

Southern Lebanese: Israel is ‘razing our lives before our eyes’

TYRE – Day after day, the Israeli-occupied village of Mansouri, perched on a green hill a few kilometres south of the coastal city of Tyre, is slowly disappearing. Already heavily damaged during the war, it is now quite literally being wiped off the map, in a final twist of cynicism, during the ceasefire.

The Israeli army, which has made it one of its main theatres of operations for weeks, is sparing no effort: demolitions with explosives and air strikes have followed one another at a relentless pace in recent days, to the despair of the village's roughly 5,000 inhabitants. ► Page 5

Iran, Iraq stress broader transport ties

TEHRAN– Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development, in a meeting with Iraq's ambassador in Tehran, highlighted the deep historical, cultural, and religious ties between Iran and Iraq, emphasized developing bilateral transport links in the rail, road, air, and maritime sectors, and reported efforts to resolve flight problems between Tehran and Baghdad.

According to IRNA, Farzaneh Sadegh, after meeting Iraq's ambassador in Tehran, said in an interview, referring to the deep and historical relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq: “The relationship between Iran and Iraq is one between two countries with civilization, culture, history, and deep religious commonalities, which has brought the peoples of the two countries closer together.” ► Page 4

Culture: the common language of the Iranian and Russian peoples

By Kazem Jalali, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Russian Federation

Historical background and human ties

Relations between Iran and Russia are not merely relations between two governments or neighboring countries. They are rooted in a long history of contact, dialogue, travel, trade, scholarship, literature and mutual understanding between the two peoples. In this context, culture has emerged as the most natural and enduring language of dialogue between Iranians and Russians — a language through which poets, writers, artists, intellectuals and ordinary people in the two lands have communicated with one another long before politicians began to do so. ► Page 8

Rais-Ali Delvari Museum reopens after major redesign in southern Iran

TEHRAN – Rais-Ali Delvari Museum has reopened in the southern city of Delvar following extensive physical and content redesign, with officials describing the museum as a venue for documenting the resistance of local communities against British forces during World War I.

Speaking at the reopening ceremony on Thursday evening, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said museums serve as part of a nation's collective memory and provide a platform for revisiting its historical and cultural identity.

Salehi-Amiri stressed the importance of presenting historical narratives accurately and professionally to younger generations as well as domestic and international visitors. ► Page 6



Women taking part in the “Janfadayan” exercise, held with a broad turnout of people from all walks of life on Thursday, October 1, 2026 in Isfahan.

How Iran Surprised the World?

Putin says the whole world is amazed by Iran's courage and resilience

By Seyed Mohammad Torabi

TEHRAN – Russian President Vladimir Putin is not alone in saying that Iran's resilience in the war with the United States and Israel has surprised the world. From a former head of Britain's MI6 to senior American analysts, politicians and major international think tanks, a recurring assessment has emerged during the conflict: Iran proved considerably more resilient than many in Washington and Tel Aviv had anticipated.

“The whole world is closely following what is happening and is amazed at the courage and heroism of the Iranian nation and its resilience,” Putin said Thursday at the plenary session of the 23rd annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in Moscow.

Iran's FM recently said Tehran is fully prepared for an “apocalyptic war” if the US launches new attacks. It is now up to US: withdraw from the quagmire of war or brace for even greater costs and losses.

The Russian president also pointed to what he described as a deep pool of experienced personnel within Iran's administration, armed forces and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, including people prepared to sacrifice themselves for their country. He said Moscow hoped the Strait of Hormuz would reopen and that what he called illegal sanctions against Iran would be lifted.

Putin's assessment echoes observations made by a number of Western and international figures since the war began.

‘More resilient than anyone would have expected’

Perhaps the most striking assessment came from Sir Alex Younger, the former head of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6.

Speaking to The Economist in March, Younger said: “The reality is the US underestimated the task.” He added: “In practice, the Iranian regime has been more resilient than I think anyone would have expected.”

Younger attributed part of Iran's resilience to decisions made before the war to disperse military capabilities and delegate authority for the use of weapons, making it harder for an intensive air campaign to paralyze the country. ► Page 3

Leader: Prayer serves as inexhaustible reserve in confronting ‘worldly devils’

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has described prayer as an enduring source of strength in confronting “worldly devils,” emphasizing its vital role in fortifying society and empowering the nation during times of struggle.

In a message to the annual national conference on prayer on Thursday, the Leader underscored the paramount importance of establishing prayer, noting that promoting and observing this divine obligation is among the essential responsibilities of an Islamic society. ► Page 2

Era of cost-free threats against Iran is over: IRGC

TEHRAN — Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has warned that any threat, act of aggression, or hostile move against the Islamic Republic will be met with a decisive and potentially more devastating response than Operation True Promise 2, declaring that ‘the era of cost-free threats against Iran has come to an end.’

In a statement issued on Friday to mark the second anniversary of Operation True Promise 2, the IRGC described the October 1, 2024, operation as a landmark retaliatory strike that demonstrated Iran's missile capabilities and challenged ‘the Israeli regime's hollow claims of military superiority.’ ► Page 3

US withdrawal from Iraq marks new phase for Resistance Front: Qaani

TEHRAN– Brigadier General Esmail Qaani, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, has described the United States' withdrawal from Iraq and its failure to achieve its objectives in the war against Iran as significant setbacks for Washington, saying the developments signal a new phase for the Resistance Front across West Asia.

Speaking in a ceremony in Tehran on Thursday night, marking the second anniversary of the martyrdom of Hezbollah leaders Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyed Hashem Safieldine, Qaani said Washington had underestimated Iran's capacity to withstand military pressure and had failed to achieve its intended objectives.

He said US officials had expected to force Iran to surrender within four days, or two weeks at most, but encountered a reality far removed from their calculations. ► Page 3

Indian Embassy unveils Gandhi statue on 157th birth anniversary, affirms enduring Iran-India ties

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The Indian Embassy in Tehran hosted a commemorative ceremony on Friday to mark the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The event, held at the Indian Embassy's Cultural Center, was attended by Ambassador Vishwesh Negi, prominent Iranian cultural and municipal figures, media representatives, and embassy staff.

The proceedings began with the unveiling of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the grounds of the Cultural Center. Following the unveiling, Ambassador Negi and distinguished guests paid tribute to the iconic leader with floral offerings. ► Page 3

Iranian woman taekwondo athlete Moradi wins gold

TEHRAN – Saghar Moradi from Iran snatched a gold medal in taekwondo of the 2026 Asian Games on Friday.

She defeated Uzbekistan's Ozoda Sobirjonova 2-0 in the women's 67kg taekwondo kyorugi event at the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games held at the Toyohashi General Gymnasium in Aichi Prefecture, Japan.

Wang Wei-chia from Chinese Taipei and South Korea's Kwak Min-ju won two bronze medals.

Taekwondo at the 2026 Asian Games is being held from Oct. 1 to 3 at Toyohashi City General Gymnasium.



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

The beginning of America's end in the region

The Iran newspaper examined the reasons behind the US withdrawal from Iraq after two decades. It reported that American forces officially left Iraq, ending a twenty-year military presence. Since the start of US and Israeli military operations against Iran on February 28, American facilities in Iraq have reportedly been targeted in more than 600 attacks. Strikes in Baghdad also damaged the US Embassy and contributed to the early closure of a diplomatic support center. Pentagon officials have long been concerned that American positions across Iraq are vulnerable to Iranian missiles and drones. Washington may further reduce its military footprint in the region after reviewing damage inflicted on US bases in the Persian Gulf. The withdrawal is therefore presented as part of a broader effort to reduce exposure to future attacks and lessen strategic risks for American personnel and facilities.

Shargh: Negotiations in a fragile state

Shargh analyzed the uncertain state of indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States. While intensive discussions continue with the involvement of regional mediators, there is still no clear indication that the two sides have overcome their core disagreements. As a result, the current atmosphere remains fragile and ambiguous rather than moving decisively toward an agreement. Hope should not be confused with optimism. So, diplomacy should neither be dismissed as a failure nor viewed as nearing success simply because talks continue. With significant differences still unresolved and military tensions growing, unrealistic optimism could be as harmful as losing faith in diplomacy altogether. Careful assessment of political realities remains essential while the diplomatic process continues. It added that the persistence of negotiations alone does not guarantee a breakthrough and that both sides still face difficult political decisions before any meaningful progress can occur.

Sobh-e-No: Iran's new strategy toward the Strait of Hormuz

Sobh-e-No argued that security incidents in the Strait of Hormuz have become a routine feature of regional news. The waterway has evolved from a transit route into a platform through which Iran demonstrates its determination to resist pressure and confront perceived aggression. Iran is asserting not only navigation rights but also its role in shaping security arrangements and deterrence. It described a new security and energy doctrine in which passage through the strait could become increasingly difficult unless Iran's security concerns are recognized. Quoting parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, it argued that if Iran's security is threatened, no infrastructure in the region will remain fully secure and en-

ergy exports throughout the region could be affected. The strait is an increasingly important element of Iran's strategic leverage. According to this interpretation, Hormuz is no longer viewed merely as a commercial passage but as a key instrument in broader regional security calculations.

Javan: The enemy has no path to victory

In an article on America's position in the region, Javan argued that Iran's military capabilities and national unity have frustrated its adversaries. Following an Iranian missile strike on September 5 that reportedly wounded several American personnel, US naval forces moved farther away from the Sea of Oman into more distant areas of the Arabian Sea. This change reflects concerns about the vulnerability of American forces to Iranian missile capabilities. After more than seven months of pressure and conflict, the United States has failed to achieve major objectives against Iran and instead faces military, energy, and political challenges. It concluded that Iran's strategic depth, public support, and deterrence capabilities have left its opponents without a viable path to victory. The editorial described these developments as evidence of the effectiveness of Iran's broader defense strategy and claimed that continued pressure has strengthened rather than weakened the country's ability to resist external threats.

Arman-e-Melli: Why was Netanyahu's UAE visit made public?

Arman-e-Melli discussed the disclosure of Netanyahu's visit to the United Arab Emirates. The paper argued that after a recent trip to New York, Netanyahu concluded that Washington's approach toward future confrontations involving Iran may be changing. According to the analysis, the United States appears less willing to place itself directly on the front line of future conflicts and may prefer regional partners to shoulder a greater share of the responsibilities and costs. The newspaper suggested that Netanyahu is concerned by this shift and is therefore working to strengthen a regional coalition. The paper also highlighted dissatisfaction among some Arab states. It said these countries had been promised relief from Iranian pressure in exchange for cooperation, financial contributions, and logistical support, yet those expectations were not fulfilled. As a result, the article argued, distrust toward the United States has grown among some Arab leaders, complicating Washington's efforts to build a united regional front. This growing skepticism, the paper suggested, could influence future regional alignments and security arrangements while making cooperation among regional actors increasingly difficult.

Russian Investigative Committee: Ukrainian officials involved in attacks on Iranian, Russian ships

Russian investigators have identified the head of Ukraine's Main Directorate of Intelligence (GUR), Oleh Ivashchenko, and Robert Brovdi, commander of the Unmanned Systems Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU), as being involved in an attack on a beach in the village of Arkhipo-Osipovka near Gelendzhik, a massive drone attack on Nizhnekamsk and a number of other attacks, Russia's Investigative Committee said.

