

Liquidity growth slowed, monthly inflation on a downward trend: economy minister

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, told parliament on Tuesday that liquidity growth has entered a declining path and that monthly inflation has been falling over the past four months. Answering a question from MP Mostafa Pourdehqan Ardakani and several other lawmakers, he said the government is fully aware of the pressure that inflation and high prices are putting on ordinary households, retirees, workers, and employees, and that economic indicators are being monitored daily. ▶ Page 4

Israeli voters chose between 'rabid yellow dogs and ravenous jackals'

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israelis queued in numbers not seen in half a century on Tuesday, and Benjamin Netanyahu spent the afternoon begging his own voters to match them.

Turnout reached 44.9 percent by 2 p.m., the fastest pace since 1973, the elections committee said. Polls were due to close at 10 p.m. local time, and no final survey had promised a winner.

Channel 13's last poll gave Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar 22 seats, Likud 19, Naftali Bennett's Together alliance about 14.5, and Avigdor Liberman's Yisrael Beiteinu 8. It put Netanyahu's bloc on 50 and the opposition on 54, both short of the 61 needed in the 120-seat Knesset. ▶ Page 5

UN inquiry confirms Israel continued Gaza genocide, committed torture and rape in West Bank

TEHRAN — Israel has kept committing genocide in Gaza since the U.S.-backed "ceasefire" took hold last October, and across the occupied West Bank it has committed crimes against humanity that include extermination, torture, rape and the systematic persecution of Palestinians.

That is the finding of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in a report published on Monday, October 27. ▶ Page 5

Israeli and US elections could hasten the end of Iran war

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON - Alongside military and economic calculations, the Knesset elections in Israel and midterm congressional elections in the U.S. are emerging as factors influencing the duration of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and the terms under which it might end. These electoral considerations also shape the relationship between Benjamin Netanyahu's political future and Donald Trump's decisions.

Netanyahu's political future may be linked to the future of the confrontation with Iran. If Netanyahu loses the Israeli elections, Trump may have a greater opportunity to withdraw from the war while declaring that the United States has achieved its objectives.

Under this scenario, the withdrawal could be presented to the American public as a victory, even if the actual outcome more closely resembles Iran's success in enduring the confrontation and maintaining its ability to shape the future of the region and beyond. In this way, Trump could end America's direct military commitments while attempting to avoid admitting that the war failed to achieve its stated objectives. ▶ Page 5



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei in meeting with SNSC secretary stresses:

Maintain Control of Hormuz

The Leader stressed the need to pursue the rights and interests of the Iranian nation and the Resistance Front by ensuring that the conditions set forth by the country's officials for ending the war are met, and by bringing the current state of "neither war nor peace" to an end.

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei met with Major General Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), for a review of the country's situation across culture, politics, economy and security, and the region's shifting order.

During the meeting, the Leader described the SNSC and its Secretariat as the "crossroads of policymaking" in the country's affairs, stressing that culture, politics, economy and security are interconnected and that decisions in each field must be accompanied by appropriate supporting measures.

He said sound and well-grounded decisions require a roadmap based on a comprehensive understanding of each undertaking, from its starting point to its conclusion.

Unity, trust and constitutional capacities

Other key topics discussed included strengthening national cohesion and unity, as well as mutual trust between the people and officials.

The Leader underlined the need to make use of the capacities provided by the Constitution, particularly Article 176, to assist the President and executive bodies in facilitating

and expediting the resolution of the country's problems.

He described the enemy's desperation as one of the fruits of national resistance, while emphasizing the need for proactive and timely communication to sustain the people's continued participation in defending the country and the Islamic establishment.

The Leader also stressed the need to pursue the rights and interests of the Iranian nation and the Resistance Front by ensuring that the conditions set forth by the country's officials for ending the war are met, and by bringing the current state of "neither war nor peace" to an end. ▶ Page 3

Araghchi holds separate calls with Egyptian, Jordanian and Turkmen counterparts

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate telephone conversations with his Egyptian, Jordanian and Turkmen counterparts to discuss bilateral relations, regional developments and diplomatic efforts to promote stability and security.

