tea house and is open to tourists.

Fat'h Abad Garden

Surrounded by pistachio gardens, Fat'h Abad Garden in Kerman is best visited around sunset to appreciate its changing colors and the beautifully done night illuminations that will take your breath away.

The garden, also known as Biglarbeigi Garden, is one of the vast and beautiful gardens in the desert lands of Iran, that is located in the Ekhtiarabad district of Kerman.

It is a reminiscence from the Qajar dynasty and is said to be a model for the Shahzadeh Garden of Mahan. Fat'h Abad Garden was constructed in the very early 19th century by the order of Fazlali Khan Biglarbeigi, who was a local ruler under Mohammad Shah Qajar.

The Garden has been built on a land as big as thirteen hectares.

Lut Desert

Located in the southeast of Iran, the Lut Desert is a vast area that includes parts of the three vast provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Kerman.

About 70% of this vast desert is located in Kerman province, and the remaining 30% is located in the provinces of South Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchestan.

"Lut" in Baluchi language, which is one of the languages of northwestern Iran, means naked, waterless, thirsty, and empty of everything.

The main part of this great dessert is made up of sand and gravel, and other parts of it have desert geography.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)



A man looks at giant wind-eroded features in UNESCO-registered Lut Desert

Soheili: an emerging destination for rural tourism

TEHRAN – Situated in the vast Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf, Soheili village is an emerging travel destination in southern Iran, thanks to its nature's resilience and human dedication.

Listed in UN Tourism's Best Tourism Villages list, Soheili also shines for initiatives to safeguard its mangrove aka Hara forests, by the means of harmonious partnership between the environment and the people of Soheili village.

The efforts include nurturing mangrove seedlings in homes, constructing observation towers for birdwatching, and preserving the ancient Hori boats of their ancestors. These efforts demonstrate how traditional knowledge and modern conservation can work together to protect fragile ecosystems while creating meaningful experiences for visitors.

Soheili is also a vibrant hub where authentic southern Iranian flavors meet the rhythms of the sea, creating a gastronomic experience that is as unforgettable as the scenery.

A sanctuary for birds

The Hara forests of Qeshm Island form one of Iran's most vital marine ecosystems, with the Soheili's serving as its beating heart. These tangled root systems create a sanctuary for flamingos, herons, and kingfishers that dart between the branches, while beneath the water's surface, fish and crustaceans find shelter in the protective maze. The forest's serene waterways have become a destination for researchers and nature enthusiasts alike, drawn to its tranquil beauty and remarkable biodiversity.

Yet this natural wonder faces growing threats. Rising sea levels and increasing salinity test the mangroves' endurance, while plastic waste carried by ocean currents mars their pristine condition. The community remembers when overharvesting nearly devastated these forests, and this memory fuels their determination to protect what remains.

A sense of responsibility

In Soheili, conservation begins from home. Villagers have de-



A man sails through mangrove forests in Soheili village, Qeshm Island, Persian Gulf

veloped an ingenious method for restoring their mangrove forests. They carefully collect propagules, the peculiar pencil-shaped seeds of the mangrove, and nurture them in buckets of seawater within their homes. For four months, these future trees grow under watchful eyes until strong enough to face the challenges of the tidal flats.

When the seedlings reach sufficient strength, the community gathers to plant them on a muddy forest floor that floods with each high tide. This hands-on approach has yielded remarkable results, with thousands of new mangroves taking root in recent years. More than just planting trees, the program has planted something equally valuable in the community: a shared sense of responsibility for their environment that crosses generations.

Traditional boats

The village's traditional Hori boats represent more than transportation—they carry the cultural memory of Soheili's people. These traditional wooden vessels, crafted without nails using techniques passed down through generations, once formed the backbone of local fishing and trade. Today, they serve as floating ambassadors for the village's maritime heritage.

Twice yearly, the quiet waterways come alive with the excitement of Hori boat races. Villagers demonstrate their skill in navigating the narrow mangrove channels, their laughter and shouts echoing across the water.

