

Ansar Allah Now Commands Bab al-Mandab Strait

Yemeni forces secure 5,400 km²; Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree confirms ban on Saudi vessels remains active



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China, Russia reject pressure on Iran as nuclear dispute returns to UNSC

TEHRAN- China and Russia have jointly rejected renewed Western pressure on Iran over its nuclear program, challenging the legal and political basis of efforts to revive sanctions and bring the Iranian nuclear issue back under the scrutiny of the United Nations Security Council.

The positions were voiced during a Security Council meeting on Iran's nuclear program on September 10, a day after the IAEA Board of Governors adopted a resolution introduced by the United States, Britain, France and Germany that referred Iran's nuclear file to the Security Council over 'alleged non-compliance' with its safeguards' obligations. ►Page 3

US acting Navy secretary: Iran 'blew the hell out of' US base in Bahrain

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi welcomed candid statements from top US Navy leadership acknowledging the extensive destruction at the American 5th Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, framing the damage as definitive proof of the impact of Iran's retaliatory operations.

"We appreciate the candor of Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao," Araghchi said on X. "Our powerful Armed Forces did indeed 'blow the hell out of the 5th Fleet HQ in Bahrain,' as well as other bases supporting US aggression. The American people deserve better than footing the bill for Israel's wars." ►Page 3

Sharp surge in oil prices recorded

TEHRAN- The price of Brent crude oil futures during overnight trading jumped nearly 6% to \$109.97 per barrel, the highest level in the past four months.

AFP reported on Friday that following the exchange of attacks between the United States and Iran around the Strait of Hormuz, crude oil prices have surged more than 30% over the past week.

At the same time, Yemeni armed forces, in their advance toward the key Bab al-Mandeb waterway, have targeted several Saudi energy facilities in response to Riyadh's blockade and attacks.

Yemen's army took control of the strategic port of Mokha on the Red Sea coast on Thursday.

According to AFP, on Friday, Brent oil price approached \$110 per barrel, the highest figure since May. Also, the price of the US benchmark oil (West Texas Intermediate) reached more than \$104, which was last seen at the same time (May).

A quarter century of US war crimes at wedding celebrations

By Dr Saied Reza Ameli

TEHRAN — The developments of recent decades in West Asia and beyond bear stark witness to a bitter truth: the military interventions and sustained strategic manoeuvres of dominant powers, notably the terrorist regime of the United States, have unfailingly come at the cost of thousands of defenseless lives. Among these, the ominous and inhumane phenomenon of aerial and missile strikes on celebratory wedding gatherings stands out as one of the most glaring violations of human rights and acts of war crimes, having remained on the agenda of the US terrorist military and its allies for over twenty-five years. ►Page 3

Iran pushes for local currencies, alternative payment systems to counter sanctions in BRICS summit

TEHRAN- The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, referring to the holding of the Second Meeting of Economy Ministers and Central Bank Governors of BRICS member countries, said: "The use of local currencies, the development of payment systems and domestic financial messengers, and increased economic coordination among BRICS members were among the most important topics raised at this meeting."

According to a report by IRNA from the Ministry of Economy, Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, who traveled to India to attend the BRICS meeting, stating that the final statement of the Second Meeting of Economy Ministers and Central Bank Governors of BRICS member countries was approved by consensus. ►Page 4

Iranian, South Korean FM's hold phone call as protesters in Seoul oppose Hormuz deployment

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his South Korean counterpart, Cho Hyeon, spoke by phone on Friday. The two top diplomats discussed bilateral relations, the broader conflict in West Asia, and the situation around the Strait of Hormuz amid US military adventurism in the region.

The high-level diplomatic outreach highlights the significance of direct communication between Tehran and Seoul, coming on the heels of reports that South Korea is assessing whether to send troops to the Strait of Hormuz.

South Korean defense authorities disclosed that they had dispatched a specialized fact-finding mission to assess the situation ►Page 2

10 freed Iranian fishermen return home from UAE

TEHRAN — Ten Iranian fishermen detained by authorities in the United Arab Emirates were released and headed home on Friday, the Iranian Consulate General in Dubai announced.

The diplomatic mission confirmed that the crew members departed Emirati territory and traveled across the Persian Gulf toward the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

Their release is part of an ongoing repatriation effort that began on July 14, when 55 other Iranian fishermen were sent back home. Most of the crew members, who hail from the coastal provinces of Hormozgan and Sistan-Baluchestan, were intercepted by the UAE Coast Guard between March and April. ►Page 2

Technofascism is already here; Big Tech built it
Vienna-based philosopher Mark Coeckelbergh talks about Palantir's fascist-leaning manifesto in interview with Tehran Times



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Iran urges BRICS to expand use of national currencies in trade

BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE, INNOVATION, COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

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TEHRAN— Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on BRICS members on Friday to expand the use of national currencies in trade, strengthen financial cooperation, and build more resilient economic ties among member states, warning that economic security can no longer be separated from national and regional security.

Addressing the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, Pezeshkian said the grouping's true strength would emerge only when the economic capacities of its members are transformed into practical networks of trade, investment, and financing — a transition, he stressed, "from potential cooperation to operational cooperation."

"Economic resilience is not possible without diversification of trade partners, financing sources, and payment mechanisms," Pezeshkian told the forum, noting that Iran has faced extensive sanctions over the years, pressures that he said entered a "very difficult and dangerous phase" in recent months with US and Israeli military aggression against the Islamic Republic. ►Page 2

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

Americans are seeking a pretext for another strike on Iran's nuclear facilities

In an interview with Hassan Hanizadeh, an international affairs expert, Shargh referred to the anti-Iran resolution passed by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Hanizadeh said that this resolution was adopted under pressure from the United States and certain European countries to increase pressure on Iran and isolate it, and that its political dimension outweighs its technical aspects. He stated that the resolution contains no new technical ambiguities that had not already been addressed, which indicates that Iran has taken the necessary steps toward transparency. Nevertheless, the Board of Governors and the IAEA Director General, in their reports on Iran's nuclear activities, have focused primarily on political considerations and have ignored technical aspects. Referring this resolution to the UN Security Council could push Iran toward withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)—although Russia and China may veto any resolution against Iran in the Security Council.

Iran: Let us not destroy our opportunities

The Iran newspaper spoke with Bahador Zarei, a professor of geopolitics, about Iran's geographic and geopolitical capacities. Zarei said that although Iran is relatively small in geoeconomic terms, it is the 17th largest country in the world in terms of national power, national security, and territorial size. However, Iran is not strong in trade, with a trade volume of less than 50 billion dollars. Therefore, Iran must enter the global geoeconomic cycle and expand its commercial relations with various countries. In such a scenario, both the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf in the south would gain strategic and geostrategic importance, enabling Iran to connect to Central Asia, the Caucasus, South Asia, West Asia, and South-west Asia. Iran has land and maritime borders with 13 countries, which is one of the factors that makes Iran difficult to sanction effectively. If the issues surrounding the Strait of Hormuz are resolved, even if the United States seeks to impose sanctions on Iran, implementing such sanctions would not be easily feasible.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The US and Israel started the war, but Iran will end it

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz focused on Iran's regional power and its control over the Strait of Hormuz. The paper wrote that recent developments in the Persian Gulf and the US-Iran conflict show that the United States still imagines it can use its military and economic capacity to force Iran into sub-

mission and manage financial markets, hoping to reduce Trump's economic challenges. In contrast, Iran—through new initiatives and by expanding the scope of its operations from the military domain into the technological, geopolitical, and economic spheres—is sending a clear message that control of the Strait of Hormuz remains in Iran's hands. Ultimately, it is Tehran that determines the outcome of the war of endurance. The paper argues that no country can pass through the Strait of Hormuz or the Persian Gulf without Iran's coordination and consent. This means that the United States and Israel may have initiated the conflict, but Iran will be the one to conclude it.

Jam-e-Jam: America's attritional deadlock in the Strait of Hormuz

Jam-e Jam analyzed Iran's powerful attacks on US positions in the region. According to the paper, the unprecedented damage suffered by the Pentagon and the CIA is the result of entirely flawed strategic decisions made by US policymakers in the war with Iran. The United States, by adopting an attritional strategy, has begun a new phase of continuous attacks on military infrastructure in the Strait of Hormuz. But these temporary successes have never been sustainable, as they are always met with immediate Iranian counter-strikes, including drone attacks, while Iran's industrial base remains intact. Applying this doctrine against a state actor exposes Washington to severe risks of miscalculation. While the US needs secure passage through the Strait, Iran can impose high costs simply by creating a sense of insecurity. This asymmetry, combined with the US inability to contain ballistic missile responses, has turned the conflict into a low-intensity but persistent battle.

Hamshahri: The deterrence equation is on Iran's table

Hamshahri analyzed Iran's approach to the war with the United States, describing it as a war of equations—breaking existing equations and creating new ones. The paper argued that sustainable security has three pillars: deterrence, diplomacy aimed at reducing isolation, and national power and social cohesion. From this perspective, the Islamic Republic must maintain and strengthen deterrence, because weakening it would undermine the other two pillars and create serious risks and potential crises for the country. Deterrence has minimum and maximum levels. Iran has reached a certain level, but still has a long path ahead to reinforce it so that the very idea of attacking Iran becomes minimal.

10 freed Iranian fishermen return home from UAE



From page 1 ► The men spent over two months in custody across the Sweihan detention center and facilities in Ras al-Khaimah and Sharjah before consular negotiations secured their freedom.

The detentions occurred after widespread GPS and vessel-tracking disruptions caused the fishing boats to lose their navigation signals and unintentionally drift into Emira-

ti waters. Regional sources noted that electronic interference linked to US and Israeli military activities contributed heavily to the navigational failures.

Iran and the UAE regularly coordinate through established consular channels to manage inadvertent maritime border crossings and safely return detained fishermen to their home countries.

Iran urges BRICS to expand use of national currencies in trade

From page 1 ► That aggression, he added, alongside its human and material costs, once again laid bare a fundamental reality: "Economic security is not separate from national and regional security. Whenever a country's trade, energy, infrastructure, or financial system comes under political-military pressure, its effects transcend that country's borders and impact the region and even the global economy."

The Iranian president said the growing use of economic tools for political pressure, along with geopolitical uncertainty and disruptions to supply chains, have made the global economic environment more complicated. He urged BRICS to develop mechanisms that would prevent any country from disrupting legitimate trade by monopolizing financial or technological instruments.

From fragmented cooperation to integrated trade infrastructure

Pezeshkian called for a shift "from fragmented cooperation to the gradual integration of trade infrastructure" within BRICS, proposing greater digitalization and integration of customs procedures, the removal of regulatory and administrative barriers, expansion of cross-border markets, and facilitation of joint private-sector investment.

He also called for stronger cooperation on standardization so that BRICS could move beyond raw-material trade toward integrated value chains and joint industrial production.

