

US warmongering has disrupted global food security: Iran's minister

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Agriculture, emphasizing the need to guarantee the right of all people in the world to access food by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said: "US unilateralism and warmongering have disrupted and created problems for global food security and the transfer of food and agricultural products in the world." ► Page 4

Curfews fail to halt growing popular rage across France

TEHRAN — Overnight curfews in Paris, Lyon, Lille, and Nice will do nothing to check the expanding anti-government uprising across France, according to a legal representative for the Yellow Vests movement.

David Libeskind, an attorney representing the protesters, dismissed the restrictions outright in a written statement to Anadolu on Tuesday, pointing out that demonstrations take place during the day.

In Paris, police restricted movement around Place de la République and Les Halles between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., while cities like Nice banned unaccompanied minors.

Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu claimed these measures restored order and threatened further localized bans. Yet movement coordinators are already mobilizing for "Act II" this Saturday. ► Page 5

Trump approval crashes to record low 31% as Iran war backlash mounts

By staff writer

TEHRAN — American voters are turning decisively against President Donald Trump on the eve of the November 3 midterm elections, pushing his approval rating down to 31 percent in a nationwide Reuters/Ipsos survey published on Tuesday, October 20. The figure marks the lowest point across both of his presidential terms.

An important factor driving the decline is mounting public anger over the joint U.S.-Israeli war launched against Iran in February.

The military campaign triggered a sharp surge in global oil prices, hitting working-class households across the United States.

Roughly 68 percent of respondents now disapprove of Trump's economic management, a figure that includes 37 percent of self-identified Republicans. ► Page 5



Pakistan's Army chief Asim Munir shakes hand with President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran.

Brother Munir! The Ball Is in the US Court

Pakistan's army chief came to Tehran to continue Islamabad's sincere efforts to break the current deadlock, but it is the US that has always derailed mediators' efforts with fantasies like Iran's surrender

By Seyed Mohammad Torabi

TEHRAN — Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's army chief, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday for consultations with Iranian officials. It is General Munir's fifth visit to Tehran since the start of the US-Israeli war against Iran on February 28.

In continuation of the Pakistani government's sincere mediation, the country's army chief arrived in Tehran yesterday and held talks with senior Iranian officials. Islamabad's efforts come as Iran has always given credibility to mediators, but in recent years it is the US that has consistently neutralized those efforts and discredited them. Iran gave the four European countries the opportunity in the JCPOA to appear as international actors, but when Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in his first term, those countries failed to honor their commitments to Iran and even aligned themselves

Senior Iranian officials say the US is not seeking a deal, not an ounce of enriched material will be handed over, and no genuine dialogue will take shape until threats and sanctions are lifted

with the US policies and anti-Iran actions. After that, Iran engaged with Oman, and Muscat also sincerely tried to untie the knot between Washington and Tehran, but in the end Trump even threatened to bomb Oman, leaving observers stunned.

Pakistan's sustained efforts in the ongoing war also led to the Islamabad MoU and placed Pakistan in the position of a major international actor, but once again it was the US that destroyed it only weeks later with adventurism in the Strait of Hormuz and violation of the memorandum's provisions.

Tehran was the first country to recognize Pakistan's independence and has always had

warm and close relations with Islamabad. Islamabad knows well that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a strong barrier against the sinister intentions of the Israeli regime, and if Tel Aviv's malign actions are not contained, they know no limits. Tehran and Islamabad have many common interests, and Pakistan's role and efforts in resolving the ongoing conflict are welcomed by Tehran. But has the US had, and does it have, the same view of mediators?

Pezeshkian: Iran does not trust the US

President Masoud Pezeshkian, in his meeting with the Pakistani army chief, recalling the record of US bad faith and breach of promises — attacking our country in the middle of negotiations and martyring the Supreme Leader of the Revolution, scientists and innocent schoolchildren without any legal justification — said: All the problems created in the region, ► Page 3

Iran says will respond proportionately to any aggression

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baqaei has warned that any renewed aggression against Iran will be met with a response proportionate to the attack, stressing that Tehran is prepared to defend the country under all circumstances.

Speaking at his weekly press conference in Tehran on Tuesday, Baqaei said the era of attacks carried out without consequences was over, emphasizing that Iran had demonstrated its determination to respond to military action against it. ► Page 2

VP urges SCO to strengthen economic integration, independent financial mechanisms

TEHRAN — Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref has called on members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to turn their economic potential into concrete joint projects, accelerate the establishment of an SCO Development Bank and expand cooperation in trade, energy, transportation and digital technology.

Addressing the SCO Council of Heads of Government in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, on Tuesday, Aref said the organization needed to move beyond political commitments toward practical initiatives that deliver tangible benefits to member states and their populations. ► Page 2

Iran and Uzbekistan: Where shared history comes alive in Tashkent

By Afshin Majlesi

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — As an Iranian journalist visiting Tashkent, I found myself looking at the huge Islamic Civilization Center from two perspectives. I was a visitor discovering the depth of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage. I was also an Iranian looking for familiar traces of a civilization that has never respected the borders drawn on today's maps.

I found those traces in the manuscripts, the art and the names of scholars whose lives and work connected Central Asia with Iran and the wider Islamic world. Their presence raised a question that followed me through the galleries: How can a country preserve its own national history while showing that its greatest cultural achievements were often shared with others? ► Page 6

Moradi and Motaghian win medals in javelin throw



► Page 6



AI is shortening the "kill chain" in Iran war, says Canadian legal scholar

By Sahar Dadjoo

Heidi Matthews, an assistant professor of law at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, researches international criminal law, the law of war and the legal regulation of political violence. Her work examines the implications of military operations for civilian protection and accountability under international law. As the US-Israeli war against Iran raises renewed questions about the limits of military force and the protection of civilians, Matthews spoke to the Tehran Times about the legality of the war, the lessons of Gaza, the erosion of international legal norms, and the responsibilities of states in preventing civilian harm. ► Page 3

Scan this QR code to watch the video.



TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Mother of all bombs or father of all missiles?

In a note, Etemad examined US rhetoric about using the “Mother of All Bombs” and Iran’s response that it could employ the “Father of All Missiles.” The paper argued that Iran’s statements do not necessarily mean such bombs would be ineffective, nor that Tehran has publicly revealed the nature or scope of any potential response. Political declarations, deterrent warnings, and military operational plans are three distinct matters. The verbal clash between the “Mother of All Bombs and the Father of All Missiles” reflects a battle of narratives more than a definitive answer to a military question. Washington seeks to intimidate through displays of destructive power, while Tehran emphasizes its retaliatory capabilities and the costs of any attack. Ultimately, the impact of either narrative will depend not on the names of bombs and missiles but on real military capabilities, political decisions, and the consequences of any confrontation.

Khorasan: Iran has achieved many of its war objectives

Khorasan argued that Iran has already achieved many of its goals in the conflict. According to the paper, many of the developments currently unfolding in Europe are a result of Iran’s actions. While Western governments had intended to dedicate significant financial resources to supporting their populations, they have instead been forced to return to older policies to manage the economic consequences of the war. This has led to growing public dissatisfaction and notable social reactions. The newspaper claimed that Iran has already attained a large portion of its objectives: it succeeded in limiting the conflict from a national to a regional level, forcing its foes to operate under those constraints. It also asserted that Iran overcame infrastructure-focused warfare, severely suppressed enemy agents within the country, and maintained overall domestic stability by preventing major shortages and deep economic stagnation.

Ettelaat: Which side will compromise, Iran or the US?

Ettelaat discussed the lack of progress in ongoing negotiations between Iran and the United States, citing former Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati. He argued that diplomacy has not failed, because opportunities for negotiation remain available even under the most difficult circumstances. Over the past month, Qatari mediators have reportedly conveyed Iranian proposals to the United States and delivered Washington’s responses back to Tehran. According to Jannati, the talks have stalled because Iran proposed seven principles as the basis for negotiations and the United States broadly accepted the framework but

strongly disagreed over the sequence in which the provisions should be implemented. Washington wants the nuclear issue to be addressed first, whereas Tehran views it as the final matter for discussion. He suggested that both sides continue to insist on their positions and that little progress is likely unless one party shows flexibility and makes concessions. Otherwise, he warned, the possibility of renewed war remains.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: France bowed to Hormuz

Vatan-e-Emrooz analyzed protests in France and comments made by President Macron. According to the paper, Macron acknowledged in a televised address that French citizens had reason to be upset about rising fuel prices linked to developments in the Persian Gulf. The newspaper noted that Macron had previously stated that France was living with the consequences of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. It linked current economic pressures to events eight months earlier, when US and Israeli attacks on Iran led to the closure of the strategic waterway. The paper argued that the disruption of oil shipments through Hormuz triggered increases in fuel costs, inflation, and living expenses worldwide. It contended that these economic effects have fueled ongoing protests in France, which began in mid-September over shortages of teachers and inadequate school facilities but have continued for more than a month due to broader concerns about the cost of living.

Shargh: Repeated US threats aim to weaken social resilience

In an interview with Shargh, Seyed Jalil Mirmohammadi Meybodi, a member of the Iranian Parliament’s Industries and Mines Committee, discussed the main source of “psychological warfare” against Iran by the Trump administration. He argued that it originates from US policy and Washington’s extensive media capabilities. Psychological warfare is one of America’s principal tools in its confrontation with Iran, and Tehran faces an enemy that controls powerful global media networks. He claimed that the United States has failed to achieve its objectives and has therefore resorted to new threats and attempts to project victory. He said that Donald Trump continually seeks to portray himself as victorious and might use a major military action, such as a large-scale bombing campaign, to claim success. Meybodi also argued that any new military action against Iran would be met with a reciprocal response. In his view, frequent public discussion of war often makes actual conflict less likely, and recurring threats may be intended more to influence Iran’s political and psychological calculations than to signal an imminent military operation.

Iran urges int’l legal bodies to act over attack on Dena destroyer

TEHRAN — Iranian Army Deputy Coordinator Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari has called on international legal bodies to fulfill their responsibilities regarding the attack on the Iranian destroyer Dena, stressing that the vessel had been deployed to India to convey a message of peace and friendship and carry out training missions.

Speaking at a ceremony unveiling a legal petition filed by the families of 104 personnel killed aboard the Dena, Sayyari said pursuing the case was necessary to ensure that the families received answers and that the incident was addressed through legal channels.

“If international legal bodies make decisions under pressure from the United States and other countries, we have no expectations of them. But if they are free and independent, they must fulfill their responsibilities,” he said, according to Mehr News Agency.

The Dena’s voyage to India, he said, was part of this policy and was intended to convey Iran’s message of peace and friendship to countries around the world.

The deputy army coordinator stressed that the destroyer had not been deployed for combat.



Sayyari described the attack on a vessel engaged in a non-combat mission as an inhumane act.

Sayyari highlighted Iran’s role in protecting commercial vessels and oil tankers along international shipping routes in the Gulf of Aden and the Bab al-Mandab Strait.

Sayyari also referred to the attack on a school in Minab, saying the children and teenagers targeted there were not involved in military activities.

He called on international organizations to investigate the circumstances surrounding such attacks and pursue accountability for ‘war crimes.’

VP urges SCO to strengthen economic integration, independent financial mechanisms

From page 1 ► He also condemned the US-Israeli military aggression against Iran, describing it as a violation of the United Nations Charter, international law and the sovereignty of an independent state. He warned that attacks on civilian infrastructure and economic facilities, as well as disruptions to trade, energy supplies and transportation networks, could have consequences extending far beyond the country directly affected.