In a call with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on Tuesday, the two diplomats exchanged views on bilateral relations, the latest regional developments and other issues of mutual interest. They also stressed the importance of continuing political and diplomatic consultations to safeguard regional stability.

Araghchi also spoke by telephone on Tuesday with Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi. The two sides discussed bilateral ties, recent developments across the region and matters of mutual interest. In a separate conversation on Monday, Araghchi and Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov reviewed key regional issues and the latest international developments. They emphasized the importance of continued diplomatic consultations and political efforts to ease tensions and establish lasting stability and security in the region.

Bagheri: Tehran quadrilateral meeting reflects Iran's defense capabilities

TEHRAN — Ali Bagheri Kani, deputy for international affairs at the Secretariat of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, has described the quadrilateral meeting between Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan in Tehran as a product of the Iranian nation's resistance and the courage of its Armed Forces, saying the gathering reflected a growing recognition among regional countries that "lasting security must be built through cooperation and reliance on domestic capabilities." ▶ Page 2

China to send special envoy to Middle East amid fears of conflict spillover

TEHRAN- China will dispatch a special envoy to countries in the Middle East and surrounding regions in the near future to strengthen diplomatic engagement, ease tensions, and prevent the ongoing conflict from spreading further, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Beijing was deeply concerned about conflicts in the Middle East and neighboring regions, warning that the repercussions could extend to the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. ▶ Page 3



Pezeshkian calls for stronger gas cooperation, condemns US sanctions and military aggression

TEHRAN— Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called on major natural gas producers to strengthen strategic and technical cooperation to safeguard global energy security, warning that unilateral sanctions and US military interventions in the Persian Gulf are destabilizing energy markets and threatening economic growth worldwide.

Addressing the eighth summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Moscow on Tuesday, Pezeshkian said geopolitical tensions and unilateral measures had exposed the global. ▶ Page 2

'No Kings' movement sees public mobilization as essential to defending US democracy, says Mass 50501 executive director



▶ Page 5

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

Forced retreat of neighbors

Khorasan examined the reopening of borders by Iran's eastern and western neighbors, Pakistan and Iraq, after a forced retreat from restrictive policies. The paper argued that recent statements by Scott Bessent regarding cooperation between Washington and Iran's neighbors to limit land routes represented a new stage in economic pressure on Tehran. However, developments on both borders showed that isolating Iran through regional blockades is neither easy nor cost-free. According to the report, Iran remains an important partner for neighboring countries in sectors such as energy and essential goods. Any political decision designed to pressure Tehran for a limited period could result in the long-term loss of valuable markets. The newspaper noted that Iran provides substantial opportunities for foreign exporters, manufacturers, and service companies. Restricting access to this market would reduce sales and may even negatively affect employment in neighboring states. For this reason, attempts to economically isolate Iran could ultimately damage the interests of regional countries as much as, or even more than, Iran itself.

Ettelaat: Shadow of war and a window for diplomacy

Ettelaat focused on the complicated relationship between military developments and diplomacy. It wrote that disagreements over negotiation terms have intensified the challenges facing both Tehran and Washington. Iran seeks relief from economic and maritime pressures as well as guarantees against future confrontations. The United States, in contrast, continues to emphasize nuclear restrictions and security arrangements. The analysis stated that neither side wants to enter negotiations from a position of weakness, making a comprehensive agreement difficult to reach. Declining trust is another major obstacle. When confidence erodes, even establishing common ground on basic issues requires more time and stronger assurances. The newspaper added that economic pressure may be increased in an effort to force concessions, but such measures can also reduce the likelihood of compromise. Successful diplomacy requires a willingness to understand the concerns of the opposing side and to search for realistic solutions rather than simply repeating demands.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Mediators on the move

Arman-e-Emrooz highlighted regional and international mediation efforts aimed at preventing further escalation. The paper noted that several actors are simultaneously attempting to create opportunities for dialogue. Qatar has sent a delegation to Tehran, Pakistan has expressed readiness to mediate, and Russia may assume a more active diplomatic role. According to the report, Iran has made clear that it is prepared for negotiations but only under conditions it considers acceptable. Issues related to the

Strait of Hormuz and restrictions on ports are viewed by Tehran as interconnected and cannot be discussed separately. The newspaper argued that meaningful progress depends on confidence-building measures and practical actions by all parties. Maintaining stability is especially important because any serious escalation could affect neighboring countries, international trade, global energy markets, and broader security concerns.