Describing food and energy security as "two fundamental pillars of economic securi-



ty," Pezeshkian said Iran, given its major energy reserves and strategic geographic position, is ready to serve as a strategic partner in BRICS energy, food, and transportation supply chains.

National currencies and a reinforced 'New Development Bank'

Pezeshkian identified expanding the use of national currencies in intra-BRICS trade as one of the most important steps, saying it should be accompanied by mechanisms for managing currency risks, "because the current financial system, due to its concentration on a limited number of currencies, is vulnerable to political shocks."

To turn trade cooperation into real investment, he proposed that the New Development Bank become a major source of financing for infrastructure and energy projects through special credit lines, local-currency financing, and guarantees to attract private investment.

\$10 billion joint reinsurance company

In one of his most concrete proposals, Pezeshkian called for the establishment of a joint

BRICS reinsurance company with initial capital of \$10 billion to cover risks associated with major infrastructure and energy projects and to increase private-sector confidence.

AI and digital economy

Turning to emerging technologies, Pezeshkian said BRICS "should not merely be a consumer of technology" but should contribute to knowledge production and the development of digital-economy standards, while also strengthening cybersecurity for critical infrastructure amid "a fundamental transformation of the global economy driven by artificial intelligence."

From dialogue forum to executive engine

He called on the BRICS Business Council to move from being a forum for dialogue to an executive engine of economic cooperation, with its working groups setting concrete and measurable projects based on indicators such as intra-BRICS trade growth, the share of national currencies in trade, and the volume of private investment.

Pezeshkian concluded by expressing Iran's readiness to serve as an important econom-

ic link within BRICS due to its strategic geography and energy resources, and to work with all members toward a more open, resilient, and equitable global economy.

"We believe BRICS will become a real force in the global economy when our cooperation is visible in contracts, factories, ports, and the economic life of the people of member states," he said.

BRICS, a key platform to counter unilateralism and expand economic cooperation

Speaking before departing for New Delhi to attend the 18th BRICS Summit, Pezeshkian described the grouping as a vital platform for dialogue with major countries and for expanding economic, trade, industrial, and scientific cooperation among member states. He emphasized that BRICS serves as an important mechanism for strengthening multilateralism in international relations, with the participation of China, Russia, Brazil, India, and other regional countries offering valuable opportunities for bilateral and multilateral consultations.

Pezeshkian noted that BRICS currently comprises 21 members—11 full members and 10 official partners known as BRICS Plus—accounting for more than 45 percent of the world's population and approximately 35 percent of global territory. He identified countering unilateralism and enabling countries to preserve their independence while expanding commercial relations as one of the bloc's principal objectives, adding that this year's summit centers on solidarity, sustainability, resilience, and innovation.

Iranian, South Korean FM's hold phone call as protesters in Seoul oppose Hormuz deployment

From page 1 ► on the ground in Hormuz. While official spokespersons in Seoul were quick to stress that no final decision had been made regarding any deployment, South Korea had previously acknowledged that it was actively considering "contributions" to US security efforts along the vital maritime corridor, provided that its own military readiness was not compromised.

Under South Korean constitutional law, should Seoul decide to deploy armed forces to the strait, the executive branch cannot act unilaterally; it would require formal parliamentary approval by a majority vote in the National Assembly—a hurdle that grows increasingly steep as public opposition intensifies.

Public outrage and street protests in Seoul

Dozens of South Korean anti-war activists, civil society leaders, and ordinary cit-

izens gathered across from the massive United States embassy compound in Seoul on Wednesday to demand that their government unequivocally reject Washington's pressure to deploy troops to the strategic Strait of Hormuz, fiercely slamming the ongoing campaign as an "illegal war". The protesters unfurled banners and waved signs bearing powerful messages such as "Do not join a war of aggression". They voiced their collective indignation as South Korean political and military leaders continue to weigh a potential "contribution" to the waterway's security at the behest of the White House.

With passions running high against foreign military entanglements, the crowd echoed a resounding plea directly toward the presidential office: "We cannot send our young people into a sea of death!" Speaking outside the embassy, Jung Kyung-jik of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy affirmed that Iranian concerns are ground-

ed in legal reality: "As Iran has said, the deployment of our troops to the region would amount to direct participation in an illegal war".

Choi Young-ok from Korean Peace Solidarity for Sovereignty and Reunification added, "Sending our troops to an illegal war waged by the United States is unacceptable... There is no reason for us to send troops when no other country has done so or said it would."

The prospect of South Korea's potential military involvement in the Persian Gulf has drawn strong warnings from authorities in Iran, who have made it clear that any foreign intervention alongside hostile American forces will not go unanswered. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei has emphasized that such involvement would amount to "direct" support for the United States and would inevitably lead to serious consequences.

Baqaei: IAEA risks becoming instrument for justifying aggression against Iran

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei has sharply criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Director General, Rafael Grossi, accusing them of undermining the agency's independence and turning its technical assessments into a basis for political pressure and justification for military action against Iran.

In a post on X, Baqaei said the IAEA Director General had transformed an institution whose authority was founded on "technical expertise, impartiality, and independence" into a link in a chain connecting technical reporting to political justification and, ultimately, war.

His remarks came shortly after the IAEA Board of Governors voted to refer Iran's nuclear file to the United Nations Security Council over alleged non-compliance with its safeguards' obligations.

The resolution, introduced by



the United States, Britain, France and Germany, was adopted on September 9 by 23 votes in favor, three against and eight abstentions. Russia, China and Niger voted against the measure.

Baqaei argued that the development illustrated the growing politicization of an institution that is supposed to operate as an impartial technical body.

"When IAEA reports become raw material for threat narratives and for the construction of a political and legal case against

a country," he wrote, "the line between technical oversight and laying the groundwork for military aggression becomes dangerously blurred."

The Iranian spokesman said the issue went beyond reputational damage to the agency or its director general, warning that the IAEA's most valuable asset—its credibility as an impartial and independent authority—was being squandered.

"Once that credibility is subordinated to political agendas," Baqaei said, "the Agency risks becoming an instrument for rationalizing and facilitating aggression."

He described such a development as a "profound institutional failure," arguing that the agency had effectively become involved in the political preparation of an unlawful war.

Baqaei further accused the

IAEA of contributing to a political process serving the interests and ambitions of a "genocidal regime," a reference to Israel, which Iran has repeatedly accused of obstructing efforts to establish a West Asia free of weapons of mass destruction.

"An institution entrusted with contributing to international peace and security should never become part of the machinery used to manufacture a pretext for war," he said.

The Iranian spokesman also rejected the notion that responsibility for aggression and war crimes should be confined solely to those who order or physically carry out military attacks. In his view, accountability must also encompass actors whose actions knowingly contribute to the political, legal or evidentiary foundations used to justify military action.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

China, Russia reject pressure on Iran as nuclear dispute returns to UNSC

From Page 1 ►The Security Council agreed to place the Iranian nuclear issue on its agenda by a vote of 11 in favor, with China and Russia voting against and two members abstaining. China and Russia, however, used the meeting to reaffirm their opposition to the reimposition of sanctions against Iran and to the so-called snapback mechanism.

China and Russia reject snapback

According to Al Jazeera, China's representative at the meeting warned that insisting on restoring sanctions against Iran could endanger international peace and security.

The Chinese envoy said Beijing supported Russia's statement and maintained that the snapback mechanism had expired.

"We believe that the snapback has come to an end, and we are witnessing the sunset of the JCPOA," he said, expressing regret that some Security Council members continued to insist on the issue.

He warned that such measures could not only complicate relations among UN members and within the Security Council but could also undermine international peace and security.

Russia's representative likewise reiterated Moscow's opposition



to resolutions targeting Iran and said the snapback mechanism had expired.

The Russian envoy said Moscow supported China's position on the issue, again stressing that the mechanism had reached its end and that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, was entering its "sunset."

The coordinated positions of Beijing and Moscow place them at odds with the United States and the three European parties to the JCPOA — Britain, France and Germany — which have sought to intensify international pressure on Iran over its peaceful nuclear activities.

Iran challenges Security Council proceedings

Iran, for its part, has rejected

the renewed proceedings as legally and politically unfounded.

Gholamhossein Darzi, Iran's ambassador and chargé d'affaires to the United Nations, said the Security Council meeting on Iran's nuclear file constituted an abuse of the Council's procedures and authority.

In a letter circulated to the Council president Darzi said Iran categorically rejected "unfounded allegations and distortions" concerning its peaceful nuclear program.

He argued that UN Security Council Resolution 2231 expired on October 18, 2025, and that all nuclear-related provisions, measures and restrictions associated with the resolution were therefore terminated.

Darzi also disputed the legal basis for the European powers' attempt to invoke the snapback mechanism, arguing that the E3 had failed to meet their own obligations under both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231 and therefore lacked the legal standing to activate the mechanism.

Iran's envoy further attributed the current nuclear dispute to 'unlawful US and Israeli attacks on Iran's peaceful and safeguarded nuclear facilities.'

He argued that attacks against safeguarded nuclear sites had seriously undermined confidence in the international safeguards system and the broader nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Darzi maintained that the renewed allegations against Iran were political rather than technical, pointing to Iran's membership in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty since 1970 and its long-standing engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He said Iran had been subject to extensive IAEA monitoring for nearly 25 years and stressed that the agency had reported no diversion of nuclear material in Iran.

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

US acting Navy secretary: Iran 'blew the hell out of' US base in Bahrain

Iran FM: 'The American people deserve better than footing the bill for Israel's wars'

From Page 1 ►Araghchi's remarks followed rare public admissions from senior Pentagon officials regarding the aftermath of Iranian missile and drone strikes that targeted regional US installations after the hostilities initiated on February 28.

Speaking in an interview with The Epoch Times on September 9, acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao offered a blunt assessment of the state of Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain, stating, "They blew the hell out of Bahrain." Cao admitted that Iran's strikes severely compromised primary logistical networks and added that a dedicated task force is currently evaluating whether the US can repair or sustain its presence at the facility.

This assessment aligns with statements made during an August 31 Navy town hall, where Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle informed sailors displaced from the facility that the US military does not plan to return to the NSA Bahrain base "anytime soon."

Iran's targeted strikes following the February

28 escalations have fundamentally disrupted US military logistics across the region. The destruction at NSA Bahrain left long-deployed American naval assets, including the carrier strike group USS Abraham Lincoln, without their primary forward support hub.

Cao explicitly noted that the devastation left the carrier crew with "no place for them to pull in," forcing the Pentagon to reroute supply lines to distant bases like Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. This logistical paralysis has generated acute operational strains, extended combat deployments, and compromised supply chains for US personnel throughout the Persian Gulf.

Foreign military analysts note that the loss of forward docking and repair capabilities in Bahrain severely limits the operational readiness of American warships operating in contested waters.

The sustained effectiveness of these defensive operations has forced a broad reassessment of Washington's forward military presence across West Asia. Former CENTCOM

commander Gen. David Petraeus recently observed that traditional foreign outposts in the region are "no longer viable" due to Iran's advanced long-range missile and drone capabilities that hold fixed military infrastructure directly at risk.