Turning economic potential into practical cooperation

Aref said the SCO had developed into a major regional organization over its 25-year history, with substantial capacities in trade, investment, energy, transportation, science, technology, culture and humanitarian affairs.

However, he stressed that the organization’s effectiveness depended on its ability to translate these capacities into joint investment, expanded commercial exchanges and sustainable economic development.

In the face of regional and global challenges, he said, member states needed closer cooperation, stronger connectivity, diversified economic relations and greater resilience against external shocks.

Aref reaffirmed Iran’s readiness to contribute its experience and capabilities to the organization’s economic, financial and infrastructure initiatives, emphasizing that cooperation should be inclusive and based on mutual respect, shared interests and equality.

He also called for stronger participation by the private sector, arguing that political agreements alone would not be sufficient to achieve the SCO’s economic objectives without effective institutions, reliable financing and operational mechanisms.

Iran calls for faster establishment of SCO Development Bank

Expanding financial and banking cooperation was a central theme of Aref’s address.

He said Iran supported greater use of national currencies in trade among SCO members, closer connections between their banking infrastructures, the development of national fi-



ancial messaging systems and the establishment of independent payment and settlement mechanisms.

Aref called for accelerating work on the proposed SCO Development Bank, urging member states to move from negotiations toward operational planning.

The bank, he said, could help finance joint projects, address payment-related challenges and reduce risks arising from sanctions and financial restrictions. He emphasized that the institution should enjoy the greatest possible independence from financial systems used by countries to pursue unilateral advantages.

The Iranian vice president also called for expanding export insurance and investment-risk coverage to give private companies greater confidence in participating in joint projects.

He highlighted the role of the SCO Business Council and Interbank Consortium in facilitating investment, strengthening cooperation among member states’ banks and developing alternative payment mechanisms.

Iran, he said, was prepared to contribute its expertise through these institutions.

Aref also called for speeding up admitting Bank Keshavarzi, an Iranian agricultural bank, to the Interbank Consortium. He welcomed the consortium’s development strategy for 2027–2031 and the adoption of a roadmap for sustainable and social financing, describing these initiatives as important steps toward more effective financial cooperation.

Digital economy and technology cooperation

Aref identified the digi-

tal economy as another major area in which SCO members could deepen cooperation and strengthen their collective economic position.

He proposed greater exchanges of expertise in artificial intelligence, e-commerce, financial technology, e-government, digital services and data infrastructure.

Joint projects, cooperation among innovative companies and startups, and the exchange of specialized personnel could help connect the scientific and technological capabilities of member states, he said.

The Iranian vice president also called for strengthening the SCO Digital Economy Forum, developing regional value chains and expanding industrial cooperation and technology transfer.

Regional transport corridors and energy security

Aref emphasized the importance of improving regional and international transport corridors to facilitate trade, reduce logistical costs and strengthen connectivity among SCO members.

He said the organization’s members possessed complementary geographical advantages, including access to open seas, port facilities and extensive rail and road networks.

Iran, he added, was ready to play an active role in regional transport corridors and support initiatives to improve their efficiency.

He also proposed greater use of maritime and port facilities, more efficient customs procedures and the electronic exchange of transport and trade documents. Digitalizing these processes, he said, could reduce both the time and cost of com-

mercial transactions.

On energy, Aref called for moving beyond dialogue toward deeper practical cooperation, including the establishment of an SCO Energy Consortium.

He said such a body should cover not only oil and gas trade but also energy production, transmission and distribution, infrastructure security, financing, technology and renewable energy.

Effective implementation of the SCO’s energy cooperation strategy through 2030 should be accompanied by joint projects, he said, adding that energy security must remain a priority during the transition toward new energy sources.

Aref also expressed Iran’s readiness to share its scientific and technological capabilities with member states, particularly in improving productivity, developing knowledge-based companies and reducing carbon emissions in the oil and gas industries.

Food security and humanitarian cooperation

The Iranian vice president proposed establishing an SCO working group on agriculture and food security to improve the exchange of information, anticipate potential food crises and reduce vulnerabilities to fluctuate supply and demand.

He also identified water-efficient agricultural practices, water recycling, combating desertification and the use of renewable energy in agriculture as areas offering significant opportunities for joint initiatives.

Concluding his remarks, Aref called for a more effective and inclusive SCO capable of delivering practical results across economic, technological, cultural and humanitarian fields.

The meeting in Dushanbe was held under Tajikistan’s chairmanship and focused on strengthening trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, as well as improving the organization’s effectiveness. Aref expressed confidence that closer coordination among member states could help turn the SCO’s geographical and economic advantages into a lasting foundation for regional prosperity.

Iran says will respond proportionately to any aggression

From page 1 ► “The era of hit-and-run attacks is over,” he said, dismissing reports that the United States had sent a message concerning a possible strike on Mount Kolan in Iran. He questioned whether Washington expected Iran to allow such an attack to go unanswered.

Baqaei said Iran’s experience during eight months of an imposed war of aggression had reinforced the need for comprehensive preparedness. Responding to remarks by Qatari officials about the possibility of a third world war, he said Iran was ready for any eventuality and would take the necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and security.

Iran rejects allegations of regional ambitions

Baqaei rejected allegations that Iran seeks to dominate the Strait of Hormuz or establish regional hegemony, arguing that the country’s resolve to defend itself should not be confused with ambitions to dominate others.

He stressed that regional countries should not be influenced by narratives promoted by powers seeking to impose their will through force. Iran, he said, has deep historical roots in West Asia and has consistently advocated peace and regional stability.

He also voiced support for an Iraqi proposal to convene a meeting involving Iran, Iraq and the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Tehran says Washington’s response to proposal falls short

On the prospect of renewed negotiations with the United States, Baqaei said Washington’s response to Iran’s seven-point proposal had been inadequate and incomplete.

He stressed that Iran remained committed to diplomacy to safeguard its national interests, while maintaining that the lifting of the naval blockade against Iran and an end to the war on all fronts were legitimate and reasonable requirements.

Baqaei also criticized ‘Washington’s unilateral and aggressive approach’ to international affairs, warning that actions against the United Nations, international courts and other multilateral institutions threatened international peace and security.

Addressing recent “No Kings” rallies across the United States, he said the demonstrations reflected opposition among Americans to the use of public funds and the lives of US citizens in an aggressive war that ‘serves the interests of the Israeli regime rather than the American public.’

Iran opposes divisive language on Yemen at OIC meeting

Baqaei said Iran had successfully prevented the inclusion of two paragraphs concerning Yemen in the final communiqué of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) foreign ministers’ meeting in Baghdad, arguing that their wording risked deepening divisions among Muslim countries.

He distinguished the final communiqué, which is generally adopted by consensus, from a separate resolution concerning Saudi Arabia and its conflict with Yemen.

According to Baqaei, Iran repeatedly emphasized that language singling out part of the Muslim community was inconsistent with the OIC’s founding principles of Islamic unity and solidarity. Tehran’s position, he said, was that the conflict between Yemen



and Saudi Arabia should be resolved through dialogue.

Tehran clarifies agenda of Lavrov visit

The spokesperson rejected reports that talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Iranian officials during his visit to Tehran on Monday had focused on negotiations between Iran and the United States or on uranium enrichment.

He said the visit had been planned well in advance and formed part of ongoing consultations between Tehran and Moscow.

Border trade with Pakistan affected by technical issues

Addressing the recent suspension of trade at parts of the Iran–Pakistan border, Baqaei said the disruption stemmed from technical issues and required updates that Pakistani officials were working to resolve.

He dismissed speculation about Islamabad’s motives, noting that Iranian exports were continuing. He also highlighted the longstanding friendly relations between the two countries and efforts by their senior officials to expand political and economic cooperation.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Brother Munir! The ball is in the US court

Pakistan's army chief came to Tehran to continue Islamabad's sincere efforts to break the current deadlock, but it is the US that has always derailed mediators' efforts with fantasies like Iran's surrender

From Page 1 ► from escalation of tension and conflict to disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, all stem from the warmongering nature of the US. All their claims against our country lack legitimacy, because we had proven our goodwill both with regard to negotiations and inspections in the nuclear file within the framework of international laws and regulations.

Emphasizing that the US must first show it will lift threats and sanctions so that conditions for dialogue can be met, Pezeshkian stated: You cannot increase sanctions and pressure day by day and close routes and roads to our country, and then claim you seek dialogue and negotiation. What kind of dialogue is this?

Noting that we know war benefits neither us, nor the region and the world, nor even the US, the President added: It is the US that must answer why it started the war in the first place, entangling itself and the world in problems and difficulties?

Pezeshkian noted: We have been and are ready for dialogue, but the US must first remove threats and sanctions and then we will talk, because if they are truly seeking dialogue and agreement, such behavior is completely in contradiction with their claim and is not logical.

The President, further pointing out that they imposed all these criminal acts on our country and our region under the false claim of nuclear weapons, while they martyred our Leader who had repeatedly stressed the prohibition of nuclear weapons, and drove the region into deadlock, said: They will certainly not achieve their objectives through war and will only bring destruction and damage, not only for Iran but for the entire region; something we do not want to happen.

Stressing that they must prove to our nation that this time they do not want to lie to us, Pezeshkian said: Our nation today does not trust the US and believes that if we negotiate, they will attack us again.

The President added: They constantly propagate in the media that they want to attack our country to frighten our people, while our nation has no fear of martyrdom. You,

as our Muslim brothers, must make them understand that this is not how one treats Muslims. We do not want to impose our will on anyone, but we will not submit to coercion.

Field Marshal Asim Munir, in the meeting expressed pleasure at meeting Pezeshkian, presented a report on diplomatic actions and efforts to reduce tensions, and while expressing concern over a renewed outbreak of war, stressed the importance of resolving issues through diplomatic solutions and Pakistan's readiness to help settle matters in this regard.

He, while regretting the non-implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, said: Negotiation never means weakness and acceptance of submission to the US, because the Iranian nation has repeatedly shown its dignity, authority and power to the world; rather it is an opportunity to resolve issues through a path other than war, conflict and insecurity.

Iran will not take out its uranium

General Munir also met in Tehran with the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. Major General Mohsen Rezaei, the Representative of the Supreme Leader and Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, in his meeting with Asim Munir, stressing that all enriched nuclear material will remain in Iran, said: Not even an ounce of enriched nuclear material will leave Iran, and this material is a great asset and the national wealth of Iranians for use inside the country.

Major General Mohsen Rezaei stated: All the Iranian people and officials have unanimously and with one voice concluded that until confidence-building is done by the US, there will be no negotiation, and the start of this confidence-building is the fulfillment of Iran's conditions. He also stressed the fraternity of the Iranian and Pakistani nations.

Asim Munir, emphasizing the re-opening of the border between Iran and Pakistan, said the Iran-Pakistan border problem has been resolved and the border has been reopened as of Tuesday.

Referring to the courageous de-



fense and resistance of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the 40-day war, he stressed regional cooperation between the two countries without the presence of foreigners.

US threats have no effect on our decisions

The Pakistani army chief also met with Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of Parliament, in Tehran. In the meeting, Ghalibaf, while appreciating the support of the Pakistani government and nation for Iran in conditions of war and negotiation, stressed the fraternal relations of the two countries. Asim Munir also announced the reopening of the two countries' border as of today and described border issues as temporary and technical.

Referring to Iran's deep distrust of the US and the Trump administration's violation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, Ghalibaf stressed that the US can win Iran's trust only by implementing Iran's seven conditions presented in New York.