Taste of the sea

Dining in Soheili has long been a delight for the tiny village. Open-air seaside restaurants provide not only a feast for the taste buds but also for the senses. Visitors enjoy their meals against the backdrop of rolling waves, rustling palm trees, and the salty scent of the ocean breeze. Whether it's a sunset dinner of grilled fish or a midday plate of spicy shrimp stew, each meal becomes part of a larger memory—the kind only a truly special destination can offer.

Time to visit

For those planning a trip, the ideal time to visit Soheili is during autumn and winter. The weather is comfortably mild, and the seafood harvest is at its peak, offering the widest variety of fresh catch. Whether you're a food lover, a cultural explorer, or simply someone in search of coastal serenity, these seasons promise an enriched experience.

Qeshm Island

Located along the Strait of Hor-

muz, Qeshm stretches parallel to Iran's southern coast. It spans 135 kilometers in length and averages 11 kilometers in width. With a land area of approximately 1,491 square kilometers, Qeshm is larger than several countries, including Bahrain and Singapore.

Qeshm is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and breathtaking landscapes. The island's eco-lodges, particularly those in the western region, showcase traditional architecture adapted to the local climate—thick walls, wind towers, and natural materials—all of which reflect centuries-old knowledge passed down through generations. This blend of sustainability and heritage not only attracts environmentally conscious travelers but also motivates residents to preserve their traditions.

Qeshm is also home to 26 geosites that form part of the Qeshm Island Geopark, the first UNESCO Global Geopark in the Middle East. Initially designated in 2006, the geopark was temporarily removed from the list before being reinstated in 2017 following improved conservation measures and infrastructure development.

Discover Takht-e Rostam, a Paleolithic site in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Known for its unique geological features, including limestone formations and flint stones, Takht-e Rostam has long attracted human populations in northern Iran.

Archaeological studies indicate that it was one of the main human settlements during the Paleolithic period, serving as a workshop for the production of stone tools and hunting implements.

The site is situated along the main road between Sari and Neka in Mazandaran province, which is bounded by the Caspian Sea.

Rounds of paleontological research at the site have uncovered significant evidence of the Caspian Sea's shoreline dating back over 31,000 years, suggesting that the sea once extended much further than its current boundaries.



An excavation trench inside Takht-e Rostam, a Paleolithic site in northern Iran

approximately 31,000 years ago, the Caspian Sea's southeastern coastline stretched much closer to the Takht-e Rostam site. The dating of these findings was carried out using optical luminescence dating methods, conducted by the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University, marking a

workshop but also played a crucial role in hunting strategies, allowing human groups to monitor and control their surrounding environment effectively.

These groundbreaking findings, which offer the first dating of a Paleolithic human settlement in the region, were pub-

lished in the Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies, an international journal dedicated to archaeological research.

Takht-e Rostam was registered as a national heritage site of Iran in 2002, under registration number 5435, further cementing its importance in understanding ancient human history.

This discovery offers new insights into the relationship between early human societies and their environment, highlighting the significant role the Caspian Sea played in shaping human activity thousands of years ago.

Mazandaran (also known as Tabarestan) was a cradle of civilization since the beginning of the first millennium BC. According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, it was almost overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab raiders.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Talampaya Natural Parks

These two contiguous parks, extending over 275,300 ha in the desert region on the western border of the Sierra Pampeanas of central Argentina, contain the most complete continental fossil record known from the Triassic Period (245-208 million years ago).

The UNESCO-designated property is situated within Argentina's Monte ecoregion, a warm scrub desert along the Eastern Andean foothills. Against the backdrop of an attractive mountain landscape the property is a scientific treasure of global importance.