Similarly, defense consultants have pointed out that keeping troops stationed at stationary Persian Gulf bases transforms them into continuous targets. The physical destruction of NSA Bahrain—and the resulting displacement of US naval command structures—marks a fundamental shift in the geopolitical balance of the Persian Gulf. By proving that stationary military hubs can be neutralized during major hostilities, Iran's retaliatory strikes have dismantled the assumption that foreign forces can project power in West Asia without facing immediate, severe structural vulnerabilities. As Washington hesitates to rebuild its damaged infrastructure, Tehran's deterrence strategy has effectively redefined the operational landscape for foreign forces in the region.

LATEST NEWS

Iran, Persian Gulf states to discuss Hormuz shipping in Oman

Iran and other Persian Gulf littoral states will meet in Oman next week to discuss regional issues, including an understanding between Tehran and Muscat on establishing safe shipping lanes through the Strait of Hormuz. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said foreign ministers from Iran, Iraq and other Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman states will attend Monday's meeting. He said Iran remains committed to regional cooperation and maritime security without extra-regional interference.

US, Israeli pressure behind IAEA anti-Iran resolution, Rezaei says

Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Major General Rezaei has condemned the latest IAEA Board of Governors resolution against Iran, saying it bears the clear imprint of US and Israeli pressure. In a post on X, Rezaei described the measure as illegal, non-technical and entirely political. He warned that the Agency's destructive and politicized actions could ultimately encourage countries to reconsider their membership in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Pezeshkian, Modi discuss expanding Iran-India cooperation

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 2026 BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Friday. During the meeting, Pezeshkian stressed the need to expand bilateral cooperation and continue implementing strategic agreements between the two countries. He said Iran and India share nu-

merous commonalities that could provide a foundation for broader cooperation. Further details of the meeting are expected to be released later.

IRGC Navy warns hostile moves in Strait of Hormuz will be targeted

IRGC Navy Commander Brigadier General Ali Ozmaei has warned that any hostile move in the Strait of Hormuz will be targeted. He said a US unmanned spy vessel with hull number 5838 had been struck in the strategic waterway. Ozmaei described the Strait as blocked and under Iranian intelligence surveillance and smart control, warning that Iran would respond to any hostile movement in the strategically vital waterway.

Iranian, Saudi foreign ministers discuss regional tensions

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan discussed bilateral relations and rising regional tensions in a telephone call. The two ministers stressed the need to maintain diplomatic efforts and cooperation to prevent the crisis from spreading and to restore regional stability and security. Their talks came amid heightened tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. Araghchi also held a separate telephone conversation with South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyeon on Friday.

US measures will fail to contain oil prices: Qalibaf

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf has dismissed US efforts to curb rising oil prices, saying Washington's market interventions and release of strate-

gic reserves will ultimately fail. His remarks came after Brent crude rose above \$107 a barrel. Qalibaf said the US Treasury would exhaust measures including market intervention, reserve releases and 'false media reporting.' Oil prices have surged amid the conflict involving Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

US unmanned vessel destroyed in Strait of Hormuz

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy says it has destroyed a US unmanned surface vessel near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement, the force said the vessel, identified by hull number 5838, had been deployed to the strategic waterway and was struck while carrying out 'an aggressive mission.' The IRGC Navy said the Strait remains under its intelligence surveillance and control and warned against hostile activity.

US failed to reshape West Asia: Iranian official

Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Secretary Jalal Dehghani Firoozabadi says the United States has failed to achieve its major foreign-policy objectives since the September 11 attacks. He argued that Washington's attempts to establish global hegemony and impose a new Middle Eastern order through military intervention ultimately produced greater instability. He said recent developments had also weakened confidence among Arab states in US security guarantees and could force Washington to reduce its direct military presence in the region.

A quarter century of US war crimes at wedding celebrations



From Page 1 ►These attacks form part of a systematic, deliberately destructive procedure rooted in the generation of terror and intimidation within local communities.

From Afghanistan and Iraq to Yemen and Pakistan, wherever US terrorist forces have established a presence or intervened, the joy of local communities has been turned to mourning and the blood of innocent civilians spilled. A profound examination of the dimensions of these catastrophes reveals that this child-killing US regime, while deploying advanced reconnaissance and drone technologies to rationalize its repeated errors, has deliberately targeted the human and cultural infrastructure of societies. By instilling widespread terror, it seeks to crush the resolve to resist, display a theatricalized ruthlessness and transgression against the rights of nations—utterly unconcerned with international rules and laws—and thereby deepen its hubristic imperial posture.

On 1 September 2026, US military forces, during airstrikes across southern Iran, targeted a wedding ceremony in the village of Kuhestak in Sirik County, Hormozgan Province. The attack left at least 5 killed and nearly 70 injured, with victims including civilians as young as a four-year-old child (IRNA, 2026; Tasnim, 2026a). Weapons analyses, including reports from The New York Times (2026) and Reuters (2026), demonstrated that the strike was carried out using heavy American munitions, specifically Joint Standoff Weapons (JSOW) or the SLAM-ER cruise missile. This event represents the latest iteration in a protracted pattern of strikes by US terrorist and Washington-backed forces against wedding celebrations in various countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Yemen. The Islamic Republic of Iran has denounced the action as a war crime and demanded accountability from the terrorist regime of the United States in international fora (Tasnim, 2026).

A specific focus on the agonizing and unforgettable catastrophe of the US terrorist army's strike on the wedding ceremony in the village of Kuhestak, located in Sirik County in Hormozgan Province, southern Iran, lays bare new and shocking dimensions of the regime's strategy of mass slaughter. An interrogation of this harrowing event demonstrates how the war machine of that hubristic regime, entirely devoid of adherence to moral and humanitarian principles, targeted residential and civilian areas with its spiteful fire. This essay endeavours to examine the various dimensions of this crime, the legal responses, and the lethal fallout of a quarter-century of military aggression by US terrorist forces, tearing back the veneer to expose the anti-human essence of these actions.

1. The attack on the Kuhestak wedding celebration

The attack on the wedding celebration in Kuhestak stands as one of the bitterest episodes of the US terrorist military aggression against innocent people of Iran in the year 2026. This terrorist crime provoked widespread domestic and international outrage not only due to the heavy civilian toll, but also because of the nature of the target—a wedding celebration—and the direct impact of American munitions. This article examines the dimensions of this strike alongside the precedent of similar actions by US forces in other nations.

1.1. Details of the terror

On the evening of 1 September 2026, US terrorist forces launched extensive airstrikes against areas in southern Iran. During these raids, a residential building in the village of Kuhestak, Sirik County, Hormozgan Province,

which was serving as the venue for a wedding ceremony, was struck. According to closed-circuit television footage, the building was hit by missiles on at least three occasions.

Examining weapon remnants at the site of the terror, explosion patterns, and verified video footage, weapons experts concluded that this was a direct strike utilizing American munitions. The BBC Persian verification desk, having examined the geographical coordinates, identified no military installations in the immediate vicinity of the wedding venue, reporting the distance between the building and a telecommunications mast to be a mere 112 metres (Coughlan et al., 2026).

The attack claimed the lives of at least 5 civilians and wounded nearly 70 others, among them a four-year-old toddler named Amir-Mohammad Karimi. The victims of this state-sponsored terror include four-year-old Amir-Mohammad Karimi; 16-year-old Mohammad Mallahi; 43-year-old Kulsum Mallahi Nezhdnia; 50-year-old Zarkhatun Taheri; and a 22-year-old woman who succumbed to her injuries after being transferred to hospital. The Hormozgan Emergency Services announced that 19 of the wounded guests were children under the age of ten (Tasnim, 2026b).

1.2. Media and legal reactions

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemned the attack on the Kuhestak wedding, describing it as a war crime and a blatant violation of international law (IRIB News, 2026). In a letter addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Iran's Permanent Mission to the UN detailed the US terrorist regime's strikes on southern Iran, emphasized the civilian nature of the target and the presence of women and children at the ceremony, and urged international bodies to address the dimensions of the attack (Tasnim News Agency, 2026a).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran likewise categorized the act as a war crime and part of an ongoing chain of unlawful measures by the US terrorist regime against Iran, underscoring the legal liability of the perpetrators. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) called for the leaders of the US terrorist regime to be held to account before global public opinion (Mehr News Agency, 2026).

Conversely, American officials, including US Vice President JD Vance, announced that they were—in their words—"reviewing" the terrorist crime, while asserting that US forces never target civilians. Nevertheless, the precedent of similar attacks in the past demonstrates that such "reviews" rarely culminate in accountability or transparency, serving merely as a tactical manoeuvre to deflect media pressure.

2. The precedent of attacks by the US terrorist regime and its allies on wedding celebrations

Undoubtedly, if one traces the trajectory of the United States over the past three hundred years—dating back to the initiation of campaigns against Indigenous Americans—the legacy of child-killing and targeting public celebrations and weddings spans at least three centuries. Nonetheless, what stands out when examining roughly the past quarter-century is a succession of incidents in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Yemen in which wedding ceremonies or wedding-related processions were targeted or subjected to airstrikes during operations conducted by forces under the command or support of the US terrorist regime.

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

Iran expands trade footprint with 7 new commercial attachés

TEHRAN- Akbar Godari in Oman, Reza Bagherifard in Afghanistan, Mahmoud Es-kandari in Belarus, Mohsen Montazeri in Malaysia, Seif-Ali Zarbi in Russia, Dariush Vossoughi in Turkey, and Mojtaba Moulaei Moein in India have been introduced as Iran's commercial attachés to begin operations in target markets.

According to a report by IRNA from the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, the Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, while emphasizing the necessity of adopting a new, creative, and macro-oriented approach to developing export markets, called for identifying new capacities, protecting trade opportunities, and creating new grounds for the growth of the country's trade exchanges.

Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, in a meeting with seven selected commercial attachés ready for deployment, stressed the need for a transformation in the approach to developing export markets and designing creative initiatives tailored to the capacities of each market.

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade emphasizing that commercial attachés must view their responsibilities with a macro and development-oriented perspective, said: "The role of a commercial attaché is not limited to following up on routine affairs; rather, they must, through precise understanding of the target market, its trade capacities, and requirements, create new grounds for export development and increased trade exchanges."

According to Dehghan Dehnavi, commercial attachés must, while establishing effective communication with traders and economic actors, help increase the effectiveness of

'Trade with Iraq requires unity of command'

TEHRAN- Yahya Al-e-Es'haq, Head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, emphasized that developing trade with Iraq — given its direct link to national security and development — requires centralized decision-making, unity of command, and increased maneuverability against Iraq's changing regulations.

Speaking Wednesday at a meeting of Iran's Chamber of Commerce directors with Kermanshah economic activists, Al-e-Es'haq said there is a direct relationship between regional trade, development, and security. He noted that Kermanshah's geographical position and capacities allow it to play an important national role in this chain.