Arman-e-Melli: Why Europeans have become active

Arman-e-Melli examined increasing European diplomatic activity toward Iran. The newspaper argued that since the outbreak of recent tensions and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, many analysts have viewed European countries as among the most vulnerable to the resulting economic and political consequences. As a result, Europe appears to be searching for a new path out of the current situation. The European troika is reportedly interested in playing a more influential role in future discussions between Iran and the United States through a revised framework for negotiations. Political and security indicators suggest that European governments are working to avoid becoming directly involved in policies that could deepen confrontation in the region. However, Europe faces several challenges. Among them are unexpected developments involving energy cooperation between the United States and Russia, as well as growing speculation about a possible accommodation between Russia and Ukraine. These factors have complicated European strategic calculations and encouraged greater diplomatic engagement.

Farhikhtegan: How Iran should deal with US

Farhikhtegan discussed strategic principles that should guide Iran's approach toward the United States. The article outlined four main recommendations. First, Iranian proposals should be framed in terms of mutual interests rather than demands. This approach can present negotiations as constructive opportunities rather than confrontational exchanges. Second, if circumstances lead Washington to support ending tensions and pursuing an agreement, Iran should seek structural guarantees instead of relying solely on written or verbal commitments. Third, Tehran should expand the number and diversity of mediators, partners, and supporters involved in diplomatic efforts. Fourth, despite their limitations, international organizations should remain important instruments for advancing national objectives and protecting interests. The article concluded by arguing that the United States should be judged by its actions rather than its statements. Real policies, treatment of allies, and tangible outcomes are ultimately more important than public rhetoric in determining intentions and future relations.



Pezeshkian calls for stronger gas cooperation, condemns US sanctions and military aggression

From page 1 ► energy market to serious risks, emphasizing the need for coordinated action by gas-producing countries to maintain market stability, expand trade and strengthen investment across the natural gas value chain.

He condemned the US-Israeli military aggression against Iran, saying attacks on the country's energy infrastructure and disruptions to energy transfers had endangered global energy security and the wider economy.

The Iranian president also denounced 'US economic coercion,' including unilateral sanctions, a naval and air blockade against Iran, and pressure on other countries to comply with the restrictions. He called on major energy suppliers to condemn and effectively counter such measures, arguing that US military interventions in the Persian Gulf had consequences far beyond the region by disrupting energy pricing, supply and transportation.

Iran ready to expand role in global gas markets

Pezeshkian said Iran, a founding member of the GECF and home to the world's second-largest proven natural gas reserves, was prepared to play a more active role in multilateral energy diplomacy, technological cooperation and investment in gas infrastructure.

Despite years of unilateral sanctions, he said, Iran had de-

veloped its domestic capabilities and maintained its position as the world's third-largest natural gas producer. He put the country's annual gas production capacity at 280 billion cubic meters in his speech.

Natural gas accounts for around 70 percent of Iran's energy mix, Pezeshkian said, adding that the national gas network covers approximately 95 percent of the population.

He invited foreign investors, particularly from GECF member states, to explore opportunities in Iran's upstream and downstream gas industries, infrastructure development, and gas trade, citing the country's strategic location along major energy corridors and its potential for mutually beneficial cooperation.

GECF urged to turn potential into joint projects

The president described the GECF as an important platform for multilateral diplomacy, the exchange of expertise and closer coordination among gas-producing countries. He called for the effective implementation of the forum's charter, long-term strategy and summit declarations.