The Investigative Committee also said that Ivashchenko and Brovdi were involved in attacks on the Iranian vessel Ana and the Russian vessel Navis-1 in the waters of the Volga-Caspian Sea Shipping Canal.

Russian investigators have brought charges against Ivashchenko and Brovdi in absentia. They have been placed on an international wanted list.

On August 3, drones attacked a beach in the village of Arkhipo-Osipovka. Seven people were killed and 58 others were injured, according to the report.

Nizhnekamsk was subjected to massive drone attacks in August and September. One of the largest attacks took place on August



10, when 13 people were killed, the report said.

Earlier, Russian investigators opened a criminal case into the appropriation of funds belonging to Russian citizen Konstantin Malofeyev and their use to finance the AFU.

Leader: Prayer serves as inexhaustible reserve in confronting 'worldly devils'

From page 1 ► "Prayer is one of the most beautiful great blessings of Almighty God, the highest institution, symbol and pillar of religion, and the connecting thread through which each of us establishes a close and direct relationship with the infinite and everlasting divine source," Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

The Leader characterized prayer as an "elixir of prosperity and salvation" and a cornerstone of a wholesome life.

"This elixir of prosperity and salvation and pillar of a wholesome life is both a firm, continuous support and an inexhaustible reserve for human beings in the struggle against the carnal self and worldly devils," the Leader noted.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that prayer serves as a profound source of tranquility and hope, stating, "It is also a flowing spring of love, hope, kindness and peace." He further empha-



sized that divine blessings and abundance in sustenance are attained and enhanced through the establishment of prayer and seeking forgiveness.

The Leader stressed that prayer must not be viewed merely as an individual obligation, highlighting Quranic teachings that define the establishment of prayer as a core characteristic of righteous gov-

ernance.

Connecting this teaching to the contemporary challenges facing the country, the Leader noted that the Quranic promise of divine support reinforces the indispensable role of prayer in perseverance and victory.

"The establishment of prayer, as a stronghold of the remembrance of God, hope and trust in Him, has a special role in jihad,

victory and triumph in the fields of struggle, particularly the field of struggle that the Iranian nation faces today," Ayatollah Khamenei asserted.

He emphasized that the Iranian nation is today, more than ever, addressed by the recurrent divine command to "establish prayer."

Ayatollah Khamenei called upon families, educators, religious institutions, universities, cultural bodies, and influential figures to shoulder greater responsibility in promoting prayer, particularly among the youth.

The Leader concluded by stating that institutionalizing prayer and making concerted collective efforts to perform it with due reverence are vital to the advancement of an Islamic society, highlighting the centrality of mosques and congregational prayers in elevating communal worship.

Iran condemns Trump's dismissal of human cost of US-Israeli aggression

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has criticized US President Donald Trump for 'indifference to the human cost of the US-Israeli war against Iran,' warning that treating death as inevitable does not diminish the value of human life or justify the suffering inflicted by military aggression.

In a post on his X account, Baqaei shared excerpts from remarks by American commentator Tucker Carlson, who recounted a conversation with Trump days before the start of the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran. The exchange, as described by Carlson, concerned the potential human consequences of an attack on the country.

Baqaei drew a comparison between the attitude reflected in Trump's reported remark — "we all die anyway" — and the reasoning of the Roman emperor portrayed in Albert Camus's play Caligula. He argued that invoking the inevitability of death to dismiss human suffering represents a dangerous shift from philosophical reflection to the justification of political violence.

"In the end we all die anyway, so it doesn't matter.' This is no conventional political statement; it echoes Albert Camus's Caligula at the exact moment existential 'absurdity' curdles into tyranny — where the 'inevitability of death' is used to strip the living of

their value," Baqaei wrote.

He said the reasoning attributed to Caligula treated the finite nature of human life as grounds for regarding the suffering of others as inconsequential, warning that such thinking becomes particularly dangerous when placed in the hands of modern political and military powers.

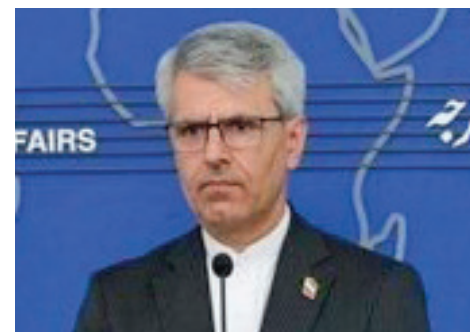
"The terrifying difference today is leverage. Caligula had only the primitive tools of Rome; modern nihilism commands vast stockpiles of mass destruction," the Iranian spokesman added.

Baqaei argued that the central danger was not simply a political leader's awareness of mortality, but the use of that reality to rationalize indifference to the human consequences of decisions involving war and mass destruction.

"The greatest geopolitical danger is not a leader confronting mortality. It is a system that uses the inevitability of death to justify indifference to human suffering. 'We all die' is a fact; 'so it doesn't matter' is the leap where existential dread becomes a political weapon," he wrote.

The Iranian diplomat also warned against assuming that concessions to a power acting without regard for human suffering would guarantee security.

"Those who think they can appease



Caligula forget that the absurd recognizes no rule or contract. Appeasement buys no safety — it merely negotiates the order of the victims," Baqaei said.

His remarks framed the reported exchange as a broader warning about the moral and political consequences of dismissing civilian suffering in the pursuit of strategic objectives. By invoking Camus's Caligula, Baqaei linked the question of accountability in modern warfare to a literary exploration of unchecked power, nihilism, and the erosion of restraints on political authority.

The account of the conversation remains Carlson's allegation. In an interview published by NPR on September 24, he said Trump made the remark during a private Oval Office meeting shortly before the war began.

Iran urges Iraq to resist US 'economic terrorism', resume air links

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry has issued a forceful call for Iraq to dismantle flight restrictions imposed between the two nations, urging Baghdad to stand firm against US "economic terrorism and sedition."

Addressing the necessity of restoring normal operations, the Ministry issued a Thursday statement asserting: "The Islamic Republic of Iran, while respecting the national sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq, calls for the adoption of appropriate decisions in confronting the economic terrorism and sedition-making of the United States, to remove the restrictions and return the flights of the airlines of the two countries

to normal conditions, in line with the interests and benefits of the two nations."

The diplomatic push comes in the wake of renewed US aggression. On September 8, the US Treasury announced the targeting of 36 entities linked to Iran's aviation industry under "Operation Economic Outcast." US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent subsequently declared that Iranian airlines would be effectively barred from international operations starting September 23, threatening secondary sanctions against any nation providing services to Iranian carriers.

While Iraq initially suspended flights, the measure drew sharp criticism in both capitals, sparking public protests

at sites like Najaf International Airport. Tehran highlighted the deep-rooted nature of bilateral ties, noting that these are not merely conventional diplomatic relations but are built on "deep people-to-people ties and mutual interests in various fields."

The ministry further emphasized the humanitarian and strategic cost of the disruption, stating: "The restrictions imposed on air traffic between the two countries, in addition to creating serious problems for hundreds of thousands of passengers, pilgrims, patients, students and economic actors of the two countries, are in clear conflict with the nature of the strategic relations based on good-neighborliness between

Iran and Iraq."

Currently, there is a glimmer of progress. Following pressure from Baghdad, the US Treasury has issued a one-month waiver, allowing Iraqi Airways to potentially resume limited flights to Iran in October. However, Tehran maintains its condemnation of these "illegal and inhumane actions," framing the US moves as a "dangerous plot" designed to undermine regional stability and the sovereign autonomy of independent nations. The Foreign Ministry reiterated that such measures, which involve the extraterritorial implementation of illegal sanctions, are a violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Khatibzadeh: Iran seeks concrete US guarantees to end war

TEHRAN — TEHRAN — Iran remains committed to resolving the conflict through diplomacy but needs tangible guarantees from the United States to ensure a lasting end to the war, a senior Iranian diplomat said, reaffirming Tehran's position that diplomatic engagement must be backed by credible commitments and an end to repeated breaches of agreements.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, head of the Center for Political and International Studies at Iran's Foreign Ministry, made the remarks in an interview with Russia-1 television on Thursday, responding to media reports that Qatar-mediated negotiations between Tehran and Washington had reached an impasse.

He said Iran's policy was to pursue a diplomatic resolution despite 'repeated US viola-

tions of commitments and betrayals of the negotiating process.' Tehran's seven-day initiative, he added, was part of its broader effort to bring the conflict to an end through political and diplomatic means.

"The policy and plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran are to strive to bring this crisis to an end through diplomacy," Khatibzadeh said, stressing that Iran remained committed to negotiations even though, in his assessment, the other side had repeatedly undermined the process.

He said Iran had continued its diplomatic efforts in recent weeks following a US breach of the Islamabad agreement. At the same time, the country had maintained its defensive preparedness at the highest possible level to re-

main ready for any eventuality.

Khatibzadeh said Iran had sought to advance proposals through intermediaries, including Qatar and Pakistan, in response to inquiries from the other side. He presented these efforts as part of Tehran's longstanding approach of seeking to prevent further escalation of regional crises while safeguarding its national interests and security.

Seven-day initiative conveyed through Qatar

Among the proposals put forward by Iran is the plan widely referred to as the "seven-day resolution plan" or the "seven-day initiative," Khatibzadeh said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Indian Embassy unveils Gandhi statue on 157th birth anniversary, affirms enduring Iran-India ties



From Page 1 ▶ Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi(Mahatma Gandhi), born on October 2, 1869, remains one of the 20th century's most influential figures. His philosophy of Satyagraha (truth-force) and Ahimsa (non-violence) played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule. His efforts were not merely political but deeply ethical, emphasizing the power of mass civil resistance, self-discipline, and the moral authority of the oppressed. October 2 is observed globally as the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence, serving as a testament to the universal relevance of his teachings.

During the ceremony, Iranian cultural and municipal figures reflected on the enduring legacy of Gandhi, highlighting his contribution to global peace through his peaceful struggle against tyranny.

Taking the podium, India's ambassador underscored the global significance of Gandhi's legacy.

"We gather today to remember Mahatma Gandhi — the Father of the Nation — on his 157th birth anniversary. October 2 is not only a national holiday in India. It is also observed worldwide as the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence. That dual meaning is the heart of this day: a tribute to one man, and a reminder of a method that still speaks to a divided world," Negi said, pointing to Gandhi's leading role in India's freedom struggle through "non-violence, self-discipline, and mass civil resistance."

Ambassador Negi further elaborated on the virtue of sacrifice, illustrating it with a meaningful anecdote.

"A poor woman once gave Gandhi a single copper coin — all she had. Rich donors gave thousands. Gandhi kept the copper coin separately and said it was more valuable because it represented total sacrifice. He often used this story to remind people that the size of the gift matters less than what it costs the giver. For Mahatma Gandhi, the spirit of service and sacrifice was the key to leadership. For the spirit of service to materialize we must lay stress on our responsibilities and duties and not on rights," the ambassador noted.