"Trade with regional countries should not be viewed merely from an economic perspective," he said. "It is directly tied to national interests, security, and development, and economic activists bear an important responsibility."

\$20 billion target achievable

Al-e-Es'haq described the \$20 billion trade target with Iraq as achievable, noting unofficial estimates currently place exchanges at \$14-15 billion. "Increasing this figure is possible, and existing capacities must be utilized," he said.

He stressed that alongside exports, imports — particularly of basic needs, raw materials, parts, and production goods — must receive

Comprehensive housing plan drafted based on production leap law requirements

TEHRAN- The Minister of Transport and Urban Development announced the drafting and finalization of the "Comprehensive Housing Plan" in line with the implementation of legal requirements for approval by the Supreme Housing Council, and said: "With the implementation of this 10-year document, the government's policies in worn-out textures, land annexation, locating new towns, and prioritizing supportive intervention with special focus on deciles 1 to 5 will be operationalized."

According to a report by the political correspondent of IRNA, Farzaneh Sadegh, after attending the session of the Civil Committee of the parliament regarding the examination of the important issue of the "Comprehensive Housing Plan," told reporters: "Based on Article (1) of the Housing Production Leap Law approved in 2021, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development was obligated to prepare a comprehensive housing plan

Iran's presence in target markets by identifying obstacles, facilitating trade processes, and offering practical solutions.

He considered access to accurate and up-to-date trade information and data as one of the requirements for attachés' activities and added: "Continuous communication of attachés with the domestic sphere, the organization's specialized offices, and relevant bodies is an undeniable necessity, as it paves the way for timely transfer of information and utilization of the latest trade capacities and opportunities."

The Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran also listed the protection of existing trade opportunities and their development as other priorities of commercial attachés and stated: "Preserving existing markets is as important as entering new markets, and planning must be made to safeguard the opportunities created and deepen trade relations with these markets."

Subsequently, Morteza Salehi, Deputy of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, emphasized the necessity of coordination between attachés and embassies, relevant bodies, economic institutions, and various centers in target countries, saying: "Coordination and synergy among these entities, along with the specialized capabilities of attachés, will help increase the effectiveness of their activities."

According to the official at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, utilizing past experiences and leveraging creativity and initiative to create new opportunities are among the requirements for attachés' activities under the new conditions of the country's foreign trade.

special attention. "A balance must be created between exports and imports," he said, adding that Kermanshah, with its border capacities and infrastructure, can play an effective role in supplying the country's needs through imports.

Addressing exporters' forex obligations, Al-e-Es'haq said fulfilling them should not mean only directly transferring currency to the Central Bank. "Import against export and goods against goods are usable solutions," he said, noting Iran had experience with this mechanism in the 1990s. "Insisting on direct currency delivery to the Central Bank is not the only solution."

Al-e-Es'haq stressed that Iran faces a country whose regulations constantly change, requiring sufficient maneuverability. "Trade and border issues with Iraq should not be decided in a scattered manner across various organs," he said. "There must be a decision-making center for economic relations with Iraq that can act according to time and place, and give provincial officials the necessary maneuverability."

Citing the Khosravi border, he said immediate provincial-level decisions are sometimes necessary. "If part of the authority related to Iraq is delegated to provincial management, many problems will be solved more quickly."

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

within three months. Although this process was prolonged, over the past two years this issue was seriously placed on the ministry's agenda until finally the drafting of this plan was completed."

Emphasizing that this is the first time the Comprehensive Housing Plan is being drafted to go through legal procedures and be approved by the Supreme Housing Council, she added: "The importance of this plan lies in the fact that all planning and needs assessments in the housing sector — including how to intervene in worn-out textures, annex lands to city limits, revise comprehensive plans, locate new cities and towns, and most importantly, 'prioritizing government entry into the housing issue' — are clearly defined in this upstream document; an action that had not been taken until now, and with its implementation, a clear 10-year vision will be placed before the country."

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

Iran pushes for local currencies, alternative payment systems to counter sanctions in BRICS summit

From Page 1 ► He added: "One of the most important topics discussed was the use of local currencies, increased economic coordination and cooperation, and also the utilization of payment systems and domestic messaging systems within the BRICS framework."

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance expressed hope that the conclusions of this meeting would be fruitful for all countries in the region, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, and continued: "One of the important achievements of BRICS is joint cooperation in the field of development and investment, which is in a way defining a new pole in the world's financial and economic systems."

Madanizadeh, referring to BRICS' capacities in the field of investment, said: "These cooperations can play a significant role in attracting investment, especially in the infrastructure sector."

He also considered the greater use of local currencies and reducing dependence on the dollar and Western countries' currencies as among the important topics raised and clarified: "This issue is especially important for our country, which is under sanctions conditions, and can help solve economic problems by using local currencies and utilizing the capacities of the international payment system."

The Minister of Economy emphasized: "This issue will be one of the very important achievements for our country, and it was also emphasized in the negotiations conducted during the trips to Russia and India."

Emphasis on north-south corridor capacity

Madanizadeh, in continuation,



referring to the negotiations conducted during the trips to Russia and India, stated: "In these negotiations, great emphasis was placed on the capacity of the North-South Corridor, because the cost of moving goods through this route will be very low, and for this reason, various countries are interested in using this capacity."

He added: "Within the country, great efforts have been made to complete this corridor, and significant costs have been incurred. Also, neighboring countries, especially Russia, are investing in this field."

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance expressed hope that with the completion of the North-South Corridor, great developments will occur in the field of transit and movement of goods through Iran, and the country's capacity in this area will be utilized more than ever.

Strengthening BRICS financial cooperation and expanding New Development Bank membership

The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the Second Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of BRICS,

called for greater focus of the BRICS financial path on operational projects, especially the development of cross-border payment solutions, interconnection of fast payment systems, cooperation in the field of central bank digital currencies, and increasing the interoperability of financial messaging systems.

According to a report by IRNA from the Central Bank, at this meeting, the positions of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran were explained, and while supporting the joint statement of the meeting, emphasis was placed on the necessity of strengthening financial and economic cooperation among BRICS members under conditions of increasing geopolitical tensions, fragmentation of the global economy, and intensification of financial vulnerabilities.

It is worth mentioning that Abolfazl Koodei, Deputy for International Relations of the Central Bank, attended the Second Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of BRICS in Mumbai online on behalf of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At this meeting, referring to the importance of expanding the membership of the New Development Bank, emphasis was placed on facilitating and accelerating the review of membership requests of new countries, in accordance with the bank's established procedures.

Also, the Central Bank considered the reform of the quota structure and governance system of the International Monetary Fund necessary and called for increasing the share and role of emerging economies and developing countries in the decision-making of this institution.

Greater focus of the BRICS financial path on operational projects, especially the development of cross-border payment solutions, interconnection of fast payment systems, cooperation in the field of central bank digital currencies, and increasing the interoperability of financial messaging systems were among the other requests raised by the Central Bank at this meeting.

It is worth noting that at this meeting, the development of trade and investment settlement with national currencies, as well as strengthening technical cooperation of central banks in the field of financial technologies, cybersecurity, and capacity building, were mentioned as other future priorities of BRICS financial cooperation.

In the end, the Central Bank announced its readiness for constructive participation in deepening practical, inclusive, and mutual-interest-based financial cooperation among BRICS members.

South Korea National Day, Armed Forces Day: a night of cultural diplomacy in Tehran

Ambassador Kim Junpyo continues to strengthen Iran-Korea ties through remarkable cultural engagement



By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Tehran, under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency Ambassador Kim Junpyo, hosted a magnificent reception commemorating South Korea's National Day and Armed Forces Day on the evening of Thursday, September 10, at the Ambassador's residence.

The event, attended by a large number of guests including Iranian government officials and diplomats from various embassies, was another testament to the Korean Embassy's active and influential role in fostering bilateral relations between Tehran and Seoul.

A warm welcome

Guests were warmly received upon arrival by Ambassador Kim Junpyo and his gracious wife, Mrs. Shin Eunah, as well as Ms. Eunkyung Park, Deputy Head of Mission, and Jung Heejin, Military Attaché. What immediately captured everyone's attention was a large painting depicting the famous Korean artwork of the sun, moon, and five peaks, displayed prominently with the inscription "Love From Korea" — a touching gesture that set the tone for an evening celebrating cultural harmony.

A friend in difficult times: Celebrating 64 years of Korea-Iran partnership

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea welcomed guests to celebrate Korea's National Day, expressing heartfelt sympathy for those affected by the recent conflict and sincere hope for peace. Highlighting 64 years

of diplomatic relations, he recalled the 1970s and 80s when over 20,000 Korean workers helped build Iran's infrastructure, while Iran offered valuable opportunities during Korea's economic development, building mutual prosperity.

During his two and a half years in Iran, the Ambassador noticed the recurring number "20": 20 high-level exchanges, \$20 million in contributions for vocational training and humanitarian aid, 20 cultural events, and annual government scholarships for 20 Iranian undergraduates and 20 graduate students. He stressed that behind every number are people, making investments in people the most important.

Emphasizing that partnership matters most in difficult times, he quoted Persian poet Saadi: "A friend is one who takes the hand of a friend in distress." This is why the Korean Embassy stayed and did not withdraw. He thanked the Korean community, his embassy team for their professionalism, and the Iranian government for extending a helping hand during evacuations. He noted symbolic street names—Tehran Street in Seoul and Seoul Street in Tehran—reminding us of the road kept open between the nations.

The celebration's theme is "Love." The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is hosting an exhibition inspired by the Kushnameh, an ancient Persian epic about a Persian prince and a Shilla princess. The Mithra Orchestra will blend cultures through Korea's Arirang and Iranian love songs. The Ambassador concluded by thanking the artists and musicians, wishing for enduring love and friendship between Iran and Korea, and inviting everyone to enjoy the food and music.

political will of Iran is preserving and continuing friendship with South Korea

Following his remarks, Hamid Ghanbari, Deputy for Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took the podium and highlighted the strong historical ties between the two nations. He stated: "The political will of Iran is committed to preserving and continuing the friendship between the two countries, with a perfect understanding of the capabilities of both nations in various political,

cultural, economic, scientific, and technological fields."

A memorable cultural performance

The evening featured diverse and engaging programs, including live performances of Korean musical pieces. However, the most captivating moment came with the screening of the Ambassador's special performance video.

In this video, Ambassador Kim Junpyo sang his third Iranian song in Persian during his mission in Iran: the beloved classic "Soltane Ghalbha" (King of Hearts). His remarkable performance, following his previous renditions of "Porsun Porsun" and "Jan Maryam," deeply moved the audience and drew enthusiastic applause.

Culinary delights

Following the program, a dinner featuring both Korean and Iranian cuisine was served. Korean dishes, renowned worldwide for their unique flavors, vibrant colors, and delightful aromas, once again delighted the guests' palates and were thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees.