He also said that Iran is not warmongering but is fully prepared to defend the homeland and national dignity, stressing that threats and military moves cannot change the strategic decisions of the Islamic Republic, and that it is the US that must act to get out of the quagmire of war.

A deadlock that is not easy to break

General Munir's visit to Tehran took place while negotiations between

Iran and the US have reached a deadlock, and Tehran's seven-day plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz could not untie this knot either. The deep divide between the two sides' views of the balance of conflict and tension is one of the main reasons mediation efforts have failed. While the US is a short distance from the midterm elections and the Republican Party is not in good shape in the polls, Trump is trying to force Iran into submission through threats. Iran, by tightening control over the Strait of Hormuz and dealing with violating vessels seeking to pass through the strait without permission, has increased pressure on the US, and oil prices have even exceeded 110 dollars. In the latest developments, two tankers carrying a total of 4 million barrels of crude oil hit mines over the weekend; one caught fire and the other came to a halt.

The diesel deal with Putin, although it faced enormous criticism inside the US, failed to have any particular effect on prices or calm angry US consumers.

Trump has so far taken varied and sometimes contradictory positions on the midterm elections and their link to the war with Iran. He has tried to deflect the rise in fuel prices onto the Ukraine war and Biden's record by shifting blame. Meanwhile, he has at one point spoken of the insignificance of these elections for his Iran policy and even said the elections and their outcome do not matter to him at all, but in practice he behaves differently. From the 5,000-dollar promise to

every US adult and personal appearances at campaign rallies in various states, telling people to imagine they are going to the ballot box to vote for him, all show how vital this election is for him.

The US President recently said he would not start a new round of confrontation with Iran until after the elections, but evidence does not necessarily confirm this claim. The secret trip of Pete Hegseth, the US Secretary of War, to Israel and his consultations with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, held with the participation of officials from the UAE, has increased doubts about the future plans of the US and Israel.

Iran is ready for the next round of war

In Iran too, senior military officials speak of full readiness for a new round of war. Sardar Hossein Mohebbi, in his recent interview with the Tehran Times, did not rule out the possibility of a new US attack aimed at manufacturing an achievement on the eve of the elections, stressing that such an attack would bring no achievement for the US and that even if limited, Iran's response would be very severe and would confront the world with a serious energy crisis.

The IRGC spokesman, in other remarks, named data cables on the floor of the Persian Gulf as one of the possible targets in a new round of war – something that Mohsen Rezaei, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, had also pointed to before him.

Major General Abdollahi, Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, also said: Our enemies possess modern and new equipment, and we must, when necessary, respond to the enemy with different methods and asymmetric equipment, as happened in the two recent wars.

In the event of any renewed miscalculation by the enemy, we will neutralize the effect of the enemy's expensive and advanced equipment with a wide range of cheap but effective equipment, and this will be painful, worrying and costly for the enemy.

It seems Trump is seeking even a temporary achievement to pass easily and triumphantly through the upcoming elections, but whether he loses or wins this election, it is unlikely to fundamentally affect his strategy toward the war with Iran. Trump has openly and fully endorsed Netanyahu in the Israeli elections, and Netanyahu has explicitly stated that his goal is the destruction of Iran. The Israeli Prime Minister spoke by phone with Trump on Monday and, by his own account, stressed in it the need to achieve this goal. In such circumstances, there is no doubt about the real intentions of the Donald-and-Bibi duo toward Tehran, and this very fact undermines any mediation and proposal.

Trump is not after a deal

While some unofficial sources in the region have said Pakistan and Qatar have prepared a proposal covering part of both sides' demands that could be agreed by Tehran and Washington, evidence shows that from Tehran's perspective, Trump is merely seeking to pass through the difficult strait of the midterm elections, not to end an unjustified and costly war whose declared objectives have changed repeatedly.

Tehran has no doubt about Islamabad's sincerity in resolving the current situation, but the point is that the ball is in Washington's court, not Tehran's. Until the US government abandons the illusion of forcing Iran to surrender and imposing its unilateral conditions – whether through negotiation or military aggression – this conflict and tension will not end.

It is worth noting that concurrent with General Munir's presence in Tehran, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, announced at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting in Tajikistan that Islamabad continues to work to reduce tensions and mediate between Tehran and Washington.

Stressing that dialogue and diplomacy are the most effective way to resolve regional disputes, he said: "Pakistan will continue to support dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes to achieve lasting peace and stability."

AI is shortening the “kill chain” in Iran war, says Canadian legal scholar

Heidi Matthews examines how AI-assisted target identification and prioritization could affect human oversight and civilian protection

From Page 1 ► Below is the full text of the interview:

You call the US-Israeli attack on Iran an unprovoked and unlawful war of aggression. What specifically makes it unlawful under international law?

This is a pretty clear answer. Under international law, within the UN Charter framework in place since 1945, states are permitted to resort to the use of force in only two scenarios. The first is where there has been specific authorization under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which we clearly did not have in this case. The second is where there is a credible claim to legitimate self-defense, which we also did not have in this case. So it is very clearly, and unequivocally, an unlawful use of force. This is a position that many scholars of international law have taken, including many dozens in the United States, including the current president of the American Society of International Law. I think it is quite clear that this is an unlawful use of force.

The US and Israel have repeatedly framed their actions against Iran in terms of security and self-defense. At what point does self-defense cease to be a legal justification for the use of force?

I would say that the language and rhetoric the US has used to justify this war have actually not been rooted in self-defense. They sometimes use those words, but in international law, self-defense means that a state is either responding to an actual armed attack that has already occurred against it, or re-

sponding to the real threat of an imminent attack, in the sense that there is an overwhelming threat that leaves no choice of means and no moment for deliberation. That is the legal test. This is sometimes referred to as preemptive self-defense, and it is recognized as legitimate.

There is a distinction in the law on the use of force between preemptive self-defense and preventive self-defense. In this case, the United States, in its rhetoric, is drawing on preventive self-defense. That is not a recognized kind of self-defense under international law. All of the American justifications for launching this massive operation last February fell into the category of preventive self-defense. The attacks were allegedly designed to destroy Iran's future nuclear capabilities, to destroy existing ballistic missile capabilities, and to protect freedom of shipping in the region. Trump also made claims rooted in humanitarian intervention on the basis that the war would assist protesters. None of those arguments reflects a necessity of attack, and the language of preventive self-defense simply isn't applicable in the law.

You have written about the Minab school attack and raised concerns about the lack of political and legal accountability. Who should be held accountable for what happened, and through which legal mechanisms?

There is very good reason to believe that this particular attack constitutes a war crime. The most obvious mechanism for accountability

for war crimes would of course be the International Criminal Court. That is not currently an option here, because neither the United States nor Iran is a party to the Rome Statute. This means the Court has no jurisdiction over this specific attack, or over other alleged war crimes in the context of this war.

There are a few ways this could change. The Security Council is entitled, should it so choose, to refer a situation to the ICC, but given the US veto power this is highly unlikely. Another option is that Iran could accept the jurisdiction of the Court through an ad hoc declaration under the Statute for a defined period of time. That period could go back, for example, to the start of the war on February 28th, or perhaps even earlier, to the attacks in the summer of 2025. That would of course mean that not only US officials but also Iranian officials would become vulnerable to investigation and potentially prosecution by the Court. But it is the most obvious answer to the question of accountability.

There are some other options that people have put on the table. Some have proposed a special tribunal for Iran, modeled on the special tribunal now being set up in the context of the Council of Europe to deal with Russian aggression in Ukraine. There could also be an international, independent mechanism to comprehensively investigate alleged crimes committed in Iran. This would not allow for direct criminal responsibility, but it would allow for a detailed collection of evidence that could later support trials, including trials in national contexts. We see this now with the mechanism



that was set up to investigate crimes in Syria.

In terms of political accountability, this really comes down to the willingness of states, specifically US-allied states and Western governments, to call out and name what they are seeing with respect to American action. The most obvious first step is their willingness to label the attacks as unlawful, in other words, as acts of aggression under international criminal law. Until now we have seen a complete political unwillingness to do that. Until Western governments are willing to use the applicable legal frameworks to talk about American conduct in Iran, I think we are not going to see meaningful political accountability regarding what happened, specifically in Minab.

You have expressed concern about the

use of AI in military attacks. Should the use of AI in military targeting itself face new legal restrictions?

This is a really important question, of course, as we see AI growing at breakneck speed. Concerns about the use of artificial intelligence systems in targeting have been at the forefront of the minds of legal scholars who address the regulation of conduct in war. That is partly due to Israel's use of these targeting systems in Gaza over the last three years, where the evidence points to a high degree of unjustified civilian harm. With the Minab strike, we have further evidence that the use of AI systems, both in gathering and filtering intelligence and in contributing to target identification, is very dangerous.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

US warmongering has disrupted global food security: Iran's minister



From Page 1 ► According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleleh, who traveled to Italy to participate in the 54th session of the Committee on World Food Security, met with Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), at the organization's headquarters in Rome and discussed global food security conditions and the development of cooperation between Iran and FAO.

In this meeting, the Minister of Agriculture, emphasizing that food security and access to food are among the undeniable and basic rights of all human beings in the world, called for a more serious role by international organizations, especially FAO, in confronting obstacles to the supply and movement of food in the world.

Announcing Iran's readiness to expand cooperation with FAO, he said: "Iran has gained valuable experience in the field of food security, which we can share with FAO and other interested countries."

Nouri stressed the need to develop technical and credit cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and said: "Over the past year, in addition to confronting the sanctions of recent decades, we have also faced war, aggression, and blockade, but economic and social resilience showed that Iran's food security supply system and agricultural production cycle are resilient even under critical conditions."

He also explained to the FAO Director-General the measures, experiences, and achievements of the government, the private sector, and economic actors in Iran's agricultural sector for maintaining the sustainability of food security under difficult conditions.

The Minister of Agriculture, emphasizing that food security and access to food are among the basic and undeniable rights of human beings, stated: "International organizations, especially FAO, bear an important mission and responsibility in safeguarding this fundamental right, and it is necessary for them to act more seriously to realize it."

Referring to the need to strengthen international mechanisms in the field of food security, Nouri proposed that FAO, in cooperation with other UN bodies, form a special working group to examine and resolve global food security challenges, especially obstacles to access to food and its movement, and to carry out the necessary follow-ups in this regard.

Nouri, criticizing the unilateral measures and warmongering of the United States in the world, stated: "These measures have faced the movement and transfer of food at the global level with serious problems and have affected countries' access to food resources."

Iran, Qatar discuss energy cooperation issues

TEHRAN- Iran's Acting Minister of Oil and Qatar's Minister of Energy met and held talks on cooperation between Tehran and Doha.

According to Shana, citing Qatar's Ministry of Energy, Hamid Bovard and Saad bin Sherida Al-Kaabi met and held talks on Monday, in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

According to the ministry's announcement, energy relations and cooperation between Iran and Qatar were among the topics of the talks.

On July 5, Abbas Abdolkhani, Iran's Commercial Attaché in Qatar, announced the reopening of Qatar's Al Ruwais port to Iranian goods and the resumption of maritime trade between the two countries.

Referring to the resumption of Iran-Qatar trade,

The Minister of Agriculture, stating that today the issue of food and its abnormal price increase has become one of the most important issues in the world, said: "International organizations must, by understanding the importance and urgency of this issue, pursue their responsibility to guarantee equitable and sustainable access of all human beings to food more seriously."

Welcoming expansion of FAO cooperation with Iran

Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General, also in this meeting, expressing interest in expanding cooperation with Iran, emphasized the importance of interaction and cooperation among member states to achieve sustainable food security.