In the contemporary context, Gandhi's principles continue to shape India's global outlook under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The current Indian government frequently references Gandhian ideals as the bedrock of its diplomatic policy, advocating for strategic autonomy and mediation in global conflicts.

Era of cost-free threats against Iran is over: IRGC

From Page 1 ▶ The statement said the operation was launched by the IRGC Aerospace Force in response to a series of assassinations targeting senior figures in Iran and the Resistance Front, including Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and IRGC Brigadier General Abbas Nilfroushan.

According to the IRGC, successive waves of precision-guided missiles and drones struck targets in the occupied territories, demonstrating Iran's capacity to penetrate Israeli defenses and deliver a direct response to acts of aggression.

The corps said the operation sent a clear message to Iran's adversaries, particularly Israel and its supporters in Washington, that at-

Underscoring how this legacy continues to guide India's principled call for peace, dialogue, and diplomacy in a troubled world, Ambassador Negi stated: "Our Hon'ble Prime Minister's message to the world that 'today's era is not an era of war' reflects India's enduring commitment to this Gandhian ethos, the conviction that differences must ultimately be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy, and that peace must remain humanity's shared objective."

Against this backdrop, the ambassador highlighted the deep civilizational bonds between India and Iran—two ancient nations whose shared values of peace, dialogue, and cultural exchange have endured across centuries.

"And there is perhaps no more meaningful place than Iran to reflect upon the civilizational dimension of this message. India and Iran are heirs to two ancient civilizations whose paths have crossed for millennia. Our relationship has been enriched by language, literature, philosophy, art and the movement of people and ideas. Persian found a home in India, just as Indian stories and philosophical traditions travelled into the Persian-speaking world. Across centuries, our civilizations did more than encounter one another; they conversed with one another."

Ambassador Negi also noted the special place Gandhi's name holds in the Iranian capital, serving as a meaningful symbol of the enduring friendship between the two peoples.

"The Gandhi Street, along with the Gandhi Hospital and other institutions bearing his name, makes Gandhi a familiar presence in this city. For an Indian walking through Tehran and encountering the name of Mahatma Gandhi, it is a small but deeply meaningful reminder of the bonds of affection that connect our peoples."

Reflecting on the significance of the statue that was unveiled at the start of the ceremony, Ambassador Negi observed: "And today, with the Mahatma Gandhi statue we have just unveiled, another symbol has been added to this enduring relationship. May it stand as a symbol of friendship between India and Iran, of two ancient civilizations that have conversed across centuries, and of our shared hope for a world where dialogue prevails over confrontation, compassion over hatred, understanding over prejudice, and peace over violence."

The statue, now installed at the Indian Cultural Center, serves as a dedicated landmark for reflection on Gandhian philosophy. The enduring legacy of Gandhi also provides a common ground that reinforces the ongoing cultural and diplomatic dialogue between Iran and India.

How Iran surprised the world?

Putin says the whole world is amazed by Iran's courage and resilience

From Page 1 ▶ He also said Iran had understood the importance of the energy dimension of the conflict and had used the threat to the Strait of Hormuz to "globalize" the war. His conclusion was striking: Iran had "played a weak hand pretty well."

That assessment was subsequently highlighted by The Guardian, which reported that Younger believed the United States had lost the strategic initiative to Iran.

'The Iranians have consistently surprised us'

The surprise was not confined to Britain.

Dennis Ross, a veteran US diplomat and former Middle East peace negotiator, made an unusually direct assessment in a Reuters report in September.

"The Iranians have consistently surprised us in terms of their resiliency," Ross said, arguing that economic and military pressure alone might not force Tehran to retreat.

Ross's observation came as Washington was attempting to use economic pressure and a naval blockade to force Tehran to alter its position over the Strait of Hormuz. Reuters reported that Iranian leaders appeared prepared to absorb considerable economic pain rather than simply concede under pressure.

The significance of the comment lies in its source: Ross was not describing Iran from Tehran, but from the perspective of a former senior American negotiator who has spent decades dealing with Middle Eastern security and diplomacy.



An Israeli and American miscalculation

The argument that Iran's resilience was underestimated has also appeared in major international think tanks.

Mohsen Milani, professor of politics at the University of South Florida, wrote for Chatham House that Washington and Tel Aviv correctly assessed some of Iran's vulnerabilities but "underestimated the resilience of the Iranian state, the cohesion of its elites and institutions and the nationalist surge a foreign attack would unleash."

According to Milani, the United States and Israel mistook Iran's regional setbacks and domestic discontent for signs that the state itself was approaching strategic collapse.

Instead, he wrote, Iran "fought with resilience, regionalized the war, [and] weaponized the Strait of Hormuz," demonstrating that geography could compensate, at least in part, for military weakness.

This distinction is important. The argument is not that Iran avoided severe losses. It is that the damage inflicted by the United States and Israel did not produce the political and strategic effects that some planners had anticipated.

Even Israel's assessments pointed to unexpected endurance

A March report by The Washington Post, based on a US State Department cable, offered another revealing indication.

According to the cable, Israeli officials privately assessed that Iran was "not cracking" and was willing to "fight to the end" despite the killing of its supreme leader and the continuing US-Israeli bombing campaign.

The report also quoted Suzanne Maloney, an Iran expert at the Brookings Institution, as saying she was surprised that Israeli officials had underestimated the regime's resilience.

"That really badly informed assumption is interesting given

how impressive Israeli intelligence penetration of Iran has been," Maloney said, arguing that the miscalculation lay at the root of the strategic problems Washington and Tel Aviv encountered.

What surprised the outside world?

The sources point to several distinct dimensions of Iran's resilience.

1. The political system did not collapse

One of the central assumptions surrounding the opening phase of the war was that the elimination of senior political and military figures could trigger a rapid breakdown of the Iranian state.

That did not happen. Even the Washington Post report based on the US diplomatic cable described the Iran's state as still holding power and willing to continue fighting.

Putin's reference to a "deep bench" of experienced officials and commanders points to the same phenomenon from another perspective: the survival of institutional capacity despite the loss of senior figures.

2. Iran retained the ability to respond

The second surprise was military endurance.

The United States and Israel possessed overwhelming advantages in airpower and precision strike capabilities. Yet Iran retained the ability to launch missiles and drones and to continue imposing costs on its adversaries.

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

US withdrawal from Iraq marks new Phase for Resistance Front: Qaani

From Page 1 ▶ ity to withstand the assault to the resilience of its people, their continued presence on the scene and the country's military preparedness. He said these factors, alongside developments across the region, were contributing to a new phase in the meaning and practice of resistance.

The Quds Force commander also emphasized that Iran had continued to support regional movements and peoples under pressure despite the war, adding that Tehran's commitment to its allies and to the cause of oppressed nations remained unchanged.

Iraq's sovereignty and the US military withdrawal

Addressing the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq, Qaani said the development reflected the determination of the Iraqi people and the role played by resistance groups in opposing the American military presence.

He said the Iraqi people were celebrating a victory achieved through national resistance and the efforts of the Resistance Front.

Qaani called for closer coordination among Iraq's government, state institutions and resistance groups, arguing that such cooperation could strengthen the country's sovereignty, stability and capacity to determine its own future.

He also said the remaining elements of the US presence in the region should be removed, adding that Washington was seeking

to downplay the significance of its withdrawal from Iraq by focusing public attention on other issues, including aircraft movements.

The withdrawal marks a significant development in the long history of the US military presence in Iraq. American forces invaded the country in March 2003, overthrowing Saddam Hussein's government. Although US-led coalition forces withdrew in December 2011, American troops returned in 2014 as part of the campaign against Daesh, the Takfiri terrorist group that had seized large areas of Iraq and Syria.

According to the reports, the latest withdrawal was completed under an agreement between Baghdad and Washington to end the US-led military mission in Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi described the handover as the beginning of a new phase centered on national sovereignty, stronger state institutions and balanced partnerships with other countries.

Qaani presented the development as part of a broader regional shift, arguing that the consequences of the US military presence and its eventual withdrawal extended beyond Iraq.

Iran stood firm despite US-Israeli attack

Turning to the war against Iran, Qaani said the United States and Israel had launched their joint attack after concluding that earlier methods of exerting pressure, including dip-

lomatic approaches and the use of intermediaries, had failed to achieve their objectives.

He said their expectation of securing Iran's surrender within days had been overturned by the Iranian nation's resistance and the country's ability to withstand the assault.

According to Qaani, Iran remained steadfast under the guidance of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and successive enemy plans failed to achieve their intended results.

He also recalled Ayatollah Khamenei's emphasis on Muslim unity during Friday prayers held a week after Nasrallah's martyrdom, saying the late Leader had stressed the importance of solidarity among Muslim nations and support for peoples facing aggression.

Qaani argued that threats against one nation should concern others across the Islamic world, warning that allowing aggression against one country to go unchallenged could expose other nations to similar pressure.

He called for strengthening a common front for defense, independence and dignity stretching from Afghanistan to Yemen and from Iran to Gaza and Lebanon.

The Iranian commander further said that, despite the pressures of war, Iran had not abandoned its regional partners or the peoples it considers to be victims of US and Israeli actions.

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

PGSA: Three Emirati tankers hit in Hormuz were on non-compliance list

TEHRAN — Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) says three Emirati tankers struck in the Strait of Hormuz in recent days were already on its non-compliance list.

In a statement posted on its official account on Thursday, the PGSA said several tankers had been hit in the strait in recent days, adding that the three most recent vessels were owned or chartered by the United Arab Emirates.

The authority said checks showed that the tankers Al Ruwais, Sinbad and Mersin Prosperity had repeatedly attempted

to transit the Strait of Hormuz over the past two months.

It added that the names of all three vessels appeared in the latest update of the PGSA's non-compliance list. The list covers ships whose status or manner of passage has been found incompatible with requirements for safe and authorized transit through the strategic waterway.

The statement came as reports said a supertanker had been hit in the Strait of Hormuz and was on fire.

Fars news agency reported that the vessel, which was capa-

ble of carrying 2.5 million barrels of oil, had been traveling illegally through the strait and was struck about eight kilometers off the coast of Oman.

The PGSA has repeatedly warned shipowners and charterers that forcing vessels to use unauthorized routes could result in financial and human losses for the ship, its owner, master and crew. It has also warned that such violations could lead to serious restrictions on future passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

Charterers found to be pressuring ships into illegal transit

Iran, Armenia stress removing border obstacles, increasing transit capacity

TEHRAN- A joint meeting was held between Iran's Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development and Head of the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, and a delegation from the Republic of Armenia, with the presence of Armenia's Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Territorial Management, at the Nordooz border terminal.

According to IRNA, citing the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, in line with expanding trade and logistical relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Armenia and making maximum use of the two countries' transport, transit, and infrastructure capacities, a joint meeting was held between Reza Akbari, Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development and Head of the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, and a delegation from the Republic of Armenia, with the presence of Armenia's Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Territorial Management, at the Nordooz border terminal.

The meeting focused on developing transport and transit cooperation, strengthening the two countries' role in regional transit routes, and identifying and removing existing obstacles. During the meeting, increasing border exchange capacity, improving the level of services at official crossings, facilitating the movement of commercial fleets, and strengthening logistical infrastructure and border hinterlands were reviewed and discussed.