Pezeshkian said cooperation should focus on two principal areas: strategic governance and management, and technical and engineering operations.

On the strategic front, he stressed the importance of sta-

bilizing markets and increasing natural gas trade at regional and international levels. On the technical side, he called for joint investment throughout the gas value chain, from production and processing to transportation and consumption.

He also emphasized the need to upgrade technological capabilities, improve productivity and reduce the environmental impact of natural gas production and use. Existing capacities, he said, should be translated into practical projects and shared economic interests, with cooperation aligned with long-term supply and demand trends.

Pezeshkian further called for stronger efforts to expand regional and global gas markets, maximize the value of natural gas resources and combat energy poverty.

Regional cooperation and multilateralism

The summit comes as Iran and Russia seek to deepen cooperation in energy and other sectors. Speaking to reporters upon arriving in Moscow on Monday, Pezeshkian said relations between the two countries had advanced beyond the signing of memoranda of understanding, with both sides working to implement their comprehensive strategic treaty across economic, scientific, cultural, security and political fields.

He described unilateralism and the use of pressure to ad-

vance national agendas as major challenges to international cooperation, saying Iran, Russia and other countries were working to strengthen multilateralism.

On the sidelines of the summit, Pezeshkian also met Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The two leaders reviewed bilateral relations and emphasized the expansion of political and economic cooperation, particularly in energy, trade and coordination among natural gas-exporting countries.

Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali, meanwhile, said Iran and Russia had considerable potential to help shape a fairer global energy architecture. In an article published by Russia's TASS news agency, Jalali argued that the future of the global gas market should be based on pluralism, diversified supply sources and respect for the sovereignty of energy suppliers.

The GECF summit brings together major gas-producing countries to discuss energy cooperation and the future of global gas markets. Pezeshkian concluded that constructive engagement among member and observer states could strengthen the security of supply and demand, support fair valuation of natural gas, and reinforce its role in the global energy mix while taking environmental considerations into account.

Bagheri: Tehran quadrilateral meeting reflects Iran's defense capabilities

From page 1 ► Speaking after Monday's meeting, Bagheri Kani said the talks took place against the backdrop of major strategic developments in the region over recent months, the "brutal aggression" of the Israeli regime and the "terrorist US government."

He said Iran's resistance had thwarted Washington's objectives and left the United States facing a difficult situation. He also maintained that developments following the Israeli regime's aggression against Iran had not unfolded according to its plans.

Bagheri Kani identified two major outcomes of the confrontation: Iran's ability to withstand military aggression through its domestic capabilities and the demonstrated effectiveness of its indigenous defense industry.

Indigenous capabilities and resistance to sanctions

The official said the Islamic Republic had relied on its national resources and domestic capabilities to withstand two separate acts of aggression, adding that Iran had succeeded in confronting both.

He noted that the United States and Western countries had imposed sanctions on Iran for decades, particularly targeting strategic sectors and restricting the country's access to advanced military equipment and technology.

Despite those restrictions, he said, Iranian military personnel and specialists had made significant advances in defense capabilities, demonstrating their effectiveness under operational conditions.

He maintained that Iran's experience demonstrated the strategic importance of developing indigenous capabilities rather than depending on external powers for national security.

The official also pointed to a broader lesson for countries across West Asia, saying some regional states had believed that

aligning themselves with a major power such as the United States would shield them from security threats. In practice, however, he said, events had shown that such expectations did not necessarily correspond with reality.

He argued that regional countries therefore had growing reasons to pursue security through regional engagement, cooperation and the pooling of their respective capabilities.

Israeli policies and the case for regional security cooperation

Bagheri Kani said developments involving the Israeli regime had created an important basis for greater understanding among regional countries about the sources of insecurity and instability.

He argued that the regime's actions, particularly following developments in recent years, had demonstrated its 'aggressive conduct and lack of restraint in pursuing its ambitions.'

Referring to the concept of "Greater Israel," he said the idea encompassed a number of countries in the region and had reinforced concerns among regional states about the implications of Israeli policies.