Recalling Iran's role in the formation of FAO, he referred to our country's membership as one of the first members of this organization.

It is worth noting that the Minister of Agriculture, on the sidelines of attending the headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, held international meetings and met with his counterparts from FAO member states, and also spoke with an Italian media outlet.

The Minister of Agriculture, criticizing the contradictory behavior of some countries toward the principles of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said: "The use of food and unilateral sanctions and economic blockades as tools of political pressure, or the use of hunger as a weapon in conflicts, contradicts humanitarian principles and the spirit of FAO's founding."

According to a report by IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleleh, at the 54th session of the Committee on World Food Security—held with the participation of agriculture and food security ministers of member states of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at the organization's headquarters in Rome, said: "Today we stand at a sensitive point in the history of humanity, a point where access to sufficient and healthy food is considered not only a basic need but one of the most fundamental human rights. Today, global food security faces unprecedented challenges, ranging from severe climate change and consecutive droughts to regional and international conflicts."

Nouri Ghezleleh, stating that the preamble to the Constitution of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has based the *raison d'être* of this institution on several key principles—raising levels of nutrition and welfare, improving the efficiency of production and distribution of agricultural products, and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger—said: "The commitment of member states to these concepts is not merely a ceremonial duty; rather, sustainable peace and equitable development in access to food in the world are impossible without the practical adherence of all members to these commitments."

Iran's Commercial Attaché in Doha stated: After approximately five months of halt in the maritime transport route for goods between Dayyer Port in Iran and Al Ruwais Port in Qatar, following continuous follow-ups by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Doha and coordination with relevant Qatari officials, Al Ruwais Port has once again begun accepting Iranian goods.

Referring to the importance of this trade route, he added: Al Ruwais Port is considered one of the most important gateways for Iranian goods entering the Qatari market, and the resumption of activity on this maritime route will play a significant role in facilitating trade, reducing transportation costs, increasing the speed of goods supply, and enhancing the volume of commercial exchanges between the two countries.

Iran, Kazakhstan pursue North-South corridor, Chabahar rail links

TEHRAN- Developing access for Central Asian countries to open waters, activating the eastern branch of the North-South Corridor, and advancing Iran's rail routes to Afghanistan and beyond were among the most important axes of the Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development's negotiations during his visit to Kazakhstan.

According to the news portal of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the three-day visit of Farzaneh Sadegh, Minister of Transport and Urban Development, to Kazakhstan (October 14-16) included a series of bilateral consultations, participation in the Transport Ministers' Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), presentation of Iran's proposals for developing regional corridors, and follow-up on rail and road cooperation.

During this trip, in addition to introducing Iran's infrastructure capacities, issues such as drafting a comprehensive document on transport cooperation with Kazakhstan, removing obstacles to road fleet movement, developing international rail routes, connecting Central Asian countries to open waters, and using digital technologies in logistics were considered.

Farzaneh Sadegh arrived in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, on October 14, at the head of a delegation to hold consultations with officials of that country and to participate in the 14th ECO Transport Ministers' Meeting and the 8th International Transport and Logistics Business Forum "New Silk Road."

Participation in specialized sessions, a visit to the 29th Kazakhstan International Transport and Logistics Exhibition, and talks with transport ministers of regional countries were among the programs pursued during the rest of the trip.

The common thread of these programs was the effort to turn Iran's geographical capacity into a practical advantage in regional trade—an advantage whose realization depends on completing infrastructure, coordination among countries along the route, facilitating border procedures, and establishing effective connections among rail, road, and sea networks.

From ECO meeting to Iran's proposals for security and development of regional corridors

One of the most important parts of the Minister of Transport and Urban Development's trip was participation in the 14th Transport Ministers' Meeting of ECO member states—a meeting where developing regional cooperation, removing transport obstacles, and increasing the efficiency of international corridors were on the agenda.

At this meeting, Sadegh described the ECO region as having the capacity to become an integrated network of road, rail, and sea routes that can connect Central Asia, West Asia, the Caucasus, and open waters.

Referring to the resolutions of the 13th ECO Transport Ministers' Meeting in Tehran, she called for assessing the implementation of past agreements and identifying remaining obstacles, and emphasized that regional cooperation must lead to operational, time-bound, and measurable plans.

Protection of civilian infrastructure and continuity of transport flows were also among the important points in the Minister of Roads and Urban Development's remarks.

Referring to the damage inflicted on Iran's transport infrastructure during attacks by the United States and the Israeli regime, Sadegh emphasized that disruption in any part of the re-



gion's communication network can increase the cost and time of goods movement and also affect the supply chains of other countries.

She asked the ECO Secretariat to examine the effects of security disruptions on regional corridors and to offer solutions for increasing the resilience of the transport network. From Iran's perspective, the security of routes and the protection of civilian infrastructure are not merely a national issue but a common interest for all member states, whose trade and economic connectivity depend on the continued operation of these networks.

Facilitating truck movement, reducing waiting time at borders, simplifying customs procedures, and harmonizing transport documents were among Iran's other proposals. In the rail sector, the Minister of Roads and Urban Development, referring to the revival of the ECO train on the Turkey-Iran-Turkmenistan route, considered this experience a basis for expanding rail services among member states.

She also proposed that tariff, customs, technical, and operational obstacles on the Almaty-Tehran-Istanbul rail route be examined and that a specific mechanism be created for coordinating train movements.

Sadegh emphasized drafting a joint action plan, determining the responsibilities of countries, and presenting a progress report at the next meeting—an approach aimed at moving from general agreements toward decisions that can be followed up and whose implementation can be measured.

Kazakhstan and Iran: drafting a comprehensive transport cooperation document and developing investment

Farzaneh Sadegh's meeting with Nurlan Sauranbayev, Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport, was the most important bilateral axis of the trip. In this meeting, the two sides discussed the development of rail and road routes, increasing transit capacity, using the capacities of the Caspian Sea, and expanding logistics cooperation.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, referring to the roadmap for the eastern route of the International North-South Corridor, which has been drafted with the participation of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan, considered follow-up on existing agreements and removal of implementation obstacles to be among the priorities of cooperation between the two countries.

She also announced that Iran's proposed roadmap, emphasizing the corridors of interest to the country, had been sent to the Kazakh side and expressed hope that the ground would be prepared for its signing at the earliest opportunity.

Activating the eastern branch of the North-South Corridor, developing the China-Kazakhstan-Iran-Europe route, and increasing transit capacity were among the other proposals raised in this meeting. Referring to the impor-

tance of road and rail transport, Sadegh called for implementation of the amended protocol on international transport of goods and passengers and described the connection of Chabahar to Zahedan and Sarakhs as an opportunity to facilitate access for Afghanistan and the northern Caspian countries to southern routes.

In the area of infrastructure and investment, emphasis was also placed on drafting a comprehensive document on transport and logistics cooperation between the two countries. This document can provide a framework for coordinating joint programs in various transport sectors. Kazakhstan's Minister of Transport had announced that Iran's proposed roadmap was being finalized.

Removing obstacles to road transport was another result of the negotiations. Reza Akbari, Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development and Head of the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, stated in explaining the results of the trip that in the meeting with Kazakh officials, the issue of increasing the number of fleet transit permits and the duration of drivers' stay had been discussed.

These issues are operationally important for transport companies and drivers, because transit and stay restrictions can affect cargo transport schedules and movement costs.

According to the announced summary, it was decided that specialized road transport working groups would be formed with the countries involved in the negotiations so that the issues raised could be examined in detail and practical solutions identified. It was also agreed that the results of these working groups would be presented to the ministers for review and support.

Overall, the most important announced achievement in Iran-Kazakhstan relations was advancing the process of drafting a roadmap for transport cooperation, agreeing on the need to prepare a comprehensive cooperation document, and following up on the removal of transit obstacles—issues whose implementation depends on finalization of documents and subsequent follow-up.

Chabahar-Zahedan and trans-Afghan corridor; linking Central Asia to open waters

Later in the trip's programs, the specialized meeting on the Trans-Afghan Corridor in Astana was an opportunity to present Iran's capacities in connecting landlocked countries to global markets.

At this meeting, the Minister of Transport and Urban Development considered the completion of Iran's rail routes and the development of connections with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries to be among the factors influencing the increase in regional trade.

Referring to Iran's plans to develop the railway from the country's border to Herat and its extension in Afghanistan, Sadegh emphasized the need to accelerate the completion of rail routes

and their connection to the Central Asian and Chinese networks.

She also proposed that a meeting of the countries located along the Iran-Afghanistan-Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan-China corridor be held within the ECO framework as soon as possible so that executive mechanisms for advancing this route could be examined.

The Chabahar-Zahedan railway, 628 kilometers long, was at the center of these discussions. By connecting Chabahar Port to Iran's nationwide rail network, this railway can provide the basis for transferring goods between open waters and eastern and northern countries. From this perspective, the importance of the project is not limited to domestic transport development; rather, completing the rail chain and connecting it to cross-border routes can facilitate access for Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries to international markets.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development also referred to the Chabahar transit agreement among Iran, Afghanistan, and India and emphasized the port's capacity for developing goods movement. Connecting Afghanistan to Turkey and Europe via the Sarakhs-Razi route and access to the Caucasus and the Black Sea via the Sarakhs-Jolfa route were among other routes she mentioned as capacities that could be pursued.

This issue also had a special place in the bilateral negotiations between Iran and Kazakhstan. Sadegh invited her Kazakh counterpart to attend the opening ceremony of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway and considered the connection of Chabahar to Zahedan and Sarakhs effective in providing regional countries with access to southern routes.

Alongside the Trans-Afghan Corridor, Iran's rail connection to Afghanistan via Uzbekistan was also considered in negotiations related to the development of the regional rail network. Jabbarali Zakeri, CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, reported on the examination of obstacles to Iran-Kazakhstan rail cooperation and the issue of rail connectivity between Iran and Afghanistan via Uzbekistan.

Taken together, these proposals outline a vision of a multi-route network in which Chabahar acts as the southern gateway, Iran's rail lines as the connecting link, and Central Asian countries and Afghanistan as parts of the regional chain. Realization of this vision depends on completing infrastructure and reaching agreement among countries along the route on regulations, tariffs, and operating methods.

Cooperation with Uzbekistan, TransLogistica Exhibition, need to turn agreements into implementation

Meeting with Ilhom Mahkamov, Minister of Transport and Communications of Uzbekistan, was another important program of the trip. In this meeting, the two sides discussed issues and challenges in road and rail transport and ways to expand transit cooperation.

Referring to the growth in fleet traffic between Iran and Uzbekistan, Sadegh emphasized follow-up on joint agreements and strengthening bilateral cooperation. The Uzbek side also announced its readiness to develop interactions, and the proposal to visit Iran's port infrastructure with the aim of becoming familiar with the country's transit capacities was considered.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Gaza's battle for hearts and minds

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – More than three years after the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, the Palestinian cause has seen internal and external shifts.

The changes have been far-reaching, affecting Palestinians, Israelis, the Arab and Islamic worlds, and the world at large. One of the most important consequences has been the impact on public awareness.

The battle for hearts and minds has become as important as the fighting on the ground. It is being waged through military force, political pressure, economic measures, psychological warfare, media, social media, and artificial intelligence.

Governments and other actors are investing enormous resources in shaping public opinion and controlling the story people hear. Even more than three years later, this battle remains far from over.

Breaking the Palestinian will or strengthening it?

In the early days of Al-Aqsa Flood, Palestinians from across the political spectrum expressed pride, joy, and support for the operation. The response brought together people inside Palestine and in the diaspora, including supporters and opponents of the Palestinian Authority and different political factions.