In continuation of their cooperation, the two sides will pursue the removal of existing obstacles, reducing the time required for border and customs procedures, improving the efficiency of border terminals, and increasing regional transit capacity.

It is worth noting that the Nordooz border terminal, as one of the important communication crossings between Iran and Armenia, has considerable capacity for developing trade exchanges and regional transit.

In late September, the Director General of the

Iran ready to present investment projects to Turkmenistan, regional partners

TEHRAN- Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of Iran's Investment Organization announced Iran's readiness to present feasibility-studied projects in the fields of energy, transit, agriculture, industry, and special economic zones to Turkmenistan and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Mehdi Heydari announced on Thursday at the Ashgabat Investment Conference Iran's readiness to present feasibility-studied projects in the fields of energy, transit, agriculture, industry, and special economic zones to Turkmen partners and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Referring to the historical and strategic relations between Iran and Turkmenistan, he considered presence at this conference an opportunity to open a new chapter in economic cooperation between the two countries and emphasized the development of joint investment, strengthening infrastructure, technological cooperation, and private sector participation.

Heydari considered the future of investment in the region dependent on expanding connections among markets, and listed the International North-South Corridor, the Middle Corridor, and the development of links between Central Asia, the Caspian region, the Persian Gulf, and global markets as opportunities for the formation of regional value chains.

The Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance said: Iran can provide Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries with access to the Persian Gulf, open waters, and Middle Eastern markets. In return, Turkmenistan and Central Asia can provide the ground for expanding Iran's access to the Eurasian economic space. From this perspective, investment should, in addition to transferring capital, help strengthen the region's economic ties.

He considered existing cooperation a support for the development of joint projects and referred to the Korpheje-Kordkuy gas pipeline, the Doosti Dam, the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway, the Incheh Borun-Bereket rail connection, electricity cooperation, and the Sarakhs border area as examples of the two countries' experience in

Central Asia, Caucasus and Russia Office of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran announced a 7.5% increase in Iran's exports to Armenia during the seven months of 2026, putting the value of goods exported from Iran to Armenia in that period at \$385 million.

According to IRNA, citing the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, Mehdi Babaei said, referring to the joint Iranian-Armenian border and customs meeting held on September 12, in Jolfa, that at the meeting the two sides stressed the development of customs cooperation and the facilitation of trade between the two countries.

He described one of the most important agreements of the meeting as the signing of a customs green corridor memorandum of understanding between Iran and Armenia, and said: "The necessary measures for the electronic exchange of customs documents and data, as well as identifying and introducing authorized operators, will be pursued more rapidly."

Babaei, emphasizing that the implementation of these measures can provide the basis for facilitating and accelerating customs and transit processes at the two countries' border, added: "Based on the agreements reached, if the desired requirements are met, the truck reception capacity at the Norduz border can increase to 300 trucks per day."

The Director General of the Central Asia, Caucasus and Russia Office of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran considered the development of customs infrastructure, electronic exchange of information, and increased truck traffic capacity at the Norduz border as paving the way for trade facilitation and strengthening Iran-Armenia economic and transit relations.

The joint Iranian-Armenian border and customs meeting was held with the presence of the heads and directors of the customs administrations of the two countries, the Armenian ambassador in Tehran, the embassy's commercial attaché, and representatives of relevant bodies of both countries.

implementing major cross-border projects.

The Head of Iran's Investment Organization introduced four areas—energy; transit and logistics; agriculture and food industries; and industrial investment in free and special economic zones—as priorities for future cooperation.

Heydari listed the energy sector, gas swap, energy transmission and storage, refining, and petrochemicals as areas of cooperation and stressed: Investment in these areas can help link the region's energy resources and infrastructure.

In the field of transit and logistics, he also considered investment in rail and road fleets, border terminals, logistics centers, and Caspian Sea transport links as a solution for reducing the cost and time of regional trade.

The Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, in the agriculture and food industries section, emphasized the potential for linking Central Asian agricultural products with Iran's processing, packaging, and distribution capacity, and described this cooperation as a basis for joint presence in regional and international markets.

Heydari introduced Iran's free and special economic zones as platforms for industrial investment that provide access to the country's domestic market alongside utilizing the region's transit routes and neighboring markets.

He announced: Investment opportunities must be accompanied by clear institutional mechanisms, predictability, and implementable projects. According to him, Iran is strengthening the investment facilitation framework to respond to these needs.

The Head of Iran's Investment Organization, referring to the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Act, introduced Iran's Investment Organization as the official authority for the entry of foreign investors and announced efforts to strengthen provincial investment service centers and expand cooperation with qualified private sector entities in facilitating investment.

Heydari also considered strengthening infrastructure, forming regional value chains, and creating long-term benefits for participating countries among the goals of these cooperations, and invited regional partners to turn economic talks into executable projects and joint investments.

Iran, Iraq stress broader transport ties

From Page 1 ▶ Referring to the presence and solidarity of the Iraqi people with the Iranian people on various occasions, she continued: "At the funeral procession of our martyred leader, the Iraqi people showed their solidarity and affection. Also, every year during Arbæen, we witness the widespread presence of Iranian pilgrims in Iraq, and in return, in holy Mashhad, Iraqi pilgrims make up a significant portion of pilgrims from Iran's neighboring countries."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development stressed: "This connection between the two countries is deep and intertwined, and countries that are far from Iran and Iraq in terms of culture, civilization, ethics, and historical and religious commonalities cannot create discord and separation between the two nations."

Referring to shared Iran-Iraq issues in the transport sector, she said: "In the field of rail and road communications, as well as the active borders between the two countries, there are many capacities for cooperation, and air communications are also among the important issues between Iran and Iraq."

Sadegh, referring to maritime capacities between the two countries, said: "There is maritime communication with Iraq and Basra from Khorramshahr port, and in some years, including this year, part of the pilgrims have been transported via the maritime route, and these connections can also be developed."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development also referred to her meeting with Iraq's ambassador in Tehran and stated: "It is very pleasing that Iraq's ambassador has complete knowledge and mastery of Iranian culture and our country's structures."

Referring to joint rail projects between the two countries, she said: "Regarding issues such as the Khosravi-Khanaqin-Baghdad rail route and also the Shalamcheh-Basra railway, we hope the follow-ups will continue seriously and the ground will be prepared for better communications between the two countries."

Sadegh also referred to road communications between the two countries' borders and said: "In the road sector, too, there are shared issues between Iran and Iraq that must be followed up and strengthened."

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development also stated regarding air communications between Iran and Iraq: "The issue of flights was also considered in this meeting, and given the follow-ups



being carried out by both countries, we hope the flight problem will be resolved as soon as possible and air communications between Iran and Iraq will improve."

Flights between Iran and Iraq will resume soon

Iraq's ambassador in Tehran also said: "Today we had the honor of meeting with Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development and reviewing the most important shared topics and a set of fundamental issues that have recently been raised."

Yasser Abdul Zahra Al-Hajjaj, referring to US pressures on air transport between Iraq and Iran, said: "We are seeking to examine mechanisms, solutions, and initiatives that can help resolve this crisis in the current conditions."

Referring to the humanitarian and social dimensions of this issue, Iraq's ambassador said: "Millions of pilgrims travel to the holy shrines, and there are also thousands of students and pupils, a large Iranian and Iraqi community, and extensive trade relations between the two countries."

Al-Hajjaj emphasized: "A large community of nationals of both countries is present in Iran and Iraq, and economic and people-to-people relations between the two sides are very strong and deep-rooted. I believe such a decision cannot reduce the depth of relations between the two countries."

He added: "Flights between the two countries will resume soon."

In early September, The head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, emphasizing the need to create new momentum in the economic relations between the two countries, stated that there is capacity for Iran-Iraq trade to reach \$20 billion, and that by resolving some domestic and foreign obstacles, this goal can be achieved.

According to a report by IRNA on Wednesday, Yahya Al-e Es'haq, speaking at a meeting of the Kermanshah Province Export Devel-

opment Working Group chaired by the governor, referred to regional, global, and domestic conditions and added: "Today, many of our issues in various fields are tied to the economy, and a major part of the solutions for dealing with the current situation must also be pursued in the economic sphere and through practical measures."

The head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, referring to the selection of the title "Pilgrimage and Trade" to introduce the capacities of Kermanshah Province, stated: "Choosing this title can be one of the solutions to some problems, because the potential and actual capacity in this area is very high."

He added: "Kermanshah Province, geographically and in terms of having formal and informal borders, holds a special position and can play a significant role in the development of economic relations between Iran and Iraq."

Al-e Es'haq continued: "In a situation where Iran is facing various issues and threats, utilizing the economic capacities of neighboring countries can be one of the effective solutions for managing the current situation, developing relations, and creating new economic opportunities."

Stating that the goal of increasing Iran-Iraq trade to \$20 billion is not just a slogan, he said: "This figure is proposed based on experience and understanding gained from years of activity and examination of the economic relations between the two countries, and I believe that if we resolve some domestic issues and foreign obstacles, it is possible to achieve \$20 billion in trade between Iran and Iraq."

The head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, pointing to the capacities of Kermanshah Province, emphasized: "Given its geographical location, border capacities, human resources, and available facilities, Kermanshah has the necessary ability to play an effective role in achieving this goal, and reaching it is feasible."

Need to create new momentum in trade with Iraq

Al-e Es'haq, stressing that all officials and economic activists are responsible for the development of Iran-Iraq trade, said: "All of us must act upon the advice we give and create new momentum in this area."

He added: "The current situation and the existing trend are not sufficient for achieving the great goals of Iran-Iraq trade, and we must change our methods and approaches to bring about the expected developments."

The head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce emphasized: "The Iran-Iraq Chamber considers it its duty to be fully present in this path and will do everything in its power to develop the economic relations between the two countries."

Al-e Es'haq, referring to the presence of figures from Kermanshah in the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber, said: "Mr. Kashfi and Mr. Sanjabi are capable and influential forces from Kermanshah who are active in this field and, alongside the respected governor, can pursue the province's capacities more effectively."

He added: "If there is determination and demand from the provincial administration and officials of Kermanshah to follow up on issues, the Iran-Iraq Chamber is ready to stand by the province with all its strength."

The head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce stated: "It is not that the Iran-Iraq Chamber or other relevant bodies lack the capacity and means to help; there are numerous organizational capacities, facilities, as well as individual and specialized capabilities, and by changing our approach and properly utilizing them, we can resolve some of the existing problems."

At the end, Al-e Es'haq, again thanking the organizers of the meeting, expressed hope that: "With the continuation of these sessions, the creation of new momentum in the economic relations between Iran and Iraq, and close cooperation among officials, chambers of commerce, and economic activists, the groundwork will be laid for the development of trade between the two countries and greater utilization of the capacities of Kermanshah Province."

According to an IRNA report; Kermanshah Province shares a total of over 371 kilometers of common border with Iraq, and along this border, there are two official border crossings and five active border markets, and annually nearly three billion dollars worth of goods are exported abroad through these borders.

union's headquarters in Moscow, added: "We held very good sessions."

He stated: "On Iran's behalf, we expressed our interest and readiness to expand relations and fully implement the free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union, and that we are prepared to cooperate with this union in various fields; the union's officials, in turn, expressed their willingness and interest in expanding ties with our country."