The site harbors the sedimentary Ischigualasto-Villa Union Triassic Basin, consisting of continental sediments deposited during the entire Triassic Period. This Basin

boasts an exceptionally complete record and sequence of plant and animal life in the geological period from roughly 250 to 200 million years ago which represents the origin of both dinosaurs and mammals. Six distinct sedimentary formations contain the fossilized remains of a wide range of ancestral animals and plants revealing the evolution of vertebrates and detailed information on palaeoenvironments over the approximately 50 million years of the Triassic Period, and the dawn of the "Age of the Dinosaurs". The ongoing scientific discoveries are invaluable for understanding palaeontology and evolutionary biology.

The property is located in an arid region

in the rain shadow of the Andes. Further to the significance for research the property has important archaeological values, such as 1500-year-old petroglyphs. Exceptional landscape features include red sandstone cliffs reaching 200 meters in height in Talampaya National Park and, in Ischigualasto Provincial Park, white and multi-colored sediments creating a stark landscape named "Valle de la Luna" or "Valley of the Moon".

The site has sparse desert vegetation, characterized by xeric shrubs and cactus, with interspersed trees. The desert environment contains several rare and endemic species of flora and fauna.

(Source: UNESCO)

Invisible workers: How AI is reshaping labor without notice

By Soroush Saki

TEHRAN - Artificial intelligence is often presented as a future technology, something that will one day change how people work, earn money, and define their careers. Yet for millions of workers around the world, that future has already arrived quietly, gradually, and without formal announcements. The transformation of labor by AI is not happening through dramatic layoffs or robot takeovers, but through subtle shifts that make human work less visible, less stable, and sometimes less valued.

Behind many of today's "automated" systems are human workers whose roles are rarely acknowledged. From content moderation and data labeling to delivery routing and customer support, AI systems often rely on people who train, correct, and maintain them. These workers do not appear in corporate reports or public narratives about innovation. Their labor is hidden behind the illusion of full automation, even though machines are far from truly independent.

The rise of algorithmic management has further blurred the line between human decision-making and machine control. In many workplaces, schedules, performance evaluations, and even pay are deter-



mined by data-driven systems. Workers may never meet a human supervisor, instead interacting with dashboards, automated messages, or opaque scoring mechanisms. This shift reduces personal accountability while increasing pressure, as employees are expected to adapt to constantly changing rules generated by algorithms they do not understand.

Gig economy platforms offer a clear example of this invisible restructuring of labor. Drivers, couriers, and freelancers are often classified as independent workers, yet their actions are tightly governed by AI systems that assign tasks, monitor behavior, and enforce penalties. While these platforms emphasize flexibility and technological efficiency, the reality is that

many workers experience unstable income, limited protections, and little opportunity to challenge automated decisions that affect their livelihoods.

Even in traditional sectors, AI is quietly redefining job roles. Tasks that once required judgment and experience are increasingly broken down into smaller, data-driven components. Workers are expected to follow algorithmic recommendations, reducing their autonomy while increasing productivity targets. Over time, this can lead to a form of deskilling, where human expertise is gradually replaced by system-generated instructions.

What makes this transformation particularly concerning is how little public discussion surrounds it. While debates

about AI often focus on future job losses, the present reality is more complex. Jobs are not simply disappearing; they are being reshaped in ways that shift risk onto workers while concentrating power in the hands of those who control data and algorithms. This process happens quietly, making it harder for societies to recognize and respond to its consequences.

The ethical challenge is not whether AI should be used in the workplace, but how it should be governed. Transparency, accountability, and worker participation are often missing from AI-driven labor systems. When decisions are automated, workers deserve to know how those decisions are made and how they can be questioned. Without such safeguards, efficiency comes at the cost of dignity.

As AI continues to integrate into economic life, the concept of work itself is being rewritten. The invisible workers behind intelligent systems remind us that technology does not replace labor—it redistributes it, often unevenly. Recognizing these hidden roles is a necessary first step toward building a future of work that values humans not as data points, but as active participants in technological progress.

Iran ranks third in traditional medicine trials

TEHRAN - Like many ancient medical systems, Persian medicine takes a holistic approach to health, emphasizing lifestyle factors such as adhering to a proper diet, moderate exercise, sufficient sleep, and mental/emotional balance.