A Legacy of active diplomacy

This celebration was yet another example of the Korean Embassy's remarkable cultural diplomacy efforts under Ambassador Kim Junpyo's leadership. In recent months alone, the Embassy has hosted numerous significant events including:

- A gathering honoring journalists on the eve of Iran's National Journalist Day

- A cultural event commemorating International Museum Day, featuring the "Korean Culture Box" mobile mini-museum

- The Korea-Iran Calligraphy Exhibition celebrating 63 years of diplomatic relations

Ambassador Kim Junpyo's personal commitment to cultural exchange — demonstrated through his Persian song performances and participation in Iranian cultural traditions — has significantly contributed to building bridges of friendship between the Iranian and Korean peoples.

Undoubtedly, the continuation of these efforts will draw a bright horizon for the further expansion of relations between Tehran and Seoul.

Ansar Allah now commands Bab al-Mandab Strait

Yemeni forces secure 5,400 km²; Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree confirms ban on Saudi vessels remains active

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – The Yemeni Armed Forces (YAF) have seized control of the country's western coast, further consolidating their hold over the vital Bab al-Mandab Strait after capturing more than 5,400 square kilometers of territory from Saudi Arabia.

In a sweeping ground campaign along Yemen's western coast, the YAF entered Dhubab, a town located directly on the Bab al-Mandab Strait opposite Perim Island.

Reports indicate Saudi-backed militants withdrew from the island as the YAF continued to advance, while life returned to normal in the port city of Mokha (liberated earlier), where government institutions resumed their regular tasks.

A Saudi-backed official acknowledged to AFP that the YAF had secured the Bab al-Mandab Strait and seized Mayyun Island. The YAF has now advanced toward areas adjacent to the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait.

The YAF also took control of Al Khawkhah and Hays in Hudaydah province, as well as the Khalid ibn al-Walid camp, the largest military base in the region.

Footage released by YAF members shows the scale of weapons abandoned by Saudi-backed forces. It includes U.S.-made Oshkosh M-ATV mine-resistant vehicles, pickup trucks mounted with heavy weapons (technicals), armored vehicles, artillery pieces, and large quantities of ammunition and small arms.

The capture of the Red Sea coast marks a major catastrophe for the United States and Saudi Arabia. Full control of the Bab al-Mandab Strait will strengthen Ansar Allah's position over the vital maritime chokepoint. For Saudi Arabia, it undermines Riyadh's influence and military objectives in Yemen.

The Saudis will also find it increasingly difficult to export oil, with Ansar Allah controlling Bab al-Mandab and Iran controlling the Strait of Hormuz. Together, these two strategic chokepoints constrain the Kingdom's ability to move its oil to global markets, tightening supplies and putting upward pressure on prices. The



disruption to Saudi oil exports is already being reflected in the rising cost of oil on global markets.

This is while the United States faces greater risks to shipping and protecting Israeli interests. The regime's media outlets continued to follow developments. Israeli Channel 14 said that Ansar Allah's control of Mokha port on the Red Sea coast "constitutes a strategic event that could have far-reaching consequences."

During the military front in support of and in solidarity with Gaza amid the U.S.-backed genocide in the Strip, the YAF's threat in Bab al-Mandab had been directed only at Israeli and Israeli-affiliated ships. This was followed by American ships that attempted and failed to break the YAF's Red Sea blockade on the regime's vessels.

Saudi Arabia has been carrying out heavy airstrikes against several provinces in an effort to reinforce its military buildup on the ground.

Throughout the rapid YAF military advance, Ansar Allah's political bureau affirmed that the western coastal areas are Yemeni territory and that Yemenis have the right to reclaim them from Saudi Arabia. Ansar Allah has noted that the entry of the YAF into these areas was widely welcomed by residents.

In essence, the YAF was established by the people of Yemen and its tribes, despite media attempts to distort this fact alongside disinformation campaigns that gloss over Saudi Arabia's decades-old hostile interference in Yemen's domestic affairs.

Essentially, the collapse of re-

gions previously controlled by Saudi Arabia highlights the limits of the Kingdom's influence over groups it has funded and trained but now have little interest in fighting for a project that undermines Yemen's sovereignty.

The YAF has been very clear that only Saudi Arabia, which has waged deadly air raids over the past decade and enforced a choking blockade on its civilian population, will be targeted by a maritime blockade at the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

The YAF launched the major, multi-pronged military operation on September 3, with broad participation from the people and tribal forces.

According to a statement by YAF spokesperson Brigadier General Yahya Saree on September 11, 2026, the operation was aimed at striking the "Saudi enemy's" military build-ups and confronting the aggression and blockade that have continued for 12 years.

It also came in response to the escalating attacks against residents, villages, and rural communities along the western coast.

The statement pointed out that the operation was launched in response to calls from local residents to end the injustice and drive out Saudi forces and military build-ups seeking to bring Yemeni territory under occupation and control.

Saree said the operation had concluded successfully, despite the "enemy's" heavy air cover failing to influence its course. The operation resulted in the expulsion of Saudi military build-ups from six districts in the governorates of Taiz and Hudaydah, covering a total

area of 5,400 square kilometers, which has now become secure and stable.

The statement also said the operation achieved several results, including strikes against seven military formations belonging to the "Saudi enemy," comprising 38 military brigades. Hundreds of their personnel were killed, captured, or wounded. The operation also led to the liberation of prisoners who had been held by "Saudi enemy mercenaries" for years along the western coast.

Furthermore, the YAF carried out 32 operations to intercept Saudi warplanes and succeeded in shooting down nine aircraft.

Saree emphasized that maritime navigation remains safe for all companies, with the exception of Saudi vessels, which had previously been declared subject to a ban.

The YAF further emphasized that they would continue to uphold the equation of "blockade for blockade" and respond to military build-ups and escalation with further escalation, until the aggression is halted and the blockade on the Yemeni people is lifted.

According to Ansar Allah's political bureau, the YAF is currently holding prisoners of various nationalities following Saudi Arabia's abandonment of its forces on the battlefield. This further underscores the confusion in Riyadh, where the forces it supports appear to lack a clear political objective or a cause rooted in Yemen's national interests.

The YAF has repeatedly demonstrated that it possesses the military capabilities needed to establish control and confront threats to Yemen's sovereignty. It could also escalate its operations in the coming period if Saudi Arabia continues to conduct airstrikes or refuses to lift the blockade.

The YAF's growing control over the Bab al-Mandab Strait gives it significant leverage in confronting its adversaries. These include Saudi Arabia, the United States, and the Zionist regime. But Yemen appears unfazed, as it has expanded its maritime blockade against regimes that wage aggression against it.

Technofascism is already here; Big Tech built it

Vienna-based philosopher Mark Coeckelbergh talks about Palantir's fascist-leaning manifesto in interview with Tehran Times

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – Mark Coeckelbergh, Professor of Philosophy of Technology and Media at the University of Vienna and a member of the UN's Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, has become one of the most prominent voices warning against the alliance between Big Tech and authoritarian politics.

His recent article "Technofascism: AI, Big Tech, and the New Authoritarianism" (AI & Society, 2026) examines how figures such as Peter Thiel and Palantir CEO Alex Karp are shaping a post-democratic worldview built on surveillance, militarization, and elite rule.

Coeckelbergh has also traced Karp's intellectual shift from an early interest in the Frankfurt School to the reactionary politics now associated with Palantir, and has called for a "quiet revolution" toward digital humanism, grounded in education and a stronger democratic knowledge base.

Several of Coeckelbergh's books have been translated into Persian, including "AI Ethics," "The Political Philosophy of AI," "Why AI Undermines Democracy and What To Do About It," and "Communicative AI," co-authored with David Gunkel.

Tehran Times spoke with Professor Coeckelbergh about technofascism, Palantir's ideology, and the prospects for a more democratic, humane use of artificial intelligence.

Below is the full text of the interview:

For an audience hearing "technofascism" for the first time, how would you explain it in simple terms, and how is it different from ordinary authoritarianism?

Sometimes "fascism" is used very loosely, just as a way to say that certain views are undesirable. But I use it in a very specific academic sense, to describe how current technologies are leading to a new form of authoritarianism. The old kinds of authoritarianism we've seen historically — fascism, Nazism — had certain features, and we see some of them coming back today. But now, with AI and digital technologies, there is a new possibility for total surveillance and what's called "algorithmic governmentality," where ordinary citizens may not even know they are under surveillance, and where authoritarian governments have new tools to crack down on their own citizens.

There are also new myths. In the past, the

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Protesters in Cyprus condemn Herzog's visit, denounce embrace of Israel



By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israeli "President" Isaac Herzog faced sharp condemnation during an official visit to Nicosia on Thursday, as human rights organizations and anti-war activists gathered outside the Presidential Palace to denounce the Christodoulides administration for hosting the head of a regime conducting genocide in Gaza.

Extensive police barricades sealed off nearby avenues while demonstrators carrying Palestinian flags chanted against imperialist aggression and held banners demanding an immediate end to official complicity.

The protest brought together a broad

coalition, including the Pancyprian Peace Council, United for Palestine Nicosia, Genocide-Free Cyprus, BDS Cyprus, and Far Right Watch Cy.

Inside the palace, Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides reportedly held bilateral discussions with Herzog focused on "joint defense frameworks, maritime energy corridors, and regional intelligence sharing."

Protesters warned that deeper military integration directly exposes Cyprus to retaliatory strikes and entangles the island in Tel Aviv's ongoing regional wars.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian strikes force UAE to dismantle plans for its AI mega-campus

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The United Arab Emirates is quietly dismantling its blueprint for a 5-gigawatt artificial intelligence project, abandoning plans for a centralized campus in Abu Dhabi in favor of a dispersed network of hardened facilities.

Iranian missile and drone operations have permanently altered the security calculus for regional autocracies hosting American forces.

Originally envisioned as a 10-square-mile computing hub built in partnership with U.S. tech firms, the project is undergoing a total strategic redesign.

According to a Reuters report on September 11, 2026, Emirati officials are now calculating the financial burden of moving sensitive infrastructure underground into the rugged mountain ranges of Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah, equipping dispersed sites with blast-resistant concrete and electronic jamming apparatus.

Retaliation shatters the safe haven myth

The sudden overhaul follows retaliatory strikes by Iranian forces targeting infrastructure linked to foreign military presence across the region.

In March, drone strikes damaged two Amazon Web Services data centers in the UAE alongside a major facility in Bahrain, triggering prolonged disruptions across regional cloud networks and banking systems.

The impact demonstrated how quickly commercial digital infrastructure collapses when tied to Western military footprint.