For a brief period, political divisions appeared to fade. A shared sense of national identity brought Palestinians together in a manner that had become increasingly rare.

But this unity did not translate into a common political strategy or coordinated action on the ground. It largely remained an expression of solidarity and anticipation of what the operation might achieve.

From the Israeli perspective, the renewed sense of Palestinian national unity posed a serious



threat. The October 7 attack had shattered the regime's sense of security and raised fears that similar attacks could take place on other fronts. Tel Aviv understood that the return of a strong collective Palestinian identity could have consequences far beyond the battlefield.

The regime's leadership appeared to believe that military victory alone would not be enough and that the Palestinian will to resist, along with the support of its allies, would also have to be broken.

The ultimate goal was to inflict such a decisive defeat that the Palestinians would be forced to formally surrender. This policy has been reflected in Israeli statements and actions throughout the genocidal war, which pointed to a central problem: even overwhelming military force cannot guarantee that the Palestinian desire for resistance will disappear.

The war over the narrative

From the first hours of Al-Aqsa Flood, the regime sought to link the attack to Nazism. This was not only an attempt to shift global public opinion against the Palestinians or justify the Gaza genocide. It was also part of a broader effort to prepare Israeli society for a long and costly campaign.

By presenting the genocidal war as an existential struggle

against an absolute evil and non-humans, the regime sought to build public support for a campaign that would continue until Palestinian resistance forces and their allies had been completely defeated.

The wider ambition was to use the genocidal war to establish greater Israeli control over the region, backed by unconditional U.S. support. The collective sense of dignity that initially brought many Palestinians together has also been tested by the scale of human suffering.

A region increasingly wary of Tel Aviv

Across the Arab and Muslim worlds, Israel's regional ambitions have become harder to ignore. Its approach combines military occupation and aggression with political pressure, psychological warfare, threats, and efforts to spread fear. The aim, as critics see it, is to make regional countries accept Israeli dominance, either because they feel they have no alternative or because they believe cooperation with this regime will serve their interests.

More than three years of genocidal war, however, have produced mixed results. On one side, the aggression has not weakened the strategic resolve of Palestinian resistance forces as much as the regime had hoped. On the other, it has ex-

posed growing tensions among countries that have established or pursued diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv.

Relations that once appeared stable have come under pressure, while divisions among the camp still supporting normalization have become more visible. Despite these differences, a broader concern has taken root across the region: the regime is increasingly seen as a serious threat to regional peace and security.

This viewpoint is not limited to countries or movements that support armed resistance. It can also be found among those that maintain relations with Tel Aviv or seek to remain neutral in regional disputes.

The Israeli image abroad

On the international stage, the regime has suffered a serious setback in the battle for public opinion. The damage has gone beyond criticism from ordinary people. It has also been reflected in official positions, diplomatic tensions, and growing unease over Israeli conduct in Gaza.

The sight of delegates walking out of the UN General Assembly during Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech offered a striking example of this shift.

For decades, Israel worked to present itself to Western audiences as a liberal democracy with a strong moral foundation. It also sought to portray itself as the only democracy in the region. That image has been very badly damaged. The anti-Semitism card has also struggled to silence criticism.

The result is a growing gap between the image that the regime spent decades building and the way many people now view its conduct. Repairing that damage will be extremely difficult. The consequences could last for a vast number of years.

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

NAZA: When technology makes killing a calculation

By Ranjan Solomon

GOA, India – There are films that recount the horrors of war, films that make audiences feel the pain of those who endure it, and films that take us somewhere far more disturbing: into the machinery that makes such horrors possible. NAZA, the documentary by Israeli filmmakers Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, belongs to this third category. It asks us to look beyond the images of destruction that have become tragically familiar from Gaza and confront the systems, institutional cultures and technological processes through which the destruction of human life can be organised, assessed and justified.

The film received the Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival, where its premiere reportedly prompted an extraordinary standing ovation lasting approximately twenty-five minutes. The response was significant, not simply as recognition of cinematic achievement, but because the documentary arrived at a moment when the world has witnessed Gaza's devastation on an almost unimaginable scale, while political institutions have struggled to translate international concern into effective protection for Palestinians.

For readers in Iran and across West Asia, the film raises questions that extend well beyond Palestine. What happens when advanced technology is placed in the service of military domination? What becomes of human responsibility when decisions about



life and death are mediated through databases, surveillance systems, algorithms and calculations of acceptable civilian casualties? And what does it mean when the suffering of another people becomes part of the ordinary administrative routines of warfare?

These are not merely questions about cinema or artificial intelligence. They concern the relationship between technology and power, the value assigned to human life, and the moral obligations of societies capable of inflicting immense destruction.

Behind the images of destruction

The title NAZA refers to a military acronym associated with estimates of expected civilian casualties during airstrikes. Its significance lies in the unsettling distance between the technical language of military planning and the human realities that such language can conceal.

A bomb striking a residential building is

visible. The destruction of a hospital, the collapse of an apartment block and the death of children are events that can be photographed and transmitted across the world. Yet the decisions preceding those events remain largely hidden. Someone must identify a target, assemble intelligence, interpret information, determine the parameters of an operation and authorise the use of force. Somewhere in that chain, a judgment is made about the likely consequences for civilians.

NAZA directs our attention towards this hidden world. Through testimony from Israeli military and intelligence personnel, many speaking anonymously, the documentary examines aspects of the systems used to identify targets and conduct military operations in Gaza. The filmmakers have described their work as drawing upon investigative reporting and testimony from individuals familiar with these processes.

The film's significance lies in the questions it raises about institutional procedures and their human consequences. When military planners discuss anticipated casualties, what happens to the people represented by those figures? When a computer screen displays a target, does the operator see a family living in a home, or merely an entry in a system? When civilian deaths are incorporated into operational calculations, who determines the moral limits of that calculation?

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

Curfews fail to halt growing popular rage across France

From page 1 ► Their interactive maps detail over 200 coordinated actions, including planned blockades of oil depots, fuel stations, and major retail hubs to freeze economic traffic.

What began in mid-September as a high school walkout in Créteil over crumbling classrooms quickly grew into a nation-wide rebellion.

Police brutality poured fuel on the fire. In Lens, a 15-year-old student lost a hand to police munitions; in Tours, a 16-year-old

suffered severe eye trauma.

The violence drew working-class families, trade unions, and veteran Yellow Vests back to the streets in solidarity

By October 17, up to 800,000 citizens marched against skyrocketing inflation, stagnant wages, and unpayable rent.

When clashes erupted, fire gutted the 19th-century city hall in Limoges and damaged tourist hubs in Lyon, while luxury boutiques along Paris's Place Vendôme were left with shattered glass.

tered glass.

The state has responded with total force. Authorities took over 2,500 people into custody, jailed dozens, and deployed 60,000 armed officers.

Nearly 1,000 police were injured, and one demonstrator died near the Paris march. Instead of addressing popular demands for price freezes and wage increases, President Emmanuel Macron flew to the Persian Gulf to secure foreign fuel supplies to protect Western capital.

The crisis exposes the utter hypocrisy of Western governments. While Paris routinely preaches human rights to foreign nations, they deploy tear gas, water cannons, and curfews the moment their own working-class revolts against economic misery.

Iran's foreign ministry has called out Macron's attempt to blame global energy shocks for domestic unrest, declaring that French leaders helped ignite regional instability and must now listen to the voice of their own people.

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Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

5

Trump approval crashes to record low 31% as Iran war backlash mounts



From page 1 ► The backlash has handed Democrats a 47 to 35 percent advantage on the generic congressional ballot. That 12-point lead represents the widest gap measured during the current election cycle. Two weeks prior, the same poll showed a 7-point Democratic margin.

A shift of this scale threatens the Republican majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, a result that would stall Trump's domestic agenda for his remaining two years in office.

Women are driving the shift. Half of female registered voters surveyed said they intend to vote Democratic, compared to 32 percent favoring Republicans. Men also backed Democrats, though by a smaller margin.

When asked which party would better manage the national economy, voters chose Democrats over Republicans by 40 percent to 33 percent.

The domestic fallout from the military aggression against Iran has forced Republican campaigns into retreat.

While Trump urges rally crowds to pretend he is on the ballot, ad-tracking data from Ad-Impact tells a different story.

Between September 9 and October 17,

Call for public inquiry into 'British complicity' in Gaza genocide rejected

UK universities silencing pro-Palestinian solidarity among students and academics: Amnesty

A new report by Amnesty International says that several UK universities have systematically restricted pro-Palestinian solidarity among their students and academics, as well as any speech that is perceived as "critical" of Israel.

The report said that students and academics have been sanctioned for chanting, clapping or wearing keffiyehs in support of Palestine, resulting in suspensions, campus bans, withdrawal of degrees and threats to visa status, "often causing great personal harm".

Visibly Muslim students, and those who display symbols of Palestinian identity, have been "disproportionately impacted", it found, Al Jazeera reported.

Kerry Moscogiuri, the chief executive of Amnesty International UK, called the findings "an attack on our freedom of speech and the right to protest from the very institutions who are supposed to encourage free thought".

Corbyn's call for public inquiry into 'British complicity' in Gaza genocide rejected

Meanwhile, the UK government has rejected a call by Jeremy Corbyn for an independent inquiry into "British complicity" in Israel's genocide in Gaza, Middle East Eye reported.

The former Labour leader wrote to Prime Minister Andy Burnham in July calling on him to back a bill for a public Chilcot-style inquiry into British military, economic and political cooperation with Israel over the course of its ongoing onslaught in Gaza which began in October 2023.

The bill, which was rejected by former Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government during its second reading last year, specifically sought a probe into the British government's "supply of weapons, surveillance air-

Republican House and Senate campaigns spent less than \$1 of every \$100 on television and streaming ads that mentioned Trump's name. During the primary season, that figure stood at \$55 of every \$100.

Democratic campaigns are taking the opposite approach, devoting \$20 of every \$100 in advertising spending to commercials that prominently feature Trump.

These spots directly link Republican candidates to the war on Iran, trade tariffs, and rising living costs.

In battleground states such as Georgia, Michigan, and Maine, Democratic ads highlight the direct connection between Washington's military aggression in West Asia and higher prices at local gas stations.

Republican pollster Whit Ayres noted the obvious difficulty facing his party, observing that a president stuck in the 30s offers little help to candidates who need 50 percent of the vote to win.

The online survey gathered responses from 1,679 U.S. adults, including 1,279 registered voters, with a margin of error of 2 percentage points for all respondents and 3 points for registered voters.

craft" to Israel as well as its use of Royal Air Force bases.

The independent MP revived the bill in July, following Starmer's resignation, and called on Burnham for his support.

But Burnham's government rejected the call in response to a written question on Monday, saying that a tribunal isn't necessary as there are "extensive mechanisms already available for parliamentary accountability and oversight".

New catastrophe for displaced Gazans

Meanwhile, the decision by the UN's food agency [the World Food Program] to cut critical humanitarian aid to half a million people in Gaza is a new catastrophe for a displaced population in need of this essential assistance.

These people survive mainly on the aid provided to them by international agencies, primarily the WFP. What worries them more is that they would be left to provide for themselves with money they don't have, because of the dire living conditions. 80 percent of the population in the strip is unemployed, and they lack the money to meet their daily needs.

The people worry about what will come next as the world turns its back on Gaza during this difficult time. There are more than a million people who are displaced across Gaza, and their struggles increase every day, especially as aid is all they have to survive.

They might take refuge in selling their own belongings to be able to support their families and bring in what they can to help them get through the days.