According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), Iran ranks third in traditional medicine trials in the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), highlighting the country's status as one of the world's pioneers in traditional and complementary medicine.

China and India rank first and second, respectively, the health ministry's website reported.

The share of clinical trials in traditional and complementary medicine in Iran makes up about three percent of all clinical trials registered in the country, while just about 0.3 percent of the healthcare staff are experts in traditional and complementary medicine. The report shows the high capacity of Iranian researchers to move towards evidence-based medicine.

A total of 569 articles were submitted in the second national

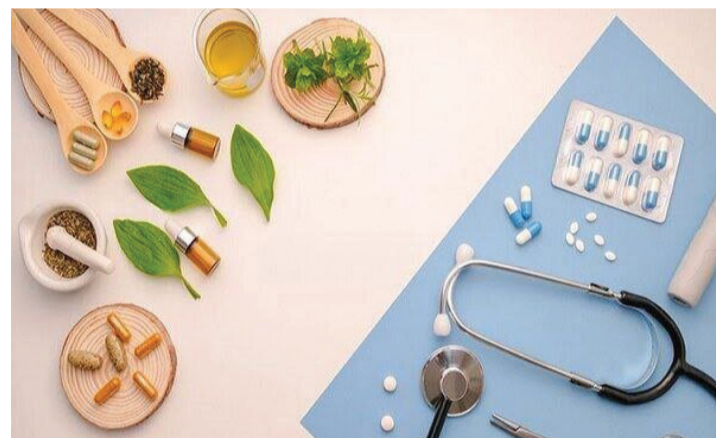
congress on Persian medicine, indicating a forty-percent growth compared to 390 articles handed in the first national congress on Persian medicine, according to the scientific secretary of the congress.

Among the submitted articles, 24 were accepted to be presented in the form of lectures, and 433 as posters at the congress, the health ministry's website quoted Hossein Rezaeizadeh as saying.

The official made the remarks while addressing the closing ceremony of the second national congress on Persian medicine, held from November 12 to 14 in Tehran.

Some of these studies will be published in the international magazine of 'Traditional and Integrative Medicine', he noted.

Based on scientific achievements and participants' feedback, the executive committee of the second congress on Persian medicine is planning to add new research topics to the third congress, planned to be held from November, and boost cooperation with international magazines to lay the ground for specialized training and promote the struc-



ture of the Committee, he added.

The second national congress on Persian medicine brought together experts in Persian medicine, traditional pharmacy, and the history of Iranian traditional medicine.

It was centered around Preventive medicine and lifestyle medicine; Personalized medicine, precision medicine, reticulotype and Persian medicine; Food, nutrition, medicinal cuisine; Traditional, herbal, natural medicines, and pharmaceutical formulations; Rational prescription of drugs in Persian medicine; Technology, diagnostic and therapeutic tools; manual therapy techniques; Persian medicine tourism; History of

Persian medicine and medical sciences; Persian medicine and the art of living; as well as Integrative and complementary medicine.

Addressing the second congress, Nafiseh Hosseini-Yekta, the former director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office, said that a recent survey has shown that 83.8 percent of people in the country tend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine.

The survey's findings have confirmed people's positive attitude towards Persian traditional medicine. However, only 10 out of 83.8 percent use traditional medicine and supplements for the treatment of their illnesses, she added.

Intl. exhibition on AI to focus on environment, energy, health, security, and education



TEHRAN - The first international exhibition on artificial intelligence will be held from January 12-15 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground.

More than 50 knowledge-based companies will participate in the exhibition with a focus on five strategic fields of environment, energy, health, security, and education, IRNA reported.

The four-day event aims to promote the role of artificial intelligence in dealing with the main challenges of the country in a tangible way.

Platforms and technologies based on artificial intelligence, the use of artificial intelligence in industries, emerging technologies, urban and social approaches, and creative industries are the topics of the event.