Pressure intensified in April when Iran's armed forces released targeting footage explicitly identifying Stargate UAE, the project's \$30 billion first phase.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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National Iranian Oil Company
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440047

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

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
01	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 12-1/4 IN., I.A.D.C.2.1.4	140	NO
02	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 8-1/2 IN., I.A.D.C. 2.1.4	45	NO
03	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 6-1/8 IN., I.A.D.C. 2.1.4	60	NO
04	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 5-7/8 IN., I.A.D.C. 2.1.4	40	NO
05	NOZZLES FOR SIZE 8-3/8 TO 12-1/4 INCH	200	NO
06	NOZZLES FOR SIZE 5-5/8 TO 6-3/4 INCH	100	NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of **30,045.30 EURO** or **51,332,740,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D INCLUDING 25% ADVANCE PAYMENT, SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

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From Bishkek to New Delhi, Xi advocates Global South cooperation

Chinese President Xi Jinping is heading to New Delhi for this year's BRICS gathering just over a week after he took part in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek.

The two back-to-back multilateral engagements converge on a single, defining theme: galvanizing solidarity and cooperation across the Global South.

EXPANDING FAMILY

The SCO "takes root in the Global South, its heart beats with the Global South, and it is an important pillar of South-South cooperation," Xi said at the Bishkek summit on Tuesday last week, calling on the SCO to "promote the development and rise of the Global South through the SCO Wisdom."

The Chinese leader is expected to put forward further proposals on Global South cooperation at the upcoming BRICS summit, as he has noted that the BRICS is "standing at the forefront of the Global South."

This year marks the 25th founding anniversary of the SCO and the 20th anniversary of the BRICS cooperation mechanism, both milestone occasions.

Riding the wave of the collective rise of the Global South, BRICS and the SCO have over the years expanded their membership and broadened their networks of developing partners. Their members jointly account for more than half of the world's population and about 30 percent of the global economy. This illustrates the fact that the two groupings have evolved into major platforms for Global South cooperation.

Xi has not only joined other leaders of member countries in pushing for their respective expansions, but also put forward new ideas and initiatives like the "BRICS Plus" cooperation approach and the building of an SCO community with a shared future, opening up new vistas for win-win cooperation among Global South countries.

"China has consistently provided a clear vision and momentum for BRICS and the SCO, both conceptually and practically," said Humphrey Arnaldo Russel, head of the ASEAN-China Research Center at the University of Indonesia.

"It transformed BRICS from a relatively exclusive grouping into a broader platform for cooperation among developing countries and the wider Global South," he added.

DEVELOPMENT FIRST

At the SCO summit last week, Xi called on countries to "stay committed to putting development first, and open up the prospects for shared prosperity."

Amid a turbulent and rapidly changing international landscape, development still faces severe challenges, and the road to prosperity for the Global South will not be straight.

"The Global South emerges for development and prospers through development. We should make ourselves the main driving force for common development," Xi said during the 2024 BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia.

For Xi, development has always been a priority. He sees it as "the master key to solving all problems," and has consistently called for countries worldwide to jointly pursue development and prosperity.

Xi has stressed repeatedly that no one should be left behind in the fight against poverty in China, and has led a formidable campaign that ended extreme poverty nationwide, which was hailed as "the greatest anti-poverty achievement in history."

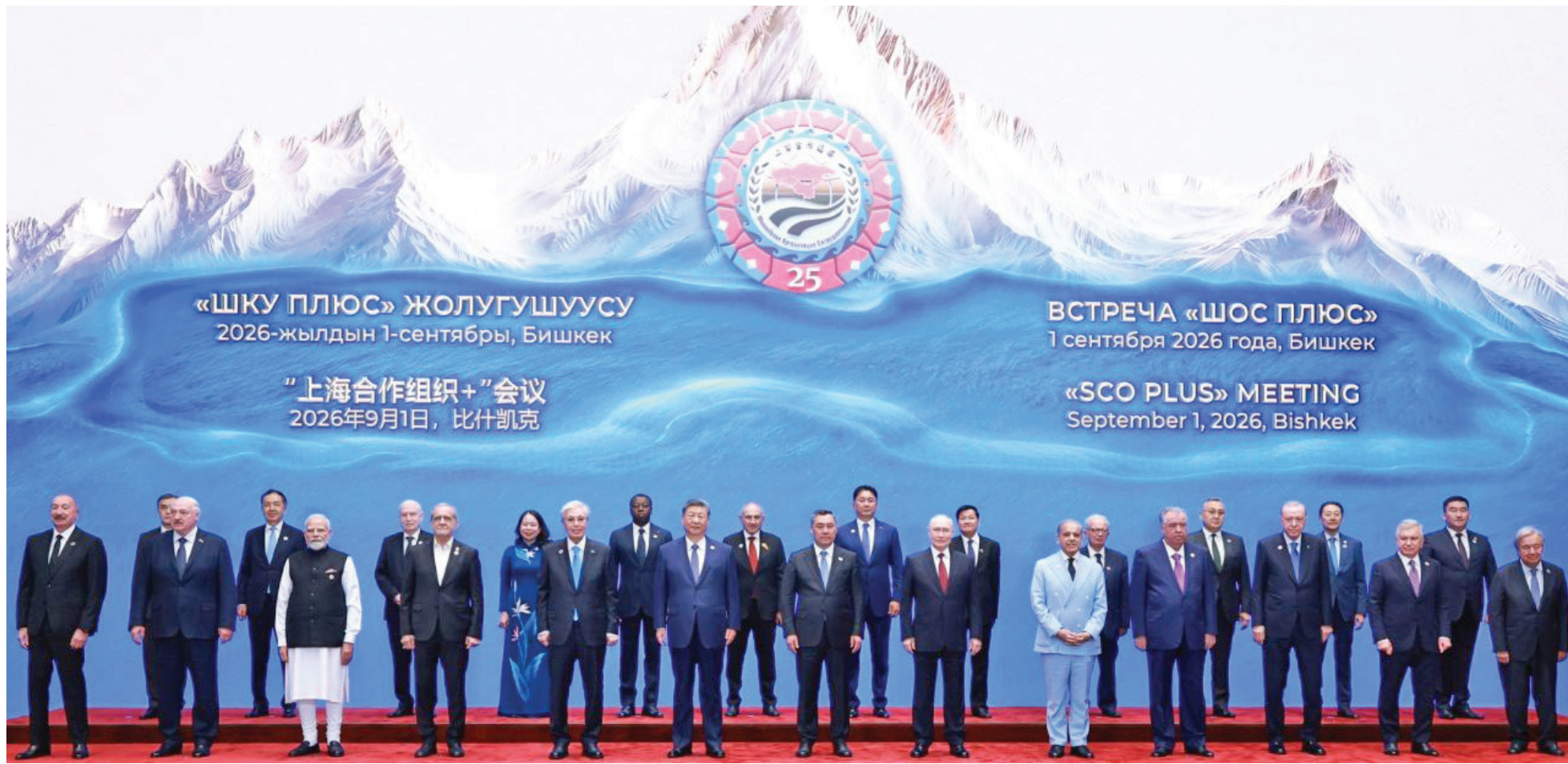
His "leaving-no-one-behind" conviction also extends to his efforts to support poverty reduction and spur development across the Global South. "On the path to modernization, no one, and no country, should be left behind," Xi said.

Last week in Bishkek, Xi called for consolidating cooperation in both traditional and emerging fields, from trade, investment, connectivity and energy to artificial intelligence (AI), the digital economy and green industries.

Responding to the Global South's aspirations for common development and modernization, Xi has proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), which marks its fifth anniversary this year.

In the last five years, the GDI has mobilized more than 23 billion U.S. dollars, provided support for over 1,800 "small and beautiful" livelihood projects, and sponsored training programs for more than 200,000 people in different professions.

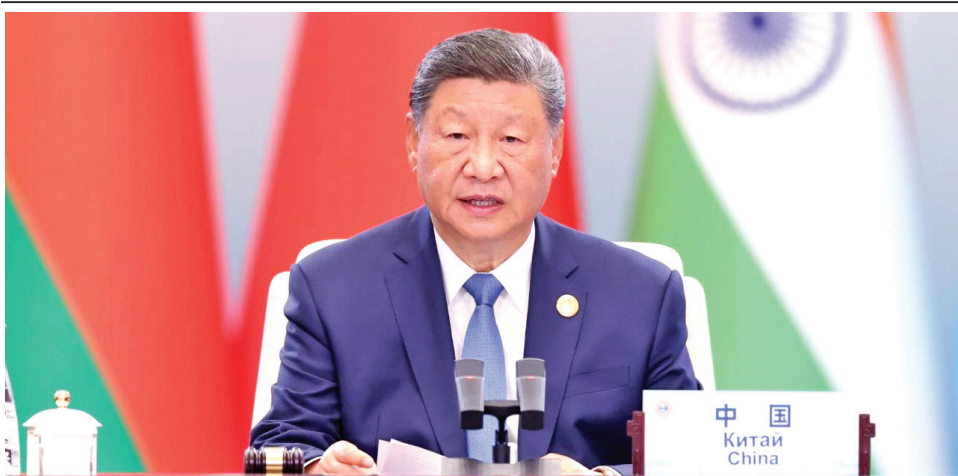
Serik Kozhumbayev, editor-in-chief of the Delovoy Kazakhstan newspaper, said: "Under Xi's leadership, the concept of development has



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends a group photo session ahead of the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Plus" meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Sept. 1, 2026. (Xinhua/Wang Ye)



Photo taken on Aug. 24, 2017 shows a flowerbed at the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province. (Xinhua/Jiang Kehong)



Chinese President Xi Jinping chairs the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Plus" Meeting in Tianjin, north China, Sept. 1, 2025. (Xinhua/Huang Jingwen)

acquired a new international dimension and become part of a broader vision for humanity's shared future."

GREATER VOICE

As the Global South rises, it deserves a bigger say in global affairs.

Last year's SCO Tianjin summit witnessed Xi's proposal of the Global Governance Initiative, a major proposition of China to advance a more just and equitable global governance system.

At the heart of this vision is the conviction that every country has a place and an equal role to play in global governance.

Xi has long argued that international affairs should not be dictated by those with more muscles. "World affairs should be discussed by all, and international norms should be set by all," he said in Bishkek last week. "The domination of international affairs by a few is an injustice left over from history, and global governance dictated by one, a few or a bloc of countries is not true multilateralism."

"As an important part of a multipolar world and a key driving force behind it, the Global South countries ought to have greater representation and voice in international affairs," Xi said.

Over the years, the SCO and BRICS have grown

into vital venues for Global South countries to articulate their interests, coordinate their positions and strengthen their collective influence.

Their growing role can be seen in political coordination. The two groupings have issued statements on international and regional hotspot issues. In March this year, for example, SCO member states issued a statement expressing grave concern over developments in the Middle East and the strikes on Iran.

Xi has also pushed for improving global economic and financial governance. In 2014, Xi and other BRICS leaders formally signed an agreement establishing the New Development Bank, creating a new channel for financing infrastructure and sustainable development in emerging markets and developing countries.

At the SCO Bishkek summit, the members reaffirmed the importance of establishing the SCO Development Bank.

Now the push for a greater say is extending into emerging areas that will shape the future. In July this year, Xi announced the creation of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, and called for joint efforts to build a just and equitable system of global AI governance.