Even the aid they used to receive was not enough, despite the compounding needs ahead of winter. This might be only one step in a larger phase of cuts, possibly soon.

Moradi and Motaghian win medals in javelin throw

TEHRAN - Two Iranian athletes won silver and bronze medals in the women's javelin throw at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya.

The para-athletics competition continued this afternoon with the women's javelin throw event in the F55/F56 classification.

Iranian national team athlete Zeynab Moradi finished second with a throw of 22.96 meters, earning the silver medal.

Her compatriot, Hashemiyeh Motaghian, secured third place with a throw of 22.94 meters to claim the bronze medal.

China's LAI Xiaojuan won the gold medal with a throw of 26.81 meters.

Haghighatshenas takes gold in para Ttekwondo

TEHRAN - Amirmohammad Haghighatshenas won the gold medal in 2026 Asian Para Games para taekwondo after defeating the host nation's representative in the final.

Haghighatshenas faced Japan's Shunsuke Kudo in the men's K44 under-70kg final at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 on Tuesday. The Iranian athlete won both rounds, with scores of 14-2 and 18-12, to secure the gold medal.

On his way to the final, Haghighatshenas defeated Kazakhstan's Din Muhammad Askar in the quarterfinals and overcame his Uzbek opponent in the semifinals before beating Kudo in the final.

With this victory, Iran's para taekwondo team concluded the second day of competition with five medals: Haghighatshenas won gold, Zahra Rahimi claimed silver, and Parimah Tourani, Saeed Sadeghianpour, and Maryam Abdollahpour each earned a bronze medal.

Shot putter Khosravi snatches gold in Asian Para Games

TEHRAN - Yasin Khosravi won the gold medal in the shot put at the para-athletics competition at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan.

At the conclusion of the second day of para-athletics events at the 5th Asian Para Games, Khosravi claimed gold in the men's F57 shot put.

The Iranian thrower recorded a distance of 15.25 meters to secure the gold medal. His performance also set a new Asian Para Games record, breaking the previous record held by a Chinese athlete.

Saudi Arabia's Haidr Salamh won the silver medal with a throw of 14.97 meters, while India's Hokato Hotozhe claimed bronze with a distance of 14.65 meters.

Men's wheelchair basketball advance to semis

TEHRAN -Iran's men's national wheelchair basketball team advanced to the semifinals of the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games after defeating Kuwait 110-43 to secure their fourth consecutive victory in the competition.

Iran had previously won their first three group-stage matches, defeating Iraq 81-23, South Korea 67-62, and the Philippines 71-45. Those victories had already secured the team's qualification for the knockout stage.

Iran's men's and women's national wheel-

chair basketball teams are competing at the fifth Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya.

Saman Pakbaz collects shot put gold

TEHRAN - Saman Pakbaz has won another gold medal for Iran's athletics team at the Aichi-Nagoya Games, continuing the para-athletics competition.

The F12 shot put was held at the Mizuho Park Stadium in Nagoya on Tuesday.

Iran's national team member Pakbaz recorded a mark of 13.52 meters and won the gold medal of this edition of the Games.

Pakbaz made five valid throws and finished ahead of athletes from Indonesia and Uzbekistan to take gold.

Indonesia's Michael Marcelino won silver with 12.85 meters, and the bronze medal went to Uzbekistan's Diyorbek Umarov with 12.54 meters.

Zeighaminejad earns bronze in 200m individual medley

TEHRAN - Sina Zeighaminejad won the bronze medal in the men's 200m individual medley final at the Nagoya Asian Para Games on Tuesday.

On the second day of para swimming at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games 2026, Iran's representatives lined up in the men's SM10 200m individual medley final and came away with one bronze medal.

Zeighaminejad and Shahin Izadyar raced against five other swimmers from the Philippines, Japan and Kazakhstan. Zeighaminejad took bronze in 2:23.44, while Izadyar finished fourth in 2:26.87.

Japan's Akito Minai won gold in 2:18.11, and Kazakhstan's Dias Kenzhebek took silver in 2:21.61.

Zeighaminejad and Izadyar had also won one gold and one silver between them the previous day.

Hatami collects bronze at 100m T38

TEHRAN - Iran's Reza Hatami won the bronze medal in the para-athletics 100m final on Tuesday.

On the second day of para-athletics at the fifth Asian Para Games in Nagoya, the T38 100m discipline was held.

Hatami finished third in 11.72 seconds to take the bronze medal.

Thailand's Amornthep Phonpanna won gold in 11.60, and Iraq's Ali Al-Rikabi took silver in 11.70.

Jahanabadi claims bronze in 100m breaststroke

TEHRAN - Iran's swimmer finished third in the men's 100m breaststroke final at the Nagoya Asian Para Games on Tuesday.

Continuing the para swimming competition at the fifth Aichi-Nagoya Para Asian Games, Mohammadhossein Karimi Jahanabadi lined up in the men's SB12 100m breaststroke final and won bronze.

Karimi Jahanabadi raced against seven other swimmers from Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Singapore, India, Qatar and Japan, finishing third in 1:13.47 to earn the medal.

Japan's Genki Saito and Qatar's Shamil Shahov won gold and silver in 1:12.74 and 1:13.17 respectively.

Iran and Uzbekistan: Where shared history comes alive in Tashkent

From Page 1 ▶ The Islamic Civilization Center offers one ambitious answer. Officially opened in March 2026, the complex stands beside the historic Khast-Imam ensemble, one of Tashkent's most important religious and cultural sites.

My guide throughout the visit was Mr. Ozod Kuvondikov, Head of the Information Service of Uzbekistan's Committee on Interethnic Relations, who had also assisted me during earlier visits to other attractions in the capital. He spoke English quite well and approached his role with professionalism, patience and a clear knowledge of the places he introduced me to.

A building designed to tell a story

Even from kilometers away, the center is difficult to overlook. Its four monumental entrance portals, each approximately 34 meters high, draw on architectural traditions from different parts of Uzbekistan. The eastern entrance recalls the Ulugbek Madrasah on Registan Square in Samarkand. The west-



ern portal reflects the religious architecture of Bukhara, while the northern and southern entrances incorporate references to other historic regions and cities, including Khiva, Shakhrisabz, Karakalpakstan, Kokand, Tashkent and Termez.

Together, the entrances form an architectural map of the country. They suggest that Uzbekistan's heritage cannot be reduced to a single city, dynasty or style. It developed through many regional traditions, each contributing its own forms, colors and artistic vocabulary.

Above the complex rises a central dome more than 60 meters high. The building covers more than 40,000 square meters of interior space, making room for exhibition galleries, research facilities, a library, educational areas and conference facilities. Official descriptions place the complex among the country's largest recent cultural projects.

Inside, the scale becomes more apparent. Broad halls lead into exhibition spaces, and



the building's pale surfaces and monumental proportions give visitors room to pause rather than hurry from one display to another.

Yet the center's most interesting feature is not its size alone. It is the way the building attempts to turn history into a continuous narrative.

Instead of presenting the past as a series of unrelated treasures, the main exhibition follows a chronological route. It begins with the ancient civilizations of Central Asia, moves through the region's pre-Islamic heritage, enters the period of scientific and cultural flourishing between the eighth and 13th centuries, and then follows the artistic and political achievements associated with the 14th to 16th centuries. The final section turns to contemporary Uzbekistan and its vision of a new cultural renaissance.

This arrangement makes an important point: the story of Islamic civilization in Central Asia did not begin with the arrival of Islam, nor did it end with the decline of a particular dynasty. It emerged from earlier societies and continued through centuries of exchange, adaptation and intellectual work.

The Hall of Fame: scholars beyond borders

One of the first spaces to command atten-



tion is the Hall of Fame, where huge mosaic panels vividly portray some of the most influential thinkers in the history of the Islamic world.

The figures include Avicenna, known in the Islamic intellectual tradition as Ibn Sina; Al-Khwarizmi, whose work helped establish the foundations of algebra; Al-Biruni, the scholar whose investigations ranged across mathematics, astronomy, geography and other fields; and Al-Farabi, the philosopher often called the Second Teacher after Aristotle.

The portraits are assembled from thousands of small pieces of tile. Viewed from a distance, they form monumental images. Seen more closely, they reveal the patience and precision required to bring so many individual pieces into a single composition.

The effect is both artistic and symbolic. Each scholar is presented as an individual whose ideas helped shape a much larger intellectual world.

A peek into the ancient world

The center's historical journey reaches back much further than the Islamic period. In the galleries devoted to pre-Islamic heritage, archaeological objects present Central Asia as a place of human settlement, artistic production and cultural contact stretching back thousands of years.

Among the countless objects described in the exhibition material are stone tools and arrowheads associated with the Obi-Rahmat site, dating to approximately 80,000 years ago. There are also gold ornaments and other finds linked to ancient Bactria, a historical region that included parts of present-day Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

One striking exhibit is the sculpted head known as the Head of the Kushan Prince, dated to the first or second century CE and discovered at Dalverzin-Tepa in southern Uzbekistan. Its features and surviving detail offer a glimpse of the artistic culture that developed under the Kushan Empire, whose territories connected parts of Central and South Asia.

Nearby, a deer sculpture dating to the first millennium BC recalls the symbolic importance of animals in ancient artistic traditions. Its presence gives the gallery a different character from the displays of manuscripts and religious objects elsewhere in the building. Here, visitors encounter societies whose beliefs and artistic languages developed long before the emergence of Islam.

The objects also challenge the idea that the history of Uzbekistan can be understood only through the history of the Uzbek state, which is modern in its present form. The territory has been home to many peoples, languages, religions and political systems. Sogdian, Bactrian, Khwarazmian, Persian, Turkic and other cultural traditions all formed part of the wider historical landscape.

For an Iranian visitor, this part of the exhibition feels especially close. Ancient Bactria and the surrounding regions were linked to the Iranian cultural world through language, religion, trade and political contact. These connections were neither simple nor unchanging, but they formed an important part of the history of the lands that now make up modern Iran and its neighbors.

When technology brings history closer

The chronological galleries are supported by a range of digital installations. Multilingual screens provide information about objects, while digital reconstructions place historic buildings and cities within their former settings. Interactive displays allow visitors to explore historical periods in ways that would be difficult to achieve through labels and glass cases alone.

Some of the most engaging features use artificial intelligence to animate portraits of scholars and present their discoveries in a more personal format. Rather than

simply reading a short biography, visitors can encounter a digital representation of a historical figure explaining aspects of his work.

Such displays can make a difficult subject more accessible, especially for younger visitors or people unfamiliar with the history of Islamic scholarship. Mathematics, philosophy and astronomy may seem distant when presented only through dates and technical terms. A digital guide can help turn them into stories about human curiosity, disagreement and discovery.

One of the most effective installations is an interactive map of the Silk Road. The historic trading network is often represented in books as a series of lines connecting distant cities. Here, its routes become visible paths of movement and exchange, helping visitors understand how merchants, religious teachers, diplomats, artists and ideas travelled between regions.



The Silk Road was never a single road with one fixed route. It was a changing network of overland and other connections that linked East Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe across many centuries. Its importance lay not only in the goods that moved along it but also in the knowledge and artistic practices that accompanied them. That is why it sometimes referred to as the Silk Roads NOT the Silk Road.

Looking at the map, I thought about how often the history of our region is divided into national chapters, even when the historical evidence points towards constant interaction. The roads that connected Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva also linked them to cities farther south and west, including those of historical Iran.