According to Bagheri Kani, the growing recognition of the Israeli regime as a source of instability had helped create common ground for regional countries to work toward establishing security within the region.

He identified this assessment as 'one of the key points reflected in the Tehran meeting,' alongside the emphasis all four participating countries placed on self-reliance and the development of domestic capabilities.

The official said Iran regarded reliance on internal resources as a fundamental strategic principle and that the other participants had also acknowledged the importance of self-sufficiency.

"This is a very important point and a fun-



damental cornerstone on which we can move toward the future," he said.

Bagheri Kani added that regional security could not be sustainably achieved by relying exclusively on external powers. Instead, he argued, countries in the region needed to strengthen their own capacities and establish cooperative arrangements capable of addressing shared security challenges.

How the quadrilateral meeting came to Tehran

Bagheri Kani also outlined the process that led to the meeting between Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan, explaining that the initiative emerged from earlier consultations among the three other countries and their subsequent efforts to bring Iran into a regional dialogue on security.

He said Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan had previously held a meeting in Pakistan and had expressed a strong interest in Iran's participation. However, circumstances at the time had prevented the Iranian side from attending.

The three countries subsequently held another meeting in Turkey, where they again expressed their desire for Iran to take part in the discussions.

This time, however, they proposed traveling to Iran themselves to hold a quadrilateral meeting in Tehran, Bagheri Kani said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



A memorial ceremony at the University of Tehran on Monday honored the martyred Ali Larijani, Iran's former security chief, where prominent officials commemorated his legacy, celebrated his service, and unveiled his philosophical work in a new book titled "Such Spoke the Mujtahid of Philosophy."

Maintain control of Hormuz

From Page 1 ► Safeguarding national and regional security by maintaining control over the Strait of Hormuz, and strengthening bilateral relations with neighboring countries on the basis of lasting and mutual interests, were among other points raised by the Leader.

For his part, Rezaei presented a report on the country's situation in various sectors and ongoing efforts. He identified the pursuit of the Islamic Republic's strategic policy of "establishing endogenous regional arrangements and order" as one of the initiatives currently being undertaken by the Secretariat of the SNSC.

From directive to action: quadrilateral in Tehran

Rezaei's remarks after Monday's quadrilateral meeting in Tehran — which brought together senior officials from Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia on regional security and stability — illustrated that policy in practice.

Speaking after the talks hosted by Iran, the SNSC secretary called for a regional security framework built by West Asian countries themselves and free from foreign interference, saying the meeting demonstrated that U.S. threats had failed to deter regional states from pursuing closities.

"Following the resistance of the Iranian nation and the



strength of our Armed Forces, a new and positive atmosphere has emerged in the region and in our discussions with senior officials from Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," Rezaei said, adding that regional cooperation should have begun much earlier.

He said the results of Iran's resistance were becoming increasingly evident and that the participating countries shared the view that regional challenges could best be addressed through cooperation among all four nations.

The discussions, he said, had led to a clear conclusion: security in West Asia must be generated from within the region, and foreign intervention must be prevented.

In a post on X, Rezaei reinforced that position, arguing that the United States had failed to bring security to any country in the region and that Washington's

inability to provide security guarantees had become apparent.

"Security in West Asia must originate from within the region itself, and any foreign intervention must be prevented," he wrote.

Ghalibaf recounts Leader's outlook on economy and war

In a related account, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Tuesday gave MPs details of his own recent meeting with Ayatollah Khamenei, saying he found the Leader in full health, with strong spirit, hope, firmness, inner calm and full command of issues.

Despite the heavy personal losses he has suffered, this spirit reflects profound faith in God and deep trust in the people, Ghalibaf told the open session of Parliament in his pre-agenda remarks.

According to Ghalibaf, the Leader closely followed macroeconomic indicators and stressed that they must be assessed precisely, with neither overestimation nor underestimation.

Another major topic, raised by the Leader for the third time during the war, was securing production chains — from raw materials and production cycles to the supply of basic goods — Ghalibaf said.