The event will showcase the latest innovations and achievements in AI at national and global levels.

The exhibition will organize specialized panels on AI applications in various industries, such as healthcare, energy, urban development, finance, and manufacturing.

Conducting hands-on educational workshops, the exhibition will serve as a great opportunity to share expertise, promote business cooperation, and hold B2B and B2G networking in different sectors.

With the rapid growth in AI startups and tech-enabled industries in the country, the expo is expected to stimulate large-scale investment and lay the ground for the export of indigenous AI technologies.

In August 2025, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi emphasized the importance of artificial intelligence, telemedicine, and mobile health in managing non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Developing a smart healthcare system and increasing public awareness through preventive education and the promotion of health literacy are the key points in the future of the healthcare system, IRNA quoted Zafarqandi as saying. The adoption of modern technologies is unavoidable, so these tools can be employed to reduce costs and facilitate access to services, he added.

According to Nature Index, the country's ranking in scientific production in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has improved from 33 to 30, placing the country among the top 50 leaders, Hossein Afshin, an official with the vice-presidency of science and technology, has said.

Iran's ranking in the region fluctuates between 14 to 17, which is mainly due to focusing on quality, he said, adding, "We're optimistic to improve the country's scientific position within the next two years," IRNA reported.

The official went on to say that the country is following up on developing AI infrastructure, including the AI platform and the AI assistant, in the near future.

According to the latest report by Oxford Insights index, which measures government readiness for implementing AI in public services, Iran ranks 91st among 188 countries, moving up three positions compared to 94th in 2023.

AI has a key role to play -not just in governing the technology, but in helping governments perform better.

The Government AI Readiness Index has become a trusted resource for policymakers, adopted as an official benchmark by national governments.

In this year's edition, the AI readiness of 188 countries is examined at a time of growing complexity, where governments face evolving

citizen needs and challenges like economic uncertainty, climate risks, and rising inequalities.

The 2024 index examines 40 indicators across three pillars: Government, Technology Sector, and Data & Infrastructure. It highlights progress, identifies gaps, and provides actionable insights for policymakers working to integrate AI into public service delivery.

At its core, the index asks, 'How ready are governments to implement AI in the delivery of public services?' By answering this question, it aims to offer a practical tool that supports evidence-based decision-making and helps policymakers unlock AI's potential to serve citizens better worldwide.

Accordingly, the country's best ranking is in the Data and Infrastructure pillar, 66.29, which has improved compared to 55.88 last year. It includes infrastructure (70), data availability (43), and data representativeness (121) indicators.

The Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology has announced the finalization of an artificial intelligence (AI) action plan, which highlights the pivotal role of AI in the country's scientific advancement.

The plan has been developed in cooperation with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, IRNA reported.

The action plan was unveiled during a meeting held on Wednesday, with the presence of First Vice-President, Mohammad-Reza Aref.

The main pillars of the action plan include 'transformation in education and training human resources, 'empowering research and innovation capacity building', 'promoting and commercializing AI', 'expanding science diplomacy and international cooperation', and 'improving the scientific status of the country'.

Empowering research and innovation capacity building involves the establishment of five national laboratories in selected universities, development of interdisciplinary majors at post-graduate programs focusing on AI, the inclusion of 'AI and digital transformation' for undergraduate students, essential for engineering majors, and supplementary for other majors.

Promoting and commercializing AI focuses on selecting and supporting a number of universities as the country's AI research and development center. Supporting the development of at least 3 fundamental AI models (including language vision models) based on domestic data, and launching a platform to collect and share research and educational data in a secure way.

Expanding science diplomacy and international cooperation highlights expediting the formation and growth of AI startups and holding AI competitions.

Expanding science diplomacy and international cooperation involves enhancing educational and research collaborations with top universities from Shanghai and BRICS member states, as well as members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Cooperation on AI regulations, standardization, and collaboration with Iranian elites and experts living abroad are among other goals.