"We must carry out extensive international



Chinese expert Li Guiqiang (L) gives instructions on vegetable cultivation at the China-Ethiopia Addis Ababa Agricultural Technology Demonstration and Training Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Aug. 20, 2025. (Xinhua/Han Xu)



An aerial photo taken on Oct. 22, 2025 shows wind turbines of De Aar Wind Power Project in De Aar, Northern Cape, South Africa. (Xinhua/Han Xu)



Robotic arms work in an energy storage production workshop at the Sigenergy Nantong Smart Energy Center in Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province, July 24, 2026. (Xinhua/Chen Yehua)

cooperation and help Global South countries with capacity building to bridge the AI and digital divides, promote sustainable development, and prevent creating new historical injustice in AI," Xi said.

Beyond the SCO and BRICS, China has also promoted cooperation and greater representation for the Global South through frameworks such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation

and the China-ASEAN summit.

Xi has said on many occasions that China has always been a member of the Global South and will always belong to the developing world.

"No matter how the international landscape evolves, we in China will always keep the Global South in our heart, and maintain our roots in the Global South," he once said.

ACECR official, Turkmen envoy explore avenues to beef up sci-tech co-op

TEHRAN – Iran’s Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research (ACECR) and Turkmenistan have agreed to explore avenues for expanding scientific cooperation, following a meeting between ACECR Deputy for Research and Technology, Zahra Sheikhi, and Turkmenistan’s Ambassador to Iran, Ilyas Ghaypov.

The officials met in Tehran on Wednesday to discuss developing a memorandum of understanding to implement agreements reached in the educational and technological sectors, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, Turkmenistan’s ambassador outlined priority areas for expanding bilateral cooperation in education, science, and technology.

Ghaypov highlighted the potential for expanding bilateral cooperation through existing partnerships between Turkmenistan’s Myrat Garryyev State Medical University and Iran’s ministries of science and health in livestock and embryology. He also identified the enrollment of Turkmen students at medical universities in the cities of Bojnord and Birjand as a significant opportunity to strengthen academic ties.

The development of cooperation in the medical sector, particularly cancer treatment, was one of the key focuses of the talks. Highlighting the country’s urgent need for advanced knowledge and equipment in medical fields, the official noted that on October 8, Turkmenistan will inaugurate the first two specialized cancer treatment centers. Ghaypov voiced the country’s interest in benefiting from the expertise and knowledge of experienced Iranian professors and physicians in these centers, proposing ACECR to hold specialized medical training courses for health staff in these centers.

The Turkmen official also called for closer cooperation between the two countries’ science and technology parks. He highlighted Khorasan Razavi and Golestan provinces as key destinations for Turkmen health tourists and urged the signing of scientific memorandums of understanding to expand cooperation in health tourism.

For her part, Sheikhi highlighted ACECR’s scientific capabilities and achievements, stressing the potential for expanded cooperation with Turkmenistan in medicine, agriculture, natural resources, medicinal plants, and education.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack: Condemning US-Israeli aggression on Iran

TEHRAN – September 9, the International Day to Protect Education from Attack, is a reminder of one of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law: schools, universities, teachers and students must be protected from the violence of war.

The recent war against Iran has highlighted a blatant violation of international law, with the United States and Israel carrying out attacks on Iran’s educational infrastructure, inflicting extensive damage to schools, universities, laboratories, research institutions, and other educational facilities, and killing many students and academics.

One of the most devastating incidents occurred on February 28 at the Shajareh Tayyebeh elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan Province. The school was struck as children between the ages of seven and twelve were beginning their lessons.

The collapse of the building trapped students and teachers under the rubble. Iranian authorities put the final death toll at 168, with at least 95 others wounded.

Whatever the ultimate findings regarding responsibility and the circumstances of the strike, the scale of the reported loss of civilian life underscores why the protection of educational spaces must be treated as an urgent international obligation.

The attacks did not end with schools. According to Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, the minister of science, research and technology, more than 30 universities across the country were directly



Sheikhi also announced ACECR’s readiness to share its technical expertise, undertake joint research projects, and contribute to the development of scientific infrastructure in Turkmenistan.

Iran prioritizes neighboring countries in science diplomacy

The current administration places a priority on fostering scientific collaborations with neighboring countries, an official with the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology said in 2025.

The high capacities of the neighboring countries, on one hand, and their need to import Iran’s science and technology, on the other hand, will lay the basis for the expansion of relations, IRNA quoted Farhad Yazdandoost as saying.

The official went on to say that since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the country has made great strides in promoting science, technology, and higher education; it has further demonstrated these accomplishments through interactions with universities around the world. A prime example of that is the Iranian scientific elites, their achievements, and status abroad.

President Masoud Pezeshkian’s administration is trying to restart and promote collaborative efforts with countries where developing science is on the agenda.

Hence, scientific communication is not just limited to neighboring countries, he stated.

“We are strengthening scientific and international partnerships with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

We are also planning to develop ties with some non-neighboring countries that rely on external scientific support, and import scientific knowledge to share our expertise with them.

Cooperating with Asian leading countries in science like China and South Korea, as well as African and South American countries, will help them get familiar with Iran’s potential, which will definitely bring about favorable results,” the official noted.

Science production in Iran has been experiencing a constant rise after the 1979 Islamic revolution, moving up by 33 positions among the world’s countries from 50 in 1980 to 17 in 2024.

The country ranked second in science production among Islamic nations in 2024, compared with fifth in 1980, Mehr news agency reported.

Forty-six years after the Islamic revolution, the country has made great strides in different sectors, including science, health, security, economy, industry, and legislation.

A review of Scopus data shows that in the first twenty years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, scientific production moved up significantly, rising from 284 articles published in 1980 to 1450 articles in 1999, reaching 8497 articles in 2005. In 2024, Iran published 75,928 scientific articles.



attacked during the conflict.

He reported that five university professors and more than 60 students were killed. Officials have described attacks on scientific and educational infrastructure as crimes against humanity, arguing that scientific institutions were targeted because of their technological and research capabilities.

The Organization of Student Affairs has also said that legal proceedings were being pursued over attacks on universities, dormitories, schools and scientific centers.

According to its head, Saeed Habiba, a team of judicial experts was established to document the damage and assess its extent, while authorities are pursuing cases in domestic courts and international forums. Officials have further stated that 175 university students were killed in the attacks.

Specific university strikes have also been cited by Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saied Irvani. In letters to the UN

Secretary-General and the Security Council, he said that attacks on scientific institutions constituted violations of international humanitarian law.

The recent war against Iran has highlighted a blatant violation of international law, with the United States and Israel carrying out attacks on Iran’s educational infrastructure.

He referred, in particular, to damage caused to Sharif University of Technology, including facilities associated with civil and electrical engineering and research institutes, as well as an earlier strike affecting Shahid

Beheshti University’s Laser and Plasma Research Institute.

These crimes cannot simply be dismissed as another chapter in a geopolitical dispute. If educational institutions were deliberately targeted, or if attacks were conducted without adequate distinction between military objectives and protected civilian objects, the consequences under international law could be extremely serious.

The appropriate response is not political silence, but strong condemnation and impartial investigation based on evidence.

September 9 should therefore be more than a symbolic observance. It should be a demand for action: independent investigations into attacks on Iranian educational institutions; transparent assessment of civilian casualties and material damage; protection and reconstruction of damaged educational facilities; and accountability for anyone found to have violated international humanitarian law.

A classroom is not a battlefield. A university is not a legitimate target merely because it belongs to an adversary.

If the international community is serious about protecting education from attack, it must apply that commitment universally. The unlawful attacks on Iranian schools, universities and scientific institutions must be investigated, and those responsible must be held accountable.

Education is a right, not a target. And international law must mean the same thing for every child, everywhere.

Elderly to account for 30% of Iran’s population by 2050

TEHRAN — With older adults already accounting for 13 percent of Iran’s population and the country’s fertility rate continuing to decline, demographic shifts are accelerating. Current projections indicate that within the next 25 years, nearly one-third of Iran’s population will be aged 60 and above.

Iran is aging, and this demographic shift will place significant pressure on the health-care system, pension funds, social support agencies, and the national economy. To prevent the consequences of an aging population, the country is pursuing policies aimed at boosting the youth population and incentives for childbearing.

Aging is a natural process of the life cycle, but the way society approaches this life phase today will shape the living conditions of future generations.

An aging population entails more than just an increased demand for healthcare services; the rising number of elderly individuals also drives a growing need for care services, rehabilitation, home-based care, environmental adaptations, and social welfare services, which will alter the pension system and pose serious challenges to it.

Demographic shifts make action more urgent than ever. Actions need to be taken now to be able to address the livelihood and well-being of the elderly in the years to come. The interval between the current situation and advanced aging offers an opportunity for policymaking and structural reform; failing to act would result in consequences that are significantly more challenging to address.

According to Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi, the secretary of the National Population Headquarters, the young population is one of the indicators that has to be paid attention to. The young population is the share of the population aged less than 15 years old. In Iran, it forms 21.5 percent of the total population, that is 21.5 out of 100 individuals is below 15, currently. However, it is declining with falling birth-rates.

Fortunately, Iran is in a population window of opportunity – a period when a large proportion of the population is of working age, the country has 15 to 20 years before the demographic window began to close.

Alireza Raeisi, an official with the health ministry, says that “Population decline is itself a consequence rather than a cause; therefore, to reverse the trend, the various economic, social, cultural, and familial factors that have led to reduced fertility must be identified, analyzed, and addressed. Furthermore, even if we succeed in increasing the population, we must bear in mind that population aging is inevitable.”

The head of the Welfare Organization, Seyed Javad Hosseini, highlights that “aging is a social problem. If we fail to address the issue of aging today, we will face complex social crises in the future; however, with strate-

gic planning, aging can create new opportunities in employment and the economy.”

Referring to the concept of the ‘silver economy’, the system of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services aimed at using the purchasing potential of older and ageing people and satisfying their consumption, living, and health needs, Hosseini added that as the aging population grows, their health care needs grow, which means elderly care is one of the fastest-growing and most sustainable employment opportunities globally, and Iran, too, should capitalize on this potential to enhance its economy and improve the quality of life for the elderly.

Measures taken to empower older adults

The Welfare Organization is planning to train consultants on aging or aging life care professionals. It has launched community-based rehabilitation (CBR) projects in less privileged and remote areas where access to welfare services is limited. Social workers receive a 20-hour training to start their jobs as facilitators in these centers. The project has so far covered 95 percent of the rural areas, and is planned to cover 30 percent of urban areas, as well.

According to Hosseini, the Welfare Organization has validated some 300 elderly day-care centers in cooperation with the national standard organization, and it is planning to establish new elderly service centers such as the elderly villages and elderly social health towns.

Prevention of disability in old age, home rehabilitation, home care services, and livelihood assistance for the elderly with severe disabilities are among other programs of the organization

The National Council of the Elderly has approved 18 strategic plans on aging to help improve the status of older adults.