Preserving people's purchasing power and livelihoods, especially those of the Armed Forces and fighters on the frontlines who must remain the priority, was another point of emphasis, he added.

Ghalibaf said military issues, the war and the Resistance Front, as well as diplomacy, negotiations, and in particular the economic war, economic exclusion and the naval blockade, were discussed, with reports presented and reviewed.

The Leader, he said, also stressed service to the people particularly in the area of resilience, maximum unity among officials, adoption of firm and unified positions — especially at the level of branch heads — the latest state of relations with strategic partners, especially China, on which he regularly follows up, and cooperation between the government and Parliament.

China to send Special envoy to Middle East amid fears of conflict spillover

TEHRAN- China will dispatch a special envoy to countries in the Middle East and surrounding regions in the near future to strengthen diplomatic engagement, ease tensions, and prevent the ongoing conflict from spreading further, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said Beijing was deeply concerned about conflicts in the Middle East and neighboring regions, warning that the repercussions could extend to the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea.

At a regular press briefing, Guo called on the parties concerned to resolve their differences through dialogue and negotiations, emphasizing the need for greater diplomatic engagement to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

"China will soon send a special envoy to visit countries in the region to strengthen communication with relevant parties, promote contact and dialogue, help ease tensions and prevent the situation from deteriorating further," he said.

Regional diplomatic efforts

Beijing's announcement comes as regional countries intensify diplomatic efforts to contain the conflict and prevent further escalation.

Senior officials from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan met in Tehran on Monday to discuss regional security and ways to de-escalate tensions. The meeting underscored the im-

portance of coordination among regional countries in addressing shared security challenges.

The diplomatic initiative comes amid heightened tensions across the region, including renewed Yemen's Ansarallah attacks on Saudi Arabia and Egypt's approval of defense support for the kingdom, according to reports.

Meanwhile, tensions between Iran and the United States have intensified.

Red Sea and Horn of Africa concerns

China has also warned that instability in the Middle East could aggravate security challenges in the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa, areas of strategic importance for international maritime trade and regional stability.

Last week, the foreign ministers of China and Djibouti met in Beijing and agreed that easing tensions in the Middle East was essential to addressing security challenges in both regions. They also stressed the importance of freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

China's planned diplomatic mission signals Beijing's intention to engage directly with regional countries as it seeks to promote dialogue and contain the wider repercussions of the conflict.

By expanding consultations with the countries concerned, Beijing hopes to help reduce tensions and prevent the crisis from spreading into neighboring regions, where further instability could compound existing security challenges.

Oman: No lasting Persian Gulf security without Iran's participation

TEHRAN — Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi has called for an inclusive regional security framework bringing together Iran, Iraq and the six member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), warning that any arrangement excluding Tehran would be inherently unstable and incapable of delivering lasting security.

Speaking at the University of Cambridge on Monday in a speech titled Inclusive Security in the Persian Gulf, Al Busaidi challenged approaches that portray Iran as a threat around which regional security arrangements should be built, arguing instead that stability depends on cooperation among the countries bordering the Persian Gulf.

He said existing security arrangements had been shaped by the mistaken assumption that Iran and the Arab states of the Persian Gulf were fundamentally hostile to one another, despite centuries of coexistence and shared regional interests.

With a population of approximately 93 million, a history spanning some 3,000 years and a coastline extending along roughly half of the Persian Gulf, Iran is an indispensable part of the region's security equation, the Omani foreign minister argued.

Foreign military presence has carried political costs

Al Busaidi also questioned the long-term consequences of the Persian Gulf states' reliance on foreign military powers, pointing to US military agreements, intelligence cooperation, naval deployments and air defense systems.

While stating that such arrangements had delivered certain benefits, he said their political costs over the longer term had been substantial.

His assessment reflects a broader debate over whether an enduring regional security order can be built through external

military guarantees or whether it requires direct cooperation among the countries most affected by instability.

From this perspective, excluding Iran from regional security arrangements would leave a major regional power outside the very framework intended to address shared security concerns, undermining the prospects for a