Improving the scientific standing of the country underlines maintaining and improving the country's international ranking in AI, indexing at least 8 specialized journals in the first and second quartiles, increasing support for top researchers and patents, as well as strengthening scientific associations and national AI networking.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Army to set up five field hospitals nationwide

TEHRAN - The Iranian Army will set up five field hospitals in the country to offer services to COVID-19 patients, IRIB reported on Thursday.

A 120-bed field hospital built by the Army, equipped with advanced medical devices to provide services to the people and medical staff, was inaugurated on April 24 in Isfahan province.

This field hospital is equipped with an ICU ward, ventilators, cardiac monitoring systems, oxygen generators, and resuscitation rooms, which offer services to coronavirus patients.

The Army, as it is present in various fields, can provide significant services to those infected with the pandemic with all its might, Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander-in-Chief of the Army said.

اعلام ساخت پنج بیمارستان صحرائی ارتش در کشور

فرمانده کل ارتش جمهوری اسلامی ایران دستور ساخت پنج بیمارستان صحرائی ارتش در کشور را صادر کرد.

به گزارش خبرگزاری صدا و سیما، امیر سرلشکر عبدالرحیم موسوی تاکید کرد: ارتش همان گونه که در زمینه‌های مختلف حضور داشته می‌تواند با تمام توان خود خدمات قابل توجهی به بیماران کرونایی ارائه دهد.

بیمارستان صحرائی ۱۲۰ تخت‌خوابی ارتش مجهز به دستگاه‌های پیشرفته پزشکی برای ارائه خدمات به مردم و کادر پزشکی، چهارم اردیبهشت در اصفهان راه اندازی شد.

این بیمارستان صحرائی با تمام نیازمندی‌ها از جمله «آی. سی. یو»، ونتیلاتور، مونیتورینگ قلبی، دستگاه اکسیژن ساز، و اتاق احیا به بیماران کرونایی خدمات ارائه می‌دهد.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
 Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
 Email: info@tehrantimes.com
 Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
 Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
 Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
 Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.o. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

JANUARY 10, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

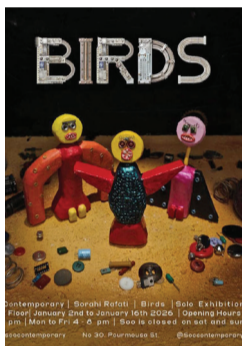
He who is greedy is disgraced; he who discloses his hardship will always be humiliated; he who has no control over his tongue will often have to face discomfort.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:12 Evening: 17:29 Dawn: 5:46 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:14 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries

Sculpture



* Sculptures by Sorahi Rafati are on display in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

The exhibition will continue until January 16 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayyeh St.

* Aran Gallery is showcasing sculptures by Amir Hossein Shahnavi in an exhibition.

The exhibition will be running until January 16 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.



* Sharif Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Amir Mehdi Zahedi.

The exhibit entitled "Act XIII" will be running until January 16 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.

* Bashgah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Nikzad Nodjourni.

Entitled "The Rabbit", the exhibition will be running until January 23 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Paintings by Fereydoon Ave, Farah Osouli and Nikzad Nodjourni are currently on view in an exhibition at Etemad Gallery 1.

Titled "The Plain Before Oblivion", the exhibition will be running until January 20 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

* A collection of paintings by Mahta Azimi and Ehsan Pournajati is on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibit named "Observations" will be running until January 20 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.

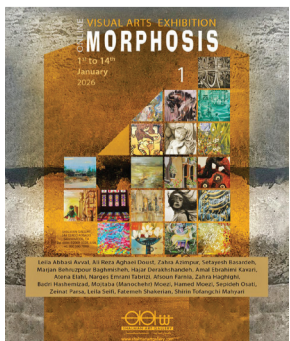


* Rischee 29 Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Elaheh Motamedi.

The exhibition named "Encounter" will be running until January 16 at the gallery located at 31 Aqabozorgi St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

* Paintings by Mohadeseh Taheri are on display in an exhibition at Delgosha Gallery.