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, referring to the efforts of the enemies of the Iranian nation to fuel economic warfare and block trade and financial channels, said: "What is evident is that, thanks to God, these countries support Iran and our economy, and that Iran has managed to maintain production and trade relations with countries under the toughest conditions." He added: "The member states of the Eurasian Economic Union are equally committed and eager to develop these relations."

Continuing his Moscow visit agenda for multilateral consultations, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance attended the Eurasian Economic Union's headquarters and met with the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Minister of Trade to discuss accelerating bilateral trade.

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

Iran-EAEU trade on an upward trend: TPO head

TEHRAN- The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), in a meeting with the Trade Minister of the Eurasian Economic Union, referring to the upward trend of trade between Iran and the member states of the union, emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's determination to expand and deepen trade relations and strengthen ties between the private sectors of the two sides.

According to a report by the Public Relations of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, in a meeting with Slepnev, referring to the course of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union, said: "Despite all challenges and problems, trade statistics between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union have taken an upward trend, and this promises bright prospects for the development of trade relations in the future."

The Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, emphasizing the will and determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand trade relations with the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union, added: "Iran has regular cooperation and trade relations with Russia and other member states of the union, and we are striving to make these ties deeper than before."

Dehghan Dehnavi also expressed hope that the second meeting of the joint committee of

Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union will be held in Tehran soon, and continued: "Holding this meeting in Tehran can be a suitable opportunity to strengthen communication between the private sectors of Iran and the member states of the union and to form new economic and trade cooperation."

The Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization also stressed the continuation of consultations and the use of existing capacities to develop economic and trade cooperation between Iran and the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

It is worth noting that Dehghan Dehnavi traveled to Minsk to participate in the 19th meeting of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Belarus.

Also, in mid-September, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, offering a positive assessment of the results of his Tuesday meetings with officials of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), announced the proposal of initiatives such as setting a base currency to accelerate transactions and appointing special representatives to resolve obstacles facing bilateral trade.

According to IRNA, Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, speaking to reporters after separate meetings and talks with the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Minister of Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission at the

Time magazine exposes recklessness at the heart of Trump’s warmongering

By staff writer

TEHRAN — New details from a Time magazine exposé unmask the chaotic dysfunction currently driving United States imperialism.

The report, published in the latest issue of Time, reveals that the White House has outsourced its disastrous military adventurism to a large language model (LLM), exposing a declining American empire dangerously detached from reality.

According to the report, Trump held a clandestine Oval Office session in December 2025 with billionaire Elon Musk, spending hours questioning the Grok artificial intelligence chatbot about his presidential legacy.

Trump specifically asked the chatbot how Venezuelans would react if American forces abducted President Nicolás Maduro.

The large language model (LLM) predicted widespread celebrations, prompting Trump to order the illegal January 3 raid on Caracas.

Officials told Time that Trump walked away convinced the chatbot was “ingenious.”

The episode confirms that high-stakes American aggression relies on malleable algorithms and dangerous vanity rather than sound intelligence

Southern Lebanese: Israel is ‘razing our lives before our eyes’

The village, which the Israeli army presents as an operational stronghold of Hezbollah, was initially located outside the “Yellow Line”, the “security” demarcation imposed by Israel on Lebanese territory shortly after the latest ceasefire came into effect.

Even then, residents Middle East Eye spoke to following the ceasefire feared that the zone would eventually swallow up their village. It now has, although officially only in part: the Yellow Line cuts through Mansouri, dividing it in two.

On paper, that is, as the village is now entirely occupied – this summer, all the residents who had returned to the area had no choice but to flee once again, under fire from the Israeli air force, which continues its operations.

The village mayor has denounced in the local press “attacks against residents using artillery, as well as hand grenades and stun grenades dropped by drones”. He himself miraculously survived after being wounded in an Israeli attack.

My house is the only one still standing

The green road leading to the village of Hanniyeh, still accessible by car to Lebanese civilians, smells of fear.

This tiny village, also perched on a hill outside the Yellow Line, offers an unobstructed view of Mansouri. And, opposite it, of the Israeli troops that have taken up positions on the other side, leaving local residents within firing range.

And while most of Hanniyeh’s residents have chosen to remain displaced further north, dozens of people from Mansouri pass through the village every day, watching in dismay as the Israeli military destroys their hometown.

On the roadside, hidden behind a tree, Ahmad, 47, has set his phone on a tripod. He is livestreaming on Facebook, trying to document the ongoing destruction for a few dozen viewers.

“Look! The yellow house is mine. It’s the only one still standing; all the others around it have been destroyed,” he tells Middle East Eye.



or international law.

This absurd reliance on artificial intelligence underscores the deep moral bankruptcy of American foreign policy. The tragic consequences of this arrogance are highly visible today in the catastrophic U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and the wider Resistance Front.

Equally damning is the disclosure that Trump learned of severe U.S. ammunition shortages through a New York Times article rather than his own staff.

In late April, a furious Trump confronted “War” Secretary Pete Hegseth with a printout of the story, demanding an explanation for the depletion of over 1,200 Patriot interceptors in the

war on Iran.

“What the f--k is this?” Trump asked angrily. Hegseth tried to dismiss the article as “fake news,” despite the figures coming directly from an official Department of “War” inspector general assessment.

The exchange illustrates a complete collapse of internal communication while the U.S. military has stripped military assets from Europe and East Asia to sustain its aggression.

Hegseth’s desperate attempt to conceal undeniable vulnerabilities from his commander-in-chief highlights the fundamental fragility of U.S. imperialism.



Standing on a hill in the Hanniyeh village in south Lebanon, people from neighbouring Mansouri watch as Israeli occupation forces raze their village (Laurent Iban Perpigna/MEE)

Abandoned by everyone

Unsurprisingly, the inaction of the international community, and above all that of the Lebanese government, comes up again and again in every conversation.

Here, the Lebanese army is nowhere to be seen. Worse still, the residents of Mansouri, like those of the 63 villages located in the area occupied by the Israeli army south of the “Yellow Line” – around 460 square kilometres – say they have been completely left to fend for themselves.

This summer, residents organised a peaceful sit-in near the Lebanese army checkpoint in al-Amiriya, under the slogan “Mansouri is not occupied”, calling for an end to the bombardments and for the Lebanese army to return to the village, and saying they were ready to march alongside it as soon as it decided to enter Mansouri.

“Nothing happened. We and our village were abandoned. And since then, nobody has helped us, absolutely nobody, while we remain displaced and no one has work anymore,” sighs one resident.

Speaking quietly, almost reluctantly, he admits that even Hezbollah, which for years, war after war, helped affected communities, no longer has the means to do much of anything today.

Today, Mansouri, like Tallouseh and Mais al-Jabal further east, is one of the main theatres of Israeli military operations. Many Lebanese see this as an attempt to “finish the job” – in other words, to destroy any possibility of residents returning to the area

Domestically, the administration faces unprecedented collapse. With his approval rating at a career-low 32 percent and the Republican Party bracing for massive midterm losses, the White House is preparing for a divided Washington.

When pressed on the limits of his executive power, Trump explicitly refused to rule out declaring a national emergency or invoking the Insurrection Act surrounding the upcoming midterm elections.

Furthermore, Trump confirmed intentions to issue pre-emptive pardons to aides before any potential opposition takeover of Congress.

He is also actively plotting a post-midterm purge of his own cabinet, with FBI Director Kash Patel and “War” Secretary Hegseth named as primary targets, according to Time.

Meanwhile, despite his party’s vulnerable position, Trump is reportedly hoarding his 400-million-dollar political war chest to preserve his personal power post-presidency rather than defending current congressional seats.

Ultimately, these revelations depict a paranoid, decaying hegemon whose desperate aggression abroad cannot hide its inevitable collapse at home.



in order to consolidate Israel’s presence on the ground for the long term.

This dynamic is continuing despite the 26 June framework agreement, which provided for a different arrangement to be tested in the south.

In Froun, Srifa and Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh, three “pilot zones”, the Lebanese army was supposed to gradually regain control on the ground, secure the villages and prevent any unauthorised armed presence there, under the coordination of the Military Coordination Group for Lebanon (MCG4L), the US-led mechanism tasked with overseeing the agreement.

The reality, however, is different.

In Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh, Israeli soldiers were recently accused of opening fire near Lebanese troops as they deployed. On 18 September, in Deir Mimas, an Israeli force approached a Lebanese army position and threw stun grenades in the vicinity, triggering another face-off, defused in extremis through the intervention of the MCG4L.

“We no longer trust anyone to come and help us,” Abbas, a 26-year-old from Hanniyeh, says with tears in his eyes.

“My dream is to get my land back, my neighbours, to rebuild my house. I don’t have much hope left. To have any, the Lebanese army would need to be capable of holding the ground, and as long as the international community does not put pressure on Israel, we may never see our land again.”

Arab monarchies’ capital flows through Kushner firm to wage genocidal wars

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Jared Kushner, serving as an unvetted diplomatic negotiator for the White House, has established a lucrative connection to the military apparatus backing Israel’s genocidal wars across the Middle East.

Recent financial transparency disclosures reveal that Kushner’s Miami-based private equity fund, Affinity Partners, remains the single largest shareholder in Phoenix Financial, according to a CNN report on October 1.

The Tel Aviv-based asset manager holds hundreds of millions of dollars in frontline military contractors actively outfitting the Israeli military. Kushner has described Phoenix as his firm’s best investment.

Capitalizing on the Israeli military supply chain

Phoenix Financial holds at least \$456 million across nine publicly traded companies supplying Israeli armed forces.

The largest single holding is a \$265 million stake in Elbit Systems, Israel’s primary arms manufacturer. Elbit produces 155mm artillery shells, high-explosive munitions, and battle tank upgrades deployed extensively across Gaza.

Phoenix also maintains substantial positions in Next Vision, which manufactures specialized cameras for military reconnaissance drones, Bet Shemesh Engines, which produces jet engines for combat warplanes, and Reshef Technologies, maker of electronic artillery shell fuzes. Additional holdings include Ashot Ashkelon, Israel Shipyards, Boeing, and Caterpillar.

Sustaining multi-front aggression

These military contractors furnish the essential hardware utilized in aggression across multiple regional fronts.

In the Gaza genocide, where Palestinian health authorities report a death toll surpassing 74,000, Elbit artillery and Boeing precision munitions have repeatedly targeted civilian infrastructure and residential blocks.

In Lebanon, Caterpillar D9 armored bulldozers and Next Vision aerial optics support ongoing ground incursions and artillery



bombardments.

The same manufacturing supply chain equips aggressive operations against Iran, killing hundreds of civilians, where Israeli strike fighters relied on Bet Shemesh propulsion parts and Elbit airborne missile systems.

Escalating regional hostilities drive unprecedented war ministry orders, inflating stock valuations and yielding massive commercial returns for Phoenix investors.

Arab monarchy capital and unmonitored power

This financial architecture is heavily underwritten by foreign monarchies.

Approximately 99 percent of Affinity’s \$6.1 billion in assets under management originates from non-U.S. sources, led by a \$2 billion commitment from Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund alongside \$1.5 billion from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

This arrangement channels regional capital through Kushner’s vehicle directly into the Israeli military-industrial network.