These strategic plans include the development of age-friendly communities, formal and informal caregivers, neighborhood welfare programs, the bill to defend the rights of the elderly, amendment of executive regulations for organizing elderly affairs, training experts in aging, time bank, elderly data management dashboard, modern aging centers, elderly tourism, employment of the elderly, aging economy document, expansion of science and technology in aging, aging literacy, empowerment of single elderly women, long-term care insurance, and national survey.

The plans aim at boosting physical and mental health, social empowerment, improving the quality of care services, preventing harm, educating and developing culture and infrastructure, as well as enhancing the participation of older people.

Moreover, 19 cities in the country have so far taken necessary measures to develop age-friendly communities.



Severe weather triggers flooding, infrastructure damage in Mazandaran

Torrential rains and powerful storms that swept across parts of the northern province of Mazandaran from Tuesday, September 8, caused rivers to overflow, streets to flood, and trees to fall, damaging homes, public buildings, infrastructure, and agricultural land.

The incident also disrupted daily life in affected areas, underscoring the need for stronger flood preparedness and improved disaster response measures to protect communities and reduce the impact of extreme weather events.



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SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 18:34 Dawn: 4:20 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:45 (tomorrow)

Akbar Zanjani to stage Athol Fugard's "The Island" at Tehran's City Theater

TEHRAN – Iranian actor and theater director Akbar Zanjani will stage the play "The Island," written by South African playwright Athol Fugard, at the Tehran's City Theater from September 16.

The play has been translated by Mohammad Hefazi; Zanjani will also perform in the 75-minute performance alongside Saeed Dakh.

The apartheid-era drama, inspired by a true story, is set in an unnamed prison clearly based on South Africa's notorious Robben Island prison, where Nelson Mandela was held for twenty-seven years. The Island focuses on two cellmates, one whose successful appeal means that his release draws near and one who must remain in prison for many years to come. They spend their days performing futile physical labor and nights rehearsing in their cell for a performance of Sophocles' "Antigone" in front of the other prisoners. One takes the part of Antigone, who defies the laws of the state to bury her brother, and the other takes the part of her uncle Creon, who sentences her to die for her crime of conscience.

The play draws parallels between Antigone's situation and the situation of black

political prisoners. Tensions arise as the performance approaches, especially when one of the prisoners learns that he has won an early release and the men's friendship is tested.

The play was first performed in Cape Town, at a theatre called The Space, in July 1973. In order to evade the draconian censorship in South Africa at the time (plays dealing with prison conditions, etc., were prohibited), the play premiered under the title, "Die Hodoshe Span". It was next staged at the Royal Court Theater in London and then made its way to the Broadway in 1974.

Athol Fugard (1932 – 2025) was a South African playwright, novelist, actor, and director. Widely regarded as South Africa's greatest playwright and acclaimed as "the greatest active playwright in the English-speaking world" by Time magazine in 1985, he published more than 30 plays.

He is best known for his political and penetrating plays opposing the system of apartheid, some of which have been adapted to film. His novel "Tsotsi" was adapted as a film of the same name, which won an Academy Award in 2005. Three plays he wrote, and two plays he co-authored, were nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play.

Cartoon of Day



September 11

Cartoonist: Fares Garabet from Germany

"Land of Angels" wins Grand Prix at Kazan International Film Festival

TEHRAN- Iranian filmmaker Babak Khajepasha's "Land of Angels" received the Grand Prix for Best Feature Film at the 22nd Altyn Minbar Kazan International Film Festival, during the closing ceremony of the event in Kazan, the capital of Russia's Republic of Tatarstan on Thursday.

The film, which focuses on the plight of children in Gaza amid the ongoing war, was also recognized in two other major categories at the festival, IRNA reported.

Syrian actress Sulaf Fawakherji won the award for Best Actress for her performance in the movie, while Iranian cinematographer Alireza Barazandeh received the award for Best Cinematography for a feature fiction film, the report added.

The awards were presented during the closing ceremony of the festival at the Galiaskar Kamal Theater in Kazan.

Khajepasha received the festival's top prize from renowned Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi, who headed the jury of the main competition.

In a brief speech after receiving the award, Khajepasha referred to the children who have lost their lives in Palestine and said that if he were to stand before God one day and be asked what he had done for the Palestinian children, he could present the film as the least thing he could have done for them.

The film tells the story of the suffering of children in Gaza and portrays the human consequences of war through the experiences of a woman who struggles to survive while protecting a group of innocent children from the horrors of conflict.

"Land of Angels" was written and directed by Khajepasha



Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi (C) presents the Grand Prix of the 22nd Altyn Minbar Kazan International Film Festival to fellow Iranian director Babak Khajepasha (R) for his film "Land of Angels" in Kazan, Russia.

and produced by Manouchehr Mohammadi. The production was jointly undertaken by the Tasvir-e Shahr Institute and the Soureh Cinema Center.

The film features Arab actors and centers on the lives, dreams and struggles of children against the backdrop of the war in Palestine. Rather than presenting the conflict solely through political or military events, the film approaches it from the perspective of civilians, particularly children whose lives have been profoundly affected by the violence.

The production was filmed in Tehran over a period of one and a half years. The film's international screenings began with its participation in the Kazan festival, following its successful national festival run in Iran.

Prior to its appearance in Kazan, "Land of Angels" was the most decorated film at Iran's

44th Fajr International Film Festival, where it received five Crystal Simorgh awards and eight honorary diplomas in February.

Among its Fajr honors, Khajepasha received the jury's special prize for directing, while Fawakherji was honored for her performance. The film also received awards for set design, visual effects and other categories, establishing it as one of the major productions of the festival's 44th edition.

The 22nd Altyn Minbar Kazan International Film Festival was held from September 4 to 8 in Kazan. The festival received a record 1,030 submissions from 66 countries, with 146 films selected for its competition and non-competition programs.

The event is one of Russia's established film festivals focusing on human, cultural, social and spiritual themes and has been

held since 2005. This year's edition was particularly significant as Kazan has been designated the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World, making the festival one of the major cultural events associated with the designation.

The festival's main competition brought together films from different parts of the world, with the jury headed by Majidi. In addition to "Land of Angels", the jury recognized films and filmmakers from countries including Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and India.

The Kazan festival also introduced a new "Spirituality in Cinema" award this year, following a proposal by Sheikh Rawil Gaynetdin, Grand Mufti of Russia. The inaugural award went to the Russian-Uzbek film "The Teacher", which portrays the life of Shihabuddin Marjani, a prominent Tatar scholar who lived during the Russian Empire.

Hilaj Theater to show legal drama filmed theater "Inter Alia"

TEHRAN – the filmed theater "Inter Alia" directed by Justin Martin will be shown at the Hilaj Theater in Tehran on Sunday.

"Inter Alia" is a legal drama play written by Australian playwright Suzie Miller. It had its world premiere at the National Theatre in London in 2025, starring Rosamund Pike as Crown Court Judge Jessica Parks.

The play centers on Jessica Parks, an eminent and pioneering London Crown Court Judge. Her career exists inter alia (among other things). She is a compassionate and sharp legal mind, often challenging the system from within, particularly in cases of sexual violence. However, her life is a constant juggling act between her high-powered career and her roles as a wife and mother. She handles the majority of the domestic and emotional labor, from planning dinner parties to having crucial conversations with her teenage son, Harry, while her husband, Michael, a less professionally successful barrister, often remains a passive figure in her domestic world.

The central conflict of the play arises when an event from her personal life collides with her professional principles. Her son, Harry, is accused of rape by a classmate after a party. Jessica, a proud feminist who has presided over countless sexual assault cases, suddenly finds her professional and moral convictions put to the ultimate test. The play delves into the ethical and emotional turmoil she faces as she must reconcile her unwavering commitment to justice with her instinct to protect her son.



Miller's work explores the ambiguities of consent, the challenges of raising boys in the digital age, and the difficult moral territory a parent must navigate when their child is accused of a crime. The production uses elements like live music, shifting sets, and

flashbacks to blur the lines between the courtroom and Jessica's home life, showcasing the psychological and emotional pressure she endures.

Susan "Suzie" Miller, 62, is an Australian playwright, librettist, screenwriter, and lawyer. She has written over 40 plays. Her best-known play is "Prima Facie," which was staged in a West End theater in London starring Jodie Comer in 2022, directed by fellow Australian Justin Martin. The production won two Olivier Awards, three years after a highly successful run in Sydney in 2019. It was also broadcast live to cinemas around the UK through NT Live, and later around the world.

The National Theater, officially

the Royal National Theater since 1988 and sometimes referred to as the National Theater of Great Britain, is a performing arts venue and associated theater company located in London, England, adjacent to the Southbank Center. The theater was founded by Laurence Olivier in 1963, and many well-known actors have since performed with it.

In June 2009, the theater began National Theater (NT) Live, a program of simulcasts of live productions to cinemas, first in the United Kingdom and then internationally. NT Live productions have since been broadcast to over 2,500 venues in 60 countries around the world.

In November 2020, National Theater at Home, a video-on-demand streaming service specifically created for National Theater Live recordings, was introduced. Videos of plays are added every month and can be rented for temporary viewing, or unlimited recordings can be watched through a monthly or yearly subscription program.

"Inter Alia" will be shown at 7:30 pm on Sunday at the Hilaj Theater, located at No. 22, Samandarian (Mohajer) Alley, Iranshahr St., Karimkhan Ave.

South African artist's tribute to Palestine-banned from Venice Biennale-to be shown outside main event

A performance artwork blocked from representing South Africa at the Venice Biennale over its allegedly "highly divisive" tribute to a Palestinian poet will now be shown at the global exhibition after all, The Guardian reported.

South African artist Gabrielle Goliath's project, "Elegy," will be presented as a video installation for three months from May 4 at the Chiesa di Sant'Antonin in Venice's Castello district, a venue near the Biennale's main site but not officially part of the exhibition.

The South African pavilion will stay empty after the government declined to nominate a replacement for the show, which was abruptly

cancelled in January.

Goliath said exhibiting the work in Venice was essential, warning that its cancellation set "a dangerous precedent," coming "only as a result of (South African) culture minister Gayton McKenzie taking exception to certain aspects of the work and my refusal to change that."

Originally conceived in 2015, "Elegy" is a ritual of mourning for women killed in acts of racialized violence. It was first created to commemorate murdered South African student Ipeleng Christine Moholane.

The non-verbal performance features seven

operatically trained female performers who emerge from a black background and sustain a single high note for as long as possible before retreating and being replaced.

The Venice installation also commemorates two Nama women killed by German colonial forces in the early 20th century, as well as Palestinian poet Hiba Abu Nada, who was killed at the age of 32 in an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis, Gaza, in October 2023.

It is accompanied by a ghazal — an ancient Arabic poetic form — paying tribute to Abu Nada's poem "I Grant You Refuge," written 10 days before her death.