The exhibition titled "The Yellow Lake" will be running until January 16 at the gallery located at 30 Mohajer Alley, Iran-shahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



Multimedia

* An exhibition of artworks in various media by a large number of artists is underway at Shalman Gallery.

Entitled "Morphosis", the showcase will run until January 14 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mir-damad Blvd.

Book on Martyr General Qassem Soleimani honored at Jalal Literary Awards

TEHRAN- "Qassem," a book on the life of Martyr General Qassem Soleimani, authored by Iranian resistance literature researcher Morteza Sarhangi, was honored at the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards.

The book received the prestigious literary prize in the documentation section at the 18th edition of the event, Mehr reported on Friday.

Back in December, the 7th edition of the book "Qassem" was published. The first edition of the book was published just a few months ago, concurrently with Tehran International Book Fair, by the Khatt-e Moqaddam Publications in Tehran.

Several books have been written about the life of Martyr General Qassem Soleimani. However, "Qassem" stands out due to its meticulous research and reliance on authentic sources, providing readers with complete confidence that what they read has been thoroughly investigated.

Moreover, the author, Morteza Sarhangi, is personally acquainted with General Soleimani and is a prominent figure in the resistance literature era.

Based on primary documents and firsthand accounts, "Qassem" narrates the life, struggles, and character of the revered Martyr Soleimani. Drawing from written records, interviews, speeches, and field conversations with close associates, the narrative is delivered from a first-person perspective to preserve the tone and essence of Soleimani's outlook.

Sections directly quoting the martyr's words have been carefully edited, with sources cited in footnotes. The result is a compelling, factual account presented with engaging, vivid prose—an authoritative and impactful work for enthusiasts of contemporary Iranian history, the Sacred Defense, and the life of Qassem Soleimani.

This comprehensive and documentary biography of Martyr Soleimani is the product of five years of dedicated research by the author. The book vividly covers Soleimani's journey from childhood in Qanat-e Malek, Kerman province, to his leadership of the Quds Force. Beyond military exploits, it explores the ethical, spiritual, and human dimensions of his impactful personality, offering an honest depiction of his character and mission.



The readers observe Soleimani through the eyes of Sarhangi—a writer who, prior to this, gained recognition with works such as "Journey to the Peaks," "My Name is Trench," "Candidate of Bullets," and "Alongside the Rain." With "Qassem," published in 2025, he masterfully weaves a story of heroism and sacrifice.

Sarhangi and his team did not limit themselves to analyzing written sources, audio recordings, and videos related to Soleimani. In the immediate aftermath of the martyrdom, they arranged a dedicated space near Martyr Soleimani's residence to conduct interviews with visitors paying their respects.

In 2020, they traveled to Kerman and Qanat-e Malek to gather firsthand accounts from Soleimani's childhood and adolescence. The result is a richly detailed portrait that begins with his early years, family migrations, childhood memories by his mother's bedside, and his parents' generous hospitality.

The book successfully introduces readers to his worldview, personality traits, and even his spiritual devotions.

Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, a highly esteemed Iranian military strategist and prominent figure in the Islamic

Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), left an indelible mark on Iran's defense efforts.

Born in 1957 in Qanat-e Malek, Iran, Soleimani devoted his entire life to safeguarding his country's interests. He gained widespread recognition for his crucial role in leading successful military campaigns, particularly in the battle against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. His exceptional strategic planning, exemplary leadership abilities, and unwavering commitment to preserving Iran's security earned him profound respect both within the military and among the Iranian populace.

General Soleimani, with his remarkable charm and fearless demeanor, commanded immense admiration from his comrades as well as the general public. His resolute dedication to safeguarding Iran's sovereignty and ensuring its security solidified his position as an emblem of fortitude and perseverance.