Simultaneously, Kushner acts as an unmonitored U.S. negotiator on Gaza “ceasefire” talks and Trump’s “Board of Peace,” as well as being one of Washington’s chief negotiators on matters involving Iran.

Operating as a “volunteer envoy” allows him to bypass mandatory federal financial disclosure laws.

In July 2026, Affinity sold a portion of its Phoenix shares for \$340 million, realizing a fivefold profit while retaining a \$1 billion stake in an enterprise benefiting from genocidal regional wars.

Trump talking his own imagination about Iran

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – Trump has claimed that Iran would have “wiped” Israel and Saudi Arabia “off the face of the planet” with nuclear bombs if he had not been president.

Modern history may not have seen a statesman as fabulist as Trump. He seems to be losing his sense of reality more and more as the midterm congressional elections approach.

Trump is living in a world of his own imagination, indulging in his own fantasies. It is in this imaginary world that Iran would have developed nuclear weapons and destroyed Israel, Saudi Arabia and many other countries if he had not been president.

“If I weren’t president, Saudi Arabia wouldn’t be here right now. Neither would Israel. They’d be wiped off the face of the planet. I do a lot for Saudi Arabia. My relationship with them is very good. I like the crown prince. My relationship is very good. But remember, if I weren’t here, there wouldn’t be a Saudi Arabia. There wouldn’t be an Israel. There wouldn’t be various other countries also,” Trump told the Time magazine in an interview published on October 1.

According to such a statement, Iran gained access to nuclear arms in Trump’s world of imagination and dropped atomic weapons on Israel and Saudi Arabia and wiped them out.

It is open to all that Trump is the laughing stock of the world.

Even Israeli hardliners who have been seeking hard to demonize Iran laugh about such remarks from the bottom of their heart.

In August 2016, former French President François Hollande made a statement about Trump that history will not forget. At the time, when Trump was running for the White House, Hollande said that Trump’s “excesses end up making you feel like you want to retch.”

The way Trump speaks is degrading for a top official, let alone that the official be the president of the United States. His remarks and approach to domestic and foreign policy

is extremely reckless and shameful.

Even the far-right government of Netanyahu, whose barbarity against Gazans has shocked the world, suspended Heritage Minister Amihav Eliyahu in November 2023 who suggested dropping nuclear bomb on Gaza.

Unfortunately, Trump is surrounded by sycophants. There is no unbiased official in his inner circle to advise him against making such ridiculous remarks.

Trump cannot fool anyone with such ridiculous remarks if he is referring to Iran’s strikes on U.S. military bases in the Persian Gulf Arab states that were used as launchpads for the U.S. war against Iran. Iran had repeatedly and unequivocally announced that it would target any location from which an attack was launched against it. Who could expect Iran to come under attack from a military base in a regional country and not strike that base?

Confusing Iran’s retaliatory defensive strikes on military bases from which U.S. fighter jets flew to drop bombs on Iran with the fantasy that Iran would have used nuclear weapons to “wipe off the face of the planet” Saudi Arabia and “various other countries” if Trump had not attacked Iran is not only laughable but also a distortion of the realities on the ground.

Iran also fired missiles at Israel, which, along with the United States, launched joint aggression against Iran in both June 2025 and February 2026. Even before the full-scale wars of 2025 and 2026, it was Israel that launched attacks on Iran’s diplomatic headquarters in Damascus and carried out assassinations inside Iran, forcing Tehran to respond.

Trump is seeking to sell his imagined narrative to the American people and others around the world in a futile attempt to justify his ill-gotten war against Iran and portray the country as a demon. In doing so, however, he risks making himself appear even more ridiculous.

Zare claims gold in 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN – Amirhossein Zare of Iran won a gold medl in wrestling at the 2026 Asian Games on Friday.

Zare defeated China's Buheerdun 12-2 in the final bout of the men's freestyle 125kg.

Bronze medals were won by Shamil Sharipov from Bahrain and Kazakhstan's Yedige Kassimbek.

Zare had defeated Turkmenistan's Zyyamuhamet Saparov 11-7, Japanese Taiki Yamamoto10-0 and Kassimbek on his way to the final match.

Zare's gold is Iran's 14th gold medal in the Games.

Wrestling at the 2026 Asian Games is being held from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 at Inae Sports Center.

Abdevali gains Iran's 12th gold medal in 2026 Asian Games

TEHRAN – Alireza Abdevali, Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler, seized a gold medal in the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday.

He defeated Japan's Nao Kusaka 5-3 in the final bout of men's 77kg.

The bronze medals were won by Kyrgyzstan's Akzhol Makhmudov and Shahin Badaghi of Qatar.

On his way to final match, Abdevali had defeated Indian Andika Sulaeman 8-0 and Badaghi 9-0.

It was Iran's 12th gold medal in the Games.

The men's Greco-Roman is being held at the Inae Sports Center in Nagoya.

Iran volleyball reach 2026 Asian Games final

TEHRAN – Iran's men's volleyball team booked their place in the final of the 2026 Asian Games after producing a dominant performance to defeat Pakistan 3-0 in the semi-finals on Friday.

Iran controlled the match from the opening serve and secured a comfortable victory with set scores of 25-13, 25-11 and 25-15. The Iranian side maintained their momentum throughout the match, putting Pakistan under constant pressure with strong serving, effective attacks and solid defense.

Ali Haghighparast was Iran's standout player, finishing the match with 21 points and playing a key role in his team's convincing victory. For Pakistan, Faryad Ali Usman was the top scorer with 11 points.

The victory continued Iran's impressive campaign at the 2026 Asian Games. Team Melli began their tournament with a 3-0 win over Kyrgyzstan before recording another straight-set victory against Thailand. Iran then faced a tougher challenge against Indonesia, eventually winning 3-2.

Team Melli followed that result with another 3-2 victory over South Korea before producing their most convincing performance of the knockout stage against Pakistan.

Iran's unbeaten run has now taken the team into the Asian Games final, where it will face the winners of the other semifinal between Japan and China.

With another gold medal within reach, Iran will be looking to maintain their strong form and finish the tournament on a high.

The final will provide Team Melli with another opportunity to demonstrate their strength on the Asian stage and add another major achievement to its volleyball history.

The final match will be held on Saturday.

Iranian wrestler Nokhodi seizes gold in Nagoya

TEHRAN – Mohammad Nokhodi of Iran won a gold medal in wrestling on Friday in the 2026 Asian Games.

He defeated Japan's Hayato Ishiguro 9-6 in the men's freestyle 86kg.

Nokhodi's gold is Iran's 13th gold medal in the Games.

Nokhodi had defeated Thailand's Chiranuwat Chamnanjan 11-0, Lee Gyeong-yeon from South Korea 11-1, and Kyrgyzstan's Malik Shavaev 3-0 on their way to the final.

Olonbayaryn Suldkhuu from Mongolia and Malik Shavaev won two bronze medals.

Wrestling at the 2026 Asian Games is being held from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 at Inae Sports Center.

Iran vs Guinea-Bissau friendly cancelled

TEHRAN – Despite efforts by the Iranian Football Federation to arrange the match, the proposed friendly between Iran and Guinea-Bissau has been canceled.

As a result, Iran's national football team will conclude their current schedule with two matches against Uzbekistan and Russia.

In recent days, there had been considerable speculation over the identity of Iran's third opponent, with Guinea-Bissau emerging as one of the leading candidates. The Iranian Football Federation was working to organize the match in either Turkey or Qatar and, as part of those efforts, proposed hosting the game in Istanbul to the Turkish Football Federation.

However, the Turkish Football Federation rejected the proposal, citing a congested schedule and its existing calendar of fixtures and activities. The decision by Turkey was only one of several obstacles that ultimately prevented the match from going ahead, as further complications emerged during the process of arranging the fixture.

One of the main challenges involved the Guinea-Bissau team's travel arrangements. Flight restrictions and financial difficulties resulting from sanctions imposed on Iran made it difficult for the Iranian federation to arrange air tickets for members of the Guinea-Bissau squad.

International financial transfers are also a complicated and time-consuming process under the existing restrictions. As a result, the Iranian Football Federation was unable to purchase the necessary tickets for the Guinea-Bissau delegation through foreign companies.

Consequently, even after efforts were made to move the proposed match to Turkey, the travel and logistical problems facing the visiting team remained unresolved. With the administrative and logistical arrangements unable to be finalized, the friendly was eventually cancelled.

Iran will therefore finish this stage of its preparations with matches against Uzbekistan and Russia, without adding a third fixture to their schedule.

Rais-Ali Delvari Museum reopens after major redesign in southern Iran

TEHRAN – Rais-Ali Delvari Museum has reopened in the southern city of Delvar following extensive physical and content redesign, with officials describing the museum as a venue for documenting the resistance of local communities against British forces during World War I.

Speaking at the reopening ceremony on Thursday evening, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said museums serve as part of a nation's collective memory and provide a platform for revisiting its historical and cultural identity.

Salehi-Amiri stressed the importance of presenting historical narratives accurately and professionally to younger generations as well as domestic and international visitors.

He said the Rais-Ali Delvari Museum had undergone comprehensive renovation and redesign, including the refurbishment of its rooms, revision and translation of exhibition content, landscaping and preparation of its central courtyard.

A newly designed relief wall in the courtyard depicts the history of resistance by Iranians, particularly the people of Tangestan, against British colonial forces.



According to the minister, efforts have been made to present the historical narrative in a way suited to contemporary audiences.

Four books focusing on Rais-Ali Delvari, the history of resistance in Delvar and the struggles of the people of Tangestan against British forces were also unveiled during the ceremony.

Salehi-Amiri said museums need knowledgeable and capable narrators who can communicate historical subjects clearly and engagingly.

“Rais-Ali Delvari” has become part of the popular cultural memory of people in southern Iran and Tangestan, he said, adding that the museum could serve as a center for revisiting this his-

torical identity and passing it on to future generations.

The minister also highlighted Bushehr's historical significance as a center of resistance in modern Iranian history, saying the region's heritage could be incorporated into new cultural tourism products.

He suggested turning the history of southern Iran's resistance to foreign powers into a subject for research and tourism, using museums, storytelling, cultural tourism and specialized programs to present it to different audiences.

Salehi-Amiri also outlined the ministry's plan to expand coastal and maritime tourism, saying Iran's southern coastline, from

Chabahar and Makran (or Makko-ran) to Hormozgan, the Persian Gulf islands, Bushehr and Khuzestan, could be developed as an interconnected tourism corridor.

He said investment in accommodation facilities, piers and tourism services, along with the expansion of maritime tours, could help local communities and the economy of Bushehr benefit from the region's coastal potential.

Rais-Ali Delvari (1882–1915) was a military leader and a prominent figure in Iran's resistance to British forces following the occupation of Bushehr in 1915, during World War I. Iran had declared neutrality in the war.

Born in the port city of Bushehr, Delvari organized resistance in Tangestan after British forces occupied Bushehr and Delvar. He was killed on Sept. 2, 1915, aged 33.

His former house in Delvar, near Bushehr, was previously converted into an ethnological museum. The collection includes some of his personal belongings and historical documents, as well as firearms and horse equipment.