Other interactive features make the experience more playful. Visitors can try a virtual archery simulation or explore an installation demonstrating how bellows supply air to a traditional tandoor oven. In the gallery devoted to contemporary Uzbekistan, Humo AI acts as a digital assistant, answering questions about the center and the country's history.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)



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Iraq seeks broader scientific ties with Iran via joint research, faculty exchanges

TEHRAN - Iraqi Ambassador to Iran Yasser Abdulzahra Al-Hajjaj has stressed that scientific cooperation between the two countries should extend beyond student recruitment to include joint research projects, exchanges of professors and researchers, and stronger technological ties.

Universities are not merely educational institutions; they also serve as bridges for dialogue and the exchange of expertise among scientists from different countries, particularly Iran and Iraq, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks while addressing a national festival held at the Iran University of Science and Technology on Tuesday.

Referring to the significant progress achieved in bilateral scientific relations, Al-Hajjaj said today that thousands of Iraqi students are studying in more than 80 Iranian universities, majoring in medical and non-medical fields, across the country.

The past two Iran-Iraq science weeks brought together over 70 and 80 university chancellors of the two nations, and more than 250 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) were signed, indicating a good experience in expanding scientific collaborations.

The official said that the establishment of a branch of Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iraq promoted and stabilized academic relations between Iran and Iraq more than ever.

He went on to say that a branch of University of Tehran will be inaugurated in Karbala and Najaf in the near future. He expressed hope that a branch of Sharif University of Technology and Iran University of Science and Technology would be launched in Iraq as well.



According to the official, Iraq is expanding its educational and research infrastructures, and with the increase in the number of domestic universities, the majority of Iraqi students would tend to study at home.

Given that 85 percent of Iraqi students in Iran are employees who, based on the new legislation in Iraq, will have problems studying abroad, the official suggested considering the situation as an opportunity rather than a threat to revise the model of scientific interactions between the two sides. Otherwise, the probable decrease in the number of Iraqi students in Iran would give rise to new challenges.

Iraqi official called for the implementation of joint research projects in medical, agricultural, sand and dust, oil, gas and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.

Developing joint educational courses and co-supervising theses were among other issues highlighted by Al-Hajjaj.

Boosting academic ties to meet domestic, regional priorities

On October 18, Iran's scientific counselor in Iraq, Mohammad-Javad Najafi, and Iraqi Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Haider Abd Dahed, discussed ways to strengthen academic cooperation between universities in the two countries, with a focus on problem-solving approaches and addressing domestic and regional needs.

Collaboration on problem-oriented research, the provision of scholarships, the facilitation of educational issues for students, and preparation for the 'Third Iran-Iraq Science Week' were the key topics discussed during the meeting, IRNA reported.

The officials also discussed conducting collaborative research projects, supervising joint dissertations for postgraduate degrees, and publishing joint scientific articles in globally reputable magazines.

Addressing the challenges and

educational problems faced by the students in reciprocal countries was the other issue raised by the two sides.

On September 22, Ehsan Qaboul, head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology's Center for International Scientific Cooperation, and Safaa Taqi Abd Nour Al-Issawi, president of Mustansiriyah University, highlighted the need to boost technological cooperation and implement previously reached agreements.

The officials met in Tehran and agreed to conduct joint research projects and supervise postgraduate theses focused on Iran-Iraq shared issues, including economic, social, cultural, agricultural, and industrial challenges, IRNA reported.

Both parties agreed to have an active participation in the third Iran-Iraq Science Week. Qaboul, for his part, said the Iraqi university is expected to play an effective role in the week through defining and executing practical and synergistic programs in cooperation with top Iranian universities.

referred to medical centers in the past Iranian year (March 2025 – March 2026). Twenty of them lost their lives, and it could have been prevented. Eleven individuals died without receiving any treatment.

The statistics indicate that, in addition to prompt presentation of the bitten person to medical centers, timely and appropriate post-exposure care and the raise of public awareness are critical, and every case of animal bite must be treated as a medical emergency. When a person is bitten or scratched by an animal, even if the bite looks small, they have to visit a healthcare provider right away, he added.

Noting that approximately four out of every five confirmed rabies deaths in Iran are due to dog bites, Jabbour stated that stray dogs alone account for more than half of these cases, while the rest are attributed to wild animals, including wolves and foxes.

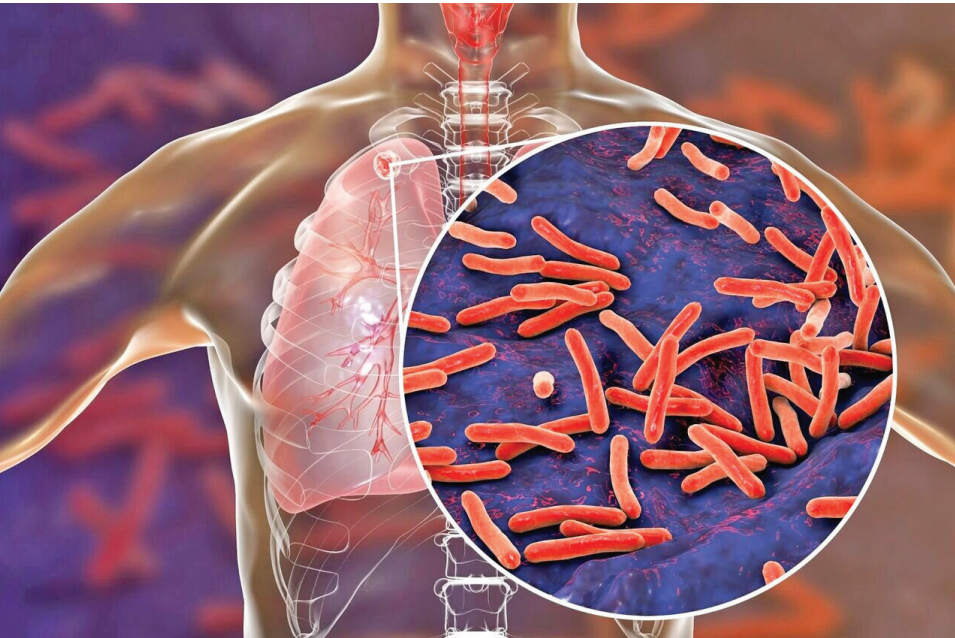
The official underlined the role of One Health strategies for rabies control, including constant vaccination of dogs, effective management of stray dogs, and the promotion of close cooperation among the human health, environmental health, and veterinary sectors, he added.

Lauding the adopted measures in the country, Jabbour said some 729 rabies prevention and treatment centers are operating across the country, and post-exposure care services are provided in all provinces.

Around one million doses of human rabies vaccine and 180,000 vials of anti-rabies serum are procured for the national program annually; the Pasteur Institute of Iran helps diagnose confirmed cases of rabies as well as train physicians and health workers.

The official went on to say that the development of a national strategic document for rabies eradication is also a significant step toward aligning Iran with the global goal of "zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030", adding that the WHO is committed to supporting Iran, through technical assistance and collaboration, in achieving the goal.

Iran makes progress in tuberculosis control, but gaps in case detection remain



TEHRAN – Iran has achieved a substantial share of international targets for tuberculosis (TB) control, but significant potential remains for detecting undiagnosed cases of the disease, a health official said.

Speaking at a ceremony marking National Tuberculosis Day, Qobad Moradi, head of the Ministry of Health's Center for Communicable Disease Management, said the incidence of TB in Iran had declined in recent years, placing the country in a favorable position compared with most countries in the region.

According to Moradi, the World Health Organization estimates that around 9,600 people in Iran have TB, indicating that a portion of cases remain undetected and that further efforts are needed to identify more patients.

He identified close contacts of TB patients, organ transplant recipients, people taking immunosuppressive medications, homeless people, residents of camps and other congregate settings, and marginalized populations as priority groups for screening.

Moradi also highlighted the need to im-

prove treatment outcomes. While the expected TB treatment success rate is around 90 percent, Iran's rate has remained at approximately 84 percent in recent years, underscoring the need for greater attention to patient management.

In March 2025, Mahshid Nasehi, an official with the ministry of health has said that all diagnosis and medical services for the treatment of tuberculosis are free of charge in the country.

About 15 million people in Iran have latent tuberculosis, that is, they have been living with this infection for years, but they are not sick and they do not transmit tuberculosis to others, IRNA quoted Nasehi as saying.

Global efforts to combat TB have saved an estimated 79 million lives since 2000. However, the drastic and abrupt cuts in global health funding happening now are threatening to reverse these gains. Rising drug resistance especially across Europe and the ongoing conflicts across West Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe, are further exacerbating the situation for the most vulnerable.

Rasul Medal recognizes scientists for both achievement and social impact

TEHRAN - The Rasul (pbuh) Medal recognizes young scientists whose work demonstrates social responsibility and makes a meaningful contribution to society and humanity, with particular emphasis on the real-world impact of their achievements.

The Rasul (pbuh) Medal is presented alongside the Mustafa (pbuh) Prize to scientists under the age of 40 from the Islamic world. Established in 2012, the Mustafa Prize aims to honor prominent scientists and foster scientific cooperation and development worldwide, serving as a symbol of scientific excellence at the international level.

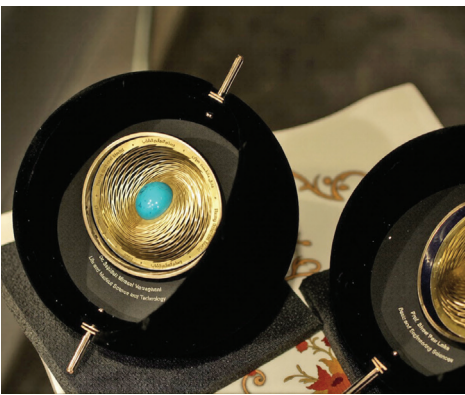
"Following the close of the submission period, university professors of medical sciences evaluated the nominees through in-person and online meetings," said Gholamreza Hassanzadeh, the head of the Life and Medical Science and Technology judging committee of the Rasul(pbuh) Medal.

The evaluation process involved 16 initial screening sessions, narrowing the pool from 65,000 nominees to 20,000. A final committee meeting was then held to conduct a comprehensive assessment, resulting in a shortlist of eight finalists, he added.

"All indicators were taken into account in evaluating the scientists against both qualitative and quantitative criteria," Hassanzadeh said.

Asked whether the selection criteria were based on a scientist's overall achievements or on a specific achievement or research publication, he explained, "The winners of the Rasul Medal, unlike the Mustafa(pbuh) Prize, are not selected based on a single outstanding achievement.

"These scientists are under 40 years old and have only recently begun their research careers. Our criterion was therefore more focused on the quality and significance of their achievements. For example, even if a paper they had published had not received many citations, it could still be considered a significant achievement if it had helped solve a



problem facing a society."

Regarding the most important criteria for selecting the final list of laureates, he stated, "Various quantitative and qualitative indicators, such as the H-index, were more relevant in the initial screening. In the later stages, we examined the original articles and the work that individuals had done, as well as patents."

Hassanzadeh highlighted the importance of the tangible social impact of scientific achievements in selecting candidates for the Rasul Medal. "One of the essential characteristics of universities is social accountability, and every scientist must be accountable to their society and humanity as a whole. Therefore, we carefully considered criteria such as social accountability and individual impact. Every scientific work has inputs and outputs, but the most important question is how much impact it has on society and the extent to which it can help solve societal problems."

He also discussed the total number of nominations received by the Rasul Medal secretariat. "Many eligible candidates were nominated, and the initial screening proceeded smoothly."

He emphasized, "Our working group did not adopt an exclusively national perspective. We did not favour nominees from any particular country; rather, we sought to select anyone in the Islamic countries who was genuinely deserving."