Despite facing numerous hurdles, such as international sanctions and political tensions, Soleimani remained an indispensable figure in Iran's military and foreign policies. His assassination in January 2020 had a seismic impact on the region, profoundly grieving the Iranian people and intensifying tensions between Iran and the United States. General Qassem Soleimani's impactful contributions

to Iran's defense will forever be etched in the nation's memory, serving as a testament to his enduring influence on the geopolitical landscape of the region.

Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards are highly regarded literary honors in Iran. Named after the renowned Iranian writer and intellectual, Jalal Al-e Ahmad, these awards celebrate excellence in literature across various genres, including novels, short stories, and critical essays.

The awards aim to recognize and promote outstanding literary achievements, encouraging writers to explore diverse themes, experiment with different styles, and contribute to the enrichment of Iranian literature.

Each year, a distinguished panel of judges carefully selects the winners and honorees, considering the literary merit, originality, and social impact of the works. The awards ceremony, held annually, brings together renowned writers, scholars, and literary enthusiasts to celebrate the power of words and the immense talent within Iran's literary community.

With its commitment to literary excellence, the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards have become a prestigious platform for Iranian writers to showcase their creativity and receive well-deserved recognition for their contributions to the world of literature.

Renovated Golden Iwan of Imam Ali (AS) Shrine in Najaf unveiled

TEHRAN – The restored and renovated Golden Iwan of Imam Ali (AS) Shrine in Najaf, Iraq, was unveiled on Friday in a grand ceremony at the holy shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS).

According to Haidar Rahim, head of the Media Department of the Holy Alawi Shrine, the restoration and reconstruction of the Iwan of Najaf required a long period of time and an exceptionally high level of precision due to its technical complexity, particularly in the areas of gold plating, enamel work, and structural renewal.

"This project was launched under the direct supervision of the Holy Alawi Shrine and was carried out with the benefit of the perspectives and expertise of international specialists," he added.

Regarding the source of the gold used in the Iwan, he clarified: "No public donations or foreign assistance were used in this project. The gold utilized is the same rare gold that had previously been removed from the Iwan due to wear and damage, transferred to the treasury of the Shrine, then melted down, restored, and reused to replace



the damaged sections."

"All costs and materials, including the gold, were fully provided from the Shrine's own reserves and treasuries. This project was completed without imposing any financial burden on pilgrims or devotees of Ahl al-Bayt," Rahim noted.

"The unveiling of the Iwan of Najaf marks not only the completion of a major architectural project, but also the emergence of a renewed manifestation of the grandeur and magnificence of the Holy Alawi Shrine," he underlined.

The Holy Alawi Shrine typically refers to the sacred complex in

Najaf, housing the tomb of Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of Shia Muslims. It is a major pilgrimage site for Shia Muslims, hosting massive events and religious activities.

The Golden Iwan of the Imam Ali (AS) Shrine in Najaf is a magnificent architectural feature adorned with gold, featuring two tall golden minarets, intricate tilework, and inscriptions praising Imam Ali (AS), serving as a significant spiritual landmark and a focal point for pilgrims.

Originally built in the 7th century, the shrine has been expanded, restored, and adorned over centuries by various Muslim

dynasties. Today, it stands as a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, renowned for its golden dome, ornate iwans, intricate tilework, and exquisite calligraphy. The shrine's iconic Golden Iwan, facing the main courtyard, is a symbol of both spiritual radiance and artistic excellence.

Beyond its architectural beauty, the Imam Ali (AS) Shrine holds immense spiritual and cultural significance. For millions of pilgrims who visit Najaf each year, the shrine is a place of prayer, reflection, and seeking justice and wisdom, values deeply associated with Imam Ali's life and teachings. The city of Najaf itself has grown around the shrine, becoming a major center of Islamic learning and home to one of the world's most important Shi'a seminaries.

The shrine is also a living institution, carefully maintained and continuously restored by the Holy Alawi Shrine administration, which oversees preservation projects aimed at safeguarding its historical and spiritual legacy. These efforts ensure that the shrine remains not only a place of worship, but also a symbol of Islamic heritage and unity across generations.