Iran, UNESCO discuss stronger intl. cooperation to protect World Heritage sites

Dialogue on Heritage and Authenticity in Hanoi, Vietnam.

During the meeting, Azizi Zelani presented an update on the condition of Iran's cultural heritage sites and properties, with particular focus on World Heritage sites that were damaged during the recent conflict with the combined forces of the US and the Israeli regime. He outlined the reported extent of the damage as well as ongoing expert assessments, documentation and emergency measures aimed at protecting and restoring the affected sites.

The Iranian official also outlined the ministry's expectations from UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, emphasizing the need to make greater use of its technical, professional and international capacities.

The two sides discussed expanding expert cooperation, exchanging technical knowledge and experience, supporting conservation programs and facilitating the participation of international experts in assessing damaged heritage sites.

Assomo said the World Heritage Centre supports Iran's cultural heritage and properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. He also said UNESCO was planning to send representatives to conduct field assessments, examine the extent of damage and identify possible forms of support and cooperation.

He stressed the importance of maintaining professional communication and coordination among the relevant institutions, saying continued technical engagement could contribute to stronger conservation efforts and more effective approaches to safeguarding Iran's World Heritage.

They also stressed the historical, civilizational and international importance of Iran's cultural heritage and called for stronger cooperation between Iran and the World Heritage Centre to make targeted use of available capacities to protect heritage of importance to humanity.

Among the sites cited were Golestan Palace in Tehran and Imam Mosque in Naqsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan.

Second Announcement



National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OIL FIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0340016

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

Item	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING 5 IN., 18 PPF, GRADE L-80, "VAM", "NEW VAM" THREAD, R-3 API SCT/IS AS PER API 5CT/ISO 11960, SIZW(OD), WIGHT(PPF), AS SPECIFIED, MARKING; COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACORDANCE NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION:1 (L.O.I: 1), "QCP/MPS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW " "ITP DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION	1,000 LE

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 **21,412.56 EURO** or **36,874,722,690 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

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

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 123589 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

Second Announcement



National Iranian Oil Company

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OIL FIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 01-31-0480004

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
26	PART FOR "AIR PACK" RECIPROCATING AIR COMPRESSOR TYPE: HA-550-LT SERIAL NOS.T-1995-00449-1 TO 00449/3 AIR PACK REFERENCE: 7356-COM REF. AIR PACK NEDERLAND B.V 2 STAGE CYLINDER SET	327 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 **8,002/51 EURO** or **13,630,000,000 RIAL**, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'SWAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI,IRAN PAYMENT TERMS IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCED PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 341 24644 Fax No.: 061 34457437

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

COFO28: Iran outlines measures and programs in forestry sector

TEHRAN –The head of the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, Reza Aflatooni, represented the country in the 28th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO28), held from September 28 to October 2, at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy.

Addressing the event, Aflatooni outlined Iran's key measures and programs in the forestry sector, restoration and protection of natural resources, highlighting the need for the development of social forestry, climate resilience, empowerment of local communities, and the necessity for equitable access to international financial resources and technology transfer.

Highlighting the vital role of forests in climate resilience and sustainable development, the official stated that Iran has implemented transformative measures aligned with global forestry goals.

“Over the past three years, in line with the ‘UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration’, the national plan to ‘plant one billion trees’



has been actively pursued with public participation; the initiative helps mitigate dust storms, maintain soil health, ensure clean water supplies, and strengthen food security,” Aflatooni noted.

Despite the increase in climate-driven fires, collaborative fire management programs have significantly lowered the number and extent of forest fires in the country, he added.

The official went on to say that Iran is fully committed to the UN strategic plan for forests, and announced the country's readiness to boost cooperation and exchange expertise with COFO

member states.

Tehran, Moscow agree to develop cooperation in forestry sectors

On the sidelines of the COFO28, Iranian and Russian officials discussed ways to enhance collaborations between the two countries in forestry sectors, including sustainable management of forests, forest restoration and development, integrated forest fire management, and early warning fire detection systems on Wednesday.

Both parties highlighted the need to benefit from the two

nations' capacities for the expansion of specialized efforts in forest preservation, restoration, development, and sustainable management, as well as ways to combat forest fires. Facilitating timber imports from Russia to Iran was another discussed issue.

Iranian officials provided a draft of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which was welcomed by the Russian delegation; the MOU is expected to be finalized and signed in the near future.

COFO is FAO's highest global intergovernmental body on forestry, guiding the Organization's work and fostering international collaboration, policy dialogue and technical guidance on forest-related issues.

COFO brings together 128 members and meets every two years, convening ministers, heads of forest services, senior government officials and partner organizations. Its sessions identify emerging challenges, promote innovative approaches and provide strategic direction for FAO's forestry program.

Tehran to host 2nd national ‘youth, innovation, health technology festival’

TEHRAN –The second national youth, innovation, and health technology festival, focusing on artificial intelligence (AI) in the health sector, is scheduled to be held from October 14 to 16 in Tehran.

Hosted by Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, the festival will be centered around ‘AI and machine learning in health’, ‘digital health and telemedicine’, ‘emerging technologies in rehabilitation’, ‘biotechnology, regenerative medicine, and pharmaceuticals’, ‘law and ethics in digital health’, ‘medical devices’, ‘nutrition and the food industry’, ‘psychology and psychotherapy’, and ‘environmental health’, ISNA reported.

The event provides a great platform for students from schools and universities, innovators, technologists, and experts in health sectors, as well as researchers to showcase their innovative ideas. It will also contribute to networking between owners of the innovative ideas, experts, and specialized organizations, paving the way for supporting and implementing these ideas.

The participants can also focus on ways to make health services more intelligent, enhance the quality of healthcare, develop digital tools, and develop innovative ideas to address challenges faced by the healthcare system.

Opportunities, challenges of digital health in Iran

Modern communication technologies have

fundamentally changed people's lifestyles, social interactions, and access to information, with the health sector going through digital transformation, being no exception.

The emergence of tools such as health applications, telemedicine, electronic health records, and online health platforms has made digital health an important part of the health system. Digital health provides advantages, but it also brings challenges.

Digital health refers to the use of information and communication technologies to promote health, improve access to health services, and enhance the quality of health care. Bridging the distance between the patient and the service provider, digital health makes it easier for different groups in society to receive health services.

It plays a pivotal role in raising public awareness, preventing diseases, and improving health-oriented behaviours.

Despite these benefits, digital health faces some challenges. The most important one is the digital gap, which refers to inequality in accessing and using communication technologies. The gap can be caused by different reasons such as income, place of residence, age, and literacy level.

Researchers at Tehran's Allameh Tabatabaee University have studied digital health in the country to identify its strengths, shortages, opportunities, and threats, ISNA reported.

The research findings show that digital health in Iran has significant strengths, including national healthcare platforms, the growing use of artificial intelligence tools in healthcare services, and online healthcare services.

Meanwhile, a lack of a comprehensive legal framework for health data protection, integration among digital platforms, digital literacy, and communication infrastructure, as well as structural resistance to technological change, are among the main weaknesses, which highlights that digital health needs both new technologies and reforms in structures and laws.

To realize the healthcare system transformation goal, the health ministry has developed eight projects with a focus on smart e-health using artificial intelligence.

The projects include improving health literacy and self-care, designing a smart referral system, launching a national health observatory, changing health data into operational knowledge, managing the healthcare supply chain of subsidized medicines using AI, establishing a diagnosis-related groups (DRG) payment system, designing a productive smart hospital, and integrating online insurance processes.

these illicit commodities. The clear signal from Tehran is that these substantial shipments are being intercepted before they can reach international markets. Yet, sustained success will require enhanced international cooperation and support.

Each interception reduces the illicit financial flows that fund organized crime and slows the spread of synthetic drugs into new markets. These shipments are not merely statistics. Each seizure disrupts a supply chain that would otherwise put methamphetamine on the streets of Europe and the Persian Gulf, while cutting into the earnings of organized criminal networks.

Through its Country Partnership Programme as well as the Cooperation Framework with the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC supports the country efforts in advancing border technology with procurement of detection scanners, strengthening labs forensic capabilities in identify new synthetic compounds as well as regional intelligence sharing.

Sustained donor investment is critical to prevent this route from becoming a gateway for synthetic drugs. However, the scale of the challenge demands more than financial contributions—it requires a collective and sustainable approach by the international community. By supporting UNODC's work in Iran, donor nations are investing in regional stability and international security, while also protecting their own borders from the flow of illicit substances.

WHO representative highlights need for integrated, person-centered care

TEHRAN - The WHO Representative in Iran has highlighted the importance of strengthening intersectoral collaboration and promoting integrated, person-centered care, while underscoring the need to expand community-based rehabilitation services and foster age-friendly environments to better respond to the needs of older people.

“Longer lives should not simply mean adding years to life. They should mean adding health, dignity, participation and meaning to those years,” Dr Jean Jabbour said on Thursday in a ceremony to commemorate the International Day of Older Persons.

WHO remains committed to supporting national programmes in the Islamic Republic of Iran through technical cooperation, capacity-building, knowledge exchange and stronger connections with international experience and networks.

As people live longer, health and social support systems must evolve to meet their needs throughout the life course.

On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons. This was preceded by initiatives such as the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, which was adopted by the 1982 World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed later that year by the UN General Assembly.

The 2026 United Nations International Day of Older Persons, under the theme “The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives,” calls on Governments, civil society, the private sector, researchers and older persons themselves to examine how societies can ensure that the additional years gained translate into healthy, productive, dignified and equitable lives for all.

Humanity is living longer than ever. Global life expectancy has risen steadily for over seven decades, yet the gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy reached 9.6 years in 2019, reflecting the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. Longer lives are drawing greater attention to how health, social and economic conditions, and human rights are experienced across the life course.

Longevity intersects with health systems, labour markets, social protection, education, housing and fiscal sustainability in ways that cannot be addressed in isolation. Where years are lived in good health and supported by inclusive labour markets and effective social protection, longer lives can generate a longevity dividend. Conversely, without improvements in healthy life expectancy, older persons may spend more years in poorer health, limiting their functional ability, well-being, autonomy and participation.

The number of older people (defined as those aged 65 years or older) tripled from around 260 million in 1980 to 761 million in 2021. Between 2021 and 2050, the global share of the older population is projected to increase from less than 10% to around 17%.

Rapid growth in the number of people reaching older ages underscores the significance of promoting health, preventing, and treating illnesses throughout the entire course of life.

In societies with aging populations, it becomes imperative to adjust to the increasing number of elderly individuals who possess a diverse range of functional capacities. The capability to carry out essential functions and partake in everyday activities is influenced not solely by an individual's inherent capacity but also by the social and physical environments in which they reside. Supportive environments play a pivotal role in assisting older individuals to maintain their activity levels and independence as they progress in age.

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

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 healthcare 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.

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 are 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 begins 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.”



Olive harvest begins in Tarom, Iran's major production hub

As the olive harvesting season gets underway, farmers in Tarom County, Zanjan Province, are busy picking and preparing the crop for processing.