WHO extends designation of Pasteur Institute of Iran as collaborating center on Rabies

TEHRAN – The World Health Organization (WHO) has extended the designation of Pasteur Institute of Iran as its collaborating center for reference and research on rabies for another four years, till January 14, 2030.

Through sustained comprehensive efforts, exceptional scientific expertise, and compliance with international standards, the institute has obtained a renewed four-year endorsement from this global health body. The designation highlights the pivotal role and scientific authority of the Pasteur Institute of Iran in education, specialized diagnosis, applied research, and strengthening surveillance systems for the elimination of rabies in Iran and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), IRNA reported.

Founded in 1920, the Pasteur Institute of Iran is a longstanding member of the Pasteur Network. The Institute contributes to national, regional, and global public health through its national reference laboratories, WHO Collaborating Centers, disease surveillance and diagnostics, biobanks, and the production of essential medical countermeasures.

The Pasteur Institute of Iran has been a pillar of the country's public health system for more than a century. This institute has provided key public health infrastructure on multiple fronts, including vaccine development and production, national reference laboratory services, diagnostics, and genomic surveillance for infectious diseases, including SARS-CoV-2, cholera, rabies, measles, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and viral hepatitis.

The Institute was targeted by the US and Israel on April 2. Following the attack, Mario Moreira, President of the Pasteur Network, expressed concern over the destruction of the Pasteur Institute of Iran and warned of the potential regional impacts, as it disrupts the major role of this century-old pillar of global health in prevention and control of existing and rising health threats in the region.

International scientific reporting, including coverage in Science Magazine, has highlighted the effects of escalating hostilities on universities and research institutions in Iran, including impacts on academic and public health infrastructure.

Iran, WHO join efforts to eliminate human rabies by 2030

The National Plan for the Elimination of Human Rabies 2026–2030 was formally countersigned at a seminar marking World Rabies Day, hosted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education's Centre for Communicable Disease Control.

The initiative aims to strengthen national efforts to prevent and ultimately eliminate human rabies through coordinated measures in disease surveillance, prevention, public awareness, and timely access to post-exposure treatment.

Speaking at the event, Dr Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasized the need for collaboration across human health, veterinary services, municipalities, communities and other sectors through a One Health approach. He also highlighted timely care after animal bites and dog vaccination as essential measures to prevent rabies deaths.

Achieving the goal of zero human deaths from rabies by 2030 requires enhancing collaborations among the health system, veterinary services, municipalities, and local communities within the framework of the "One Health" approach, Jabbour stated.

Dog bites contribute to 99 percent of human rabies cases. Despite being fatal, rabies is entirely preventable. However, no single organization can defeat the disease on its own, the health ministry's website quoted Jabbour as saying.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of World Rabies Day, which is marked on September 28 every year.

Highlighting this year's World Rabies Day theme, 'Stronger Together', he noted that rabies elimination needs ongoing multi-sectoral cooperation among physicians, veterinarians, health staff, municipalities, and local communities.

Referring to the number of animal bites in the country, he said over the past two decades there has been a fivefold increase in the number of reported cases. More than 441,000 individuals bitten by animals were



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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
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OCTOBER 21, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Failures are often the results of timidity and fears;
disappointments are the results of bashfulness; hours of
leisure pass away like summer-clouds, therefore, do not
waste opportunity of doing good.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:49 Evening: 17:40 Dawn: 4:53 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:17 (tomorrow)

“Gaza Girl” short film takes anti-war message to festivals in France, US

TEHRAN- Iranian short film “Gaza Girl,” written and directed by Hossein Babaeian, was screened at the 13th Hendaia Film Festival in France and is set to participate in the Authentic Global Films festival in the United States in November, continuing its international festival run.

According to the film’s public relations office, the short is produced by Alireza Pishehvar. The Hendaia Film Festival was held from October 15 to 18 in Hendaye, southwestern France, while the US festival is scheduled for November 5 to 7 in Hollywood, California.

The Hendaia Film Festival focuses on short films and promotes cinema as a means of encouraging cultural dialogue and offering distinctive perspectives on contemporary issues. The American event, presented by Authentic Global Films, also emphasizes cultural exchange through international cinema.

“Gaza Girl” has previously participated in Italy’s 15th Cinematography Terrace Festival, Spain’s sixth FICIMAD Festival, Nigeria’s fourth Joint Film Festival and the 28th Inventa Festival in Italy.

The film received an honorary diploma at FICIMAD, held on June 19. It was also selected among the four best films at the Joint Film

Festival in Nigeria, according to its public relations office.

With an anti-war perspective, “Gaza Girl” explores themes of compassion, humanity, sacrifice and selflessness. Set against the backdrop of a conflict that forces people into opposing sides, the film highlights the enduring value of human life and the possibility of compassion even amid war.

The cast includes Alireza Pishehvar, Mehra Moqim and Raha Moqaddam.

Over the past two to three years, Gaza has increasingly become the subject of films and documentaries seeking to record the human cost of the war, the experiences of civilians, and the impact of the conflict on children and families.

Filmmakers from Palestine and other countries have turned to cinema to document the destruction, displacement and daily struggles of people living in the territory, while also highlighting stories of resilience, loss and survival.

Through both documentary and fictional narratives, these works have sought to preserve personal testimonies and bring the lives of Gaza’s people to international audiences.

Cartoon of Day



Protests in Paris

Cartoonist: Fares Garabet from Germany

Mehr Media Group delegation visits Armenpress, discusses expanding media cooperation

TEHRAN – A delegation from the Mehr Media Group held talks with the management of the Armenpress news agency in Armenia regarding the expansion of media cooperation and the development of joint productions.

During the meeting with Armenpress Director Narine Nazaryan, Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati, CEO of the Mehr Media Group, emphasized the importance of strengthening mutual understanding between the people of Iran and Armenia and expanding media cooperation between the two countries, Mehr reported.

Pointing to the role of Armanpress in providing an accurate image of Iran, Rahmati added: “On the other hand, it is also important for us to help Iranians gain a better understanding of Armenia.”

Noting that approximately 200,000 Iranian tourists visited Armenia in 2025, he stated: “Iranians are welcomed in this country, and the Mehr Media Group is prepared to introduce Armenia’s capacities and development paths to Iranian audiences.”

Rahmati also remarked on the necessity of taking new steps in the relationship between these two media entities, stating: “These collaborations can expand into areas such as cinema, the production of short films and documentaries, and the coverage of regional news, particularly developments in Iran and Armenia.”

For her part, Narine Nazaryan,



Armenpress Director Narine Nazaryan (L) and the CEO of the Mehr Media Group Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati

emphasized the importance of the cooperation memorandum signed between the two organizations in 2024, and described the agreement as a vital commitment to bringing the two nations’ societies closer.

She described the visit of the Mehr Media Group delegation as an opportunity to strengthen these ties, stating: “Interaction between the two media outlets should not be limited to the exchange of news and content; it must also include the exchange

of expertise, mutual learning, and combating misinformation and media manipulation through the synergy of our capacities.”

Nazaryan also emphasized the need to explore closer cooperation in multi-media content production and leveraging digital developments.

In another part of the meeting, the Director of Armanpress announced a photo exhibition by the news agency at the Saint Mary metro station in Tehran,

which was met with readiness from the Mehr Media Group delegation to provide media support for the event.

During the meeting, members of the Mehr Media Group delegation toured various departments of Armanpress, and got acquainted with the history of the building, content production facilities, interview studios, press briefing rooms, and portions of the agency’s archival imagery.

TMoCA website displays 1,000 artworks



TEHRAN – The head of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) has announced that it is now possible to view the museum’s collection online.

As the museum approaches its 50th anniversary, the online display of its collection has begun to facilitate access for enthusiasts and increase transparency regarding the institution, Reza Dabirinejad noted.

Tehran session to explore British composer Malcolm Arnold’s musical legacy

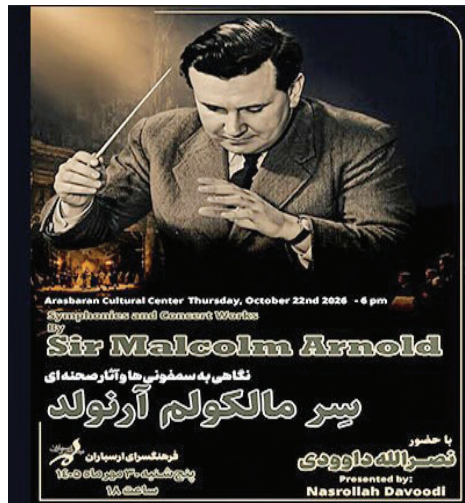
TEHRAN- A specialist session examining the film music of British composer Sir Malcolm Arnold, known for his nine symphonies and Oscar-winning score for “The Bridge on the River Kwai,” will be held at Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Thursday.

The 12th session in a series devoted to composers of the English school will feature Nasrollah Davoudi, a composer, translator and music critic, who will discuss Arnold’s distinctive musical language and analyze selected examples of his film scores.

The session will include excerpts from Arnold’s compositions, offering an opportunity to explore his approach to orchestration, melody and dramatic expression.

Born in Northampton on October 21, 1921, Arnold became one of the most prolific British composers of the 20th century, producing works across a wide range of genres, including symphonies, concertos, chamber music, ballets, operas and film scores.

He studied trumpet and composition at the Royal College of Music in London and began his professional career as an orchestral musician. He joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1941, later becoming its principal trumpet. In 1948, he left the orchestra to de-



vote himself to composition full-time.

Arnold’s output combined a strong melodic sensibility with colorful orchestration and a musical language rooted in tonality while incorporating modern elements. His works for the concert hall include nine symphonies, more than 20 concertos and a number of concert overtures, among them “Beckus the Dandipratt” and “Tam O’Shanter.”

His stage works include ballets such as

permanent exhibition space, stating, “The museum aims to establish a permanent exhibition section in the near future to provide continuous access to selected and significant works for both tourists and art lovers.”

Interested individuals can view the works and related information by visiting the official Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art website at www.tmoa.com.

Established in 1977, the museum has more than 4,000 items that include 19th- and 20th-century world-class Iranian, European, and American paintings, prints, drawings, and sculptures. Being the biggest collection of Western art in the Eastern world, it includes works from almost all artistic periods and movements.

The museum was designed by Iranian architect Kamran Diba, who employed elements from traditional Persian architecture. The building itself can be regarded as an example of contemporary art, in the style of an underground Guggenheim Museum.

Most of the museum area is located underground, with a circular walkway that spirals downwards, with galleries branching outwards. Western sculptures by artists such as Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte, and Moore can be found in the museum’s gardens.

“Homage to the Queen” and “Rinaldo and Armida,” as well as the one-act opera “The Dancing Master.” His versatility also extended to music for brass and wind ensembles, chamber compositions and vocal works.

Arnold achieved international recognition through his extensive work for cinema. He composed more than 130 film scores, including music for David Lean’s 1957 war drama “The Bridge on the River Kwai,” which earned him an Academy Award in 1958. Other notable film scores include “The Inn of the Sixth Happiness,” “Hobson’s Choice” and “Whistle Down the Wind.”

His film compositions helped establish his reputation beyond the concert hall, while his symphonies and stage works demonstrated a broader artistic range, encompassing both accessible melodies and more serious, emotionally charged writing.

Arnold was knighted in 1993 for his services to music. He died in Norwich on September 23, 2006, at the age of 84.

The free session will take place at Arasbaran Cultural Center, located on Jolfa Street, north of Seyyed Khandan Bridge, Shariati Street.