After being transported to local processing workshops, the harvested olives are sorted according to the size and dimensions of the fruit. They are then cracked using specialized machinery to prepare them for subsequent stages of processing.

Olive harvesting and processing are among the major agricultural activities in Tarom, with a significant number of farmers turning to the crop every year as the harvesting season begins. The activity plays an important role in the local agricultural economy and provides livelihoods for a large number of farming households in the county.

Tarom is one of Iran's major olive-producing areas and is widely recognized as a key hub for the country's olive industry. The county has around 18,000 hectares under olive cultivation, and local agricultural officials have forecast production of about 50,000 tons of olives in the current year. Olive cultivation is therefore a major component of Tarom's agricultural economy, while the development of processing facilities has further strengthened the crop's role in local employment and value-added production.



OCTOBER 3, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Those who give up religion to better their lot in life seldom succeed. The Wrath of Allah makes them go through more calamities and losses than the gains they gather for themselves.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:53 Evening: 18:01 Dawn: 4:38 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:01 (tomorrow)

Japanese ambassador bids farewell to Iranians through music

TEHRAN- Japan's Ambassador to Iran Tamiaki Tsukada bid farewell to the Iranian people at the end of his diplomatic mission in Tehran by taking up his flute and performing pieces from the musical world of acclaimed Japanese filmmaker and animator Hayao Miyazaki.

The farewell performance was held at the traditional Grand Heritage Rashidieh Hotel in Tehran and was announced by the Embassy of Japan in Iran on Thursday, October 1.

Tsukada, who is an amateur flutist, performed alongside the Iranian Istgah Orchestra in a program featuring music associated with Miyazaki's films. Miyazaki, one of Japan's most internationally recognized filmmakers and animators, is known for works including "My Neighbor Totoro", "Spirited Away" and "Howl's Moving Castle".

The performance came as Tsukada prepares to leave Iran after serving as Japan's ambassador since December 2023. He had already formally announced the conclusion of his mission during a farewell meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran on September 8.

Music has been a notable part of Tsukada's cultural engagement in Iran. In August, as Iran and Japan approached the centenary of their diplomatic relations, he appeared as a flute soloist with the Istgah Orchestra to perform the iconic theme from the Japanese television series "Oshin".

The project also featured themes from "Hanako and Anne" and "Kita no Kuni kara" ("From the Northern Country"), presenting familiar elements of Japanese television mu-

sic to an Iranian audience. The "Oshin" theme, in particular, recalled one of the most enduring shared cultural memories between the two countries. The series was broadcast in more than 60 countries and became especially popular in Iran.

The ambassador's musical activities extended beyond introducing Japanese works. During his tenure, he took part in a number of cultural and artistic programs in Iran, including a December 2025 event at Tehran's Museum of Contemporary Art marking the release of two previously unpublished albums from the late Iranian vocalist Mohammad Reza Shajarian's final live concert. He also met Shajarian's children, Homayoun and Afsaneh, during the event.

Tsukada's tenure coincided with preparations for the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Japan. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1926, and cultural exchanges have remained an important component of their bilateral ties.

In his official message upon assuming his post, Tsukada highlighted the long history of cultural exchanges between Iran and Japan, noting that the two civilizations had been connected through the ancient Silk Road. He also pointed to cultural interaction as an important element of bilateral relations.

The ambassador's farewell performance thus brought together several elements of his tenure in Iran — music, cultural exchange and direct engagement with the Iranian public — with the flute serving as an unconventional but familiar farewell message at the close of his diplomatic assignment.

Culture: the common language of the Iranian and Russian peoples

On the occasion of the Cultural Days of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Russia

From Page 1 ► The historical relations between the two countries date back more than five centuries. From the presence of Persian literature in Russia's cultural landscape and the expansion of Iranian studies and Persian-language education at Russian universities, to the translation of Russian literary works into Persian, these exchanges have consistently served as a foundation for mutual understanding.

For Iranians, names such as Alexander Pushkin, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky and Anton Chekhov have formed an important part of the cultural experience of several generations. In Russia, meanwhile, Ferdowsi, Saadi, Hafez, Omar Khayyam and Nezami are also well known, while Persian literature holds a distinguished position within the country's long tradition of Iranian studies. This intellectual exchange demonstrates that the two peoples can come to know one another not only through politics and economics, but also through culture and shared human experience.

Strategic capacities and contemporary events

This historical heritage has today become one of the most important assets in Iran-Russia relations in the 21st century. In recent years, the organization of cultural weeks, academic cooperation, closer interaction among centers of Iranian and Oriental studies, and exchanges of artistic groups have created new opportunities.

In 2025, Russia's Cultural Week was held in Iran, and now the Cultural Days of Iran in Russia are underway from September 25 to October 4.

Against this backdrop, the "Cultural Days of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Russian Federation" provide an opportunity to transform a historical asset into a platform for future cooperation. The participation of a 168-member delegation of artists and cultural figures, representing the 168 martyred students and the teacher of Shajareh Tayyebah School in Minab, together with the inaugural ceremony at the historic Bolshoi Theatre — the heart of Russia's cultural life — marks a significant milestone. The enthusiastic reception by the Russian public of performances by the National Orchestra of Iran and the presence of Iranian visual artists have made the event one of Iran's most extensive cultural programs ever held in Russia.

The program is being held in four cities — Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan and Astrakhan — and encompasses a wide range of activities, including works from nearly 30 artistic fields, musical performances, cinema, animation, creative industries and special programs for children.

The event elevates culture



from a "side program" to a "strategic field for mutual understanding and cooperation." Academic meetings addressing the role of culture in deepening bilateral relations, the position of the Persian language, Iranian studies and the written heritage of the two countries demonstrate that cultural cooperation between Tehran and Moscow has moved beyond exhibitions and performances toward the production of knowledge, ideas and joint projects.

The same approach is being pursued in St. Petersburg. Meetings between the culture ministers of the two countries, the convening of the Joint Cultural Committee and the signing of an agreement on joint film production are examples of how shared interests can be transformed into sustainable mechanisms of cooperation.

Shared civilizational values and complements to political relations

Iran and Russia are both civilizations with deep historical memories. Both attach importance to family, hospitality, respect for elders, historical heritage, literature, music and the preservation of cultural identity. In both societies, culture is an integral part of how people understand their history, identity and place in the world. This characteristic provides a foundation for deeper dialogue between the two peoples.

Culture also complements political and economic relations. No economic agreement can reach its full potential without mutual understanding and social trust, and no lasting political relationship can remain independent of ties between peoples. The better Iranians know Russia, and the more directly Russians experience Iran, the greater the opportunities for expanding interaction in scientific, academic, tourism, media, economic and technological fields.

This reality has gained greater significance amid the current international environment. In recent years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has witnessed the positions and actions of the Russian

Federation in international forums in support of Iran's national sovereignty and opposition to the use of force. In particular, during the attacks by Israel and the United States against Iran, Russia adopted a clear position at the United Nations Security Council condemning the actions and describing the attacks as contrary to the UN Charter and international law.

Naturally, such positions are taken into consideration in Iran's political memory. Yet what makes relations enduring is the connection among the societies, universities, artists, media organizations and younger generations of the two countries. Culture can sustain at the societal level what has been initiated at the political level.

The Minab Cultural Caravan across four major Russian cities

The Cultural Days of Iran in Russia are part of a long-term process in which the four host cities have become venues for direct encounters between Iranians and Russians. Performances by the National Orchestra of Iran, featuring 60 musicians, exhibitions of handicrafts, film programs, and academic meetings provide opportunities for Russian audiences to gain direct exposure to Iran.

Kazan holds a particularly significant position in this process. In 2026, the city is hosting important cultural events related to the Islamic world, while the historical coexistence of diverse cultures in Tatarstan makes it a suitable setting for dialogue. Astrakhan, owing to its historical position in the Caspian region, represents another link in this chain. Expanding the geographical scope of the program to Kazan and Astrakhan conveys a clear message about the importance of paying attention to the regional and people-to-people dimensions of bilateral relations.

Cinema and the creative industries represent one of the most transformative areas of cooperation. The agreement on joint film production and professional meetings can pave the way for projects that not only bring the two markets closer together, but

also introduce the shared narratives of the two societies to audiences in other countries.

The same approach is being pursued in academia and the field of written heritage. The revival of the "Iran Room" at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts in St. Petersburg, along with Persian-language meetings, represents an investment in the shared historical memory of the two peoples.

The Future of cultural and people-to-people relations between Iran and Russia

Today, we need cultural diplomacy more than ever — diplomacy founded on mutual understanding and respect for civilizational diversity. In the contemporary world, the most effective way to counter media stereotypes is to create opportunities for peoples to meet and interact directly. Artists, scholars and students who take part in this process are the true ambassadors of the ties between the two societies.

Iran and Russia have reached a stage in which the potential for cooperation extends far beyond traditional forms of bilateral relations. Based on the text of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty, cooperation between the two countries can develop into a deeper bond when the peoples of the two countries also gain a better understanding of one another. Culture, in this context, is not at the margins of bilateral relations; it is one of their principal foundations.

We believe that the two great peoples of Iran and Russia, despite their differences, share many commonalities that can be used to build a future based on mutual respect and cooperation.

The Cultural Days of Iran in Russia provide an opportunity to see, hear and better understand one another. The ultimate message of this event is that relations between the two countries are not defined solely in their capitals. Rather, these relations are rooted in the hearts, minds and deep people-to-people ties that have developed throughout history and will continue to endure.

Gaza documentary "NAZA" tops Italian box office

Gaza documentary "NAZA" has extended its run in Italian cinemas after topping the country's box office throughout its planned three-day release, according to official figures released Thursday.

The film earned €451,872 (\$531,000) from 60,467 admissions when it opened Monday, data from Italian box-office tracker Cinetel showed.

Its cumulative earnings reached nearly €1.81 million by the end of Wednesday, with more than 243,000 admissions, Anadolu Agency reported.

It remained the country's highest-grossing film Wednesday, ahead of documentaries "The Bibi Files" and the rerelease "Avengers: Endgame Extra".

Initially scheduled to screen on Sept. 28-

30, "NAZA" was given an extended release after sold-out screenings and strong audience demand.

More than 150 cinemas have prolonged their programming, according to reports.

"As long as theaters want to show it, 'NAZA' will continue to be screened," Andrea Romeo, founder of Italian distributor I Wonder Pictures, said.

Directed by Israeli filmmakers Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, the 80-minute documentary examines Israeli military targeting practices in Gaza and alleges that systems used during the conflict made large-scale civilian deaths an anticipated part of some operations.

Filmed secretly on rooftops in Tel Aviv, it features testimony from 24 anonymous Is-

raeli soldiers and intelligence personnel describing surveillance, target-generation and civilian-casualty assessment procedures, including the use of artificial intelligence.

The filmmakers said the title comes from a Hebrew military acronym referring to collateral damage and used to estimate the number of civilians expected to be killed in an attack.

"NAZA" was produced by The Guardian and JW Films and premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in September.

It received the festival's Special Jury Prize, while Abraham and Szor also previously worked on the Oscar-winning documentary "No Other Land".

The film is expected to be released in more than 50 territories during October.

Cartoon of Day



Ceasefire Cover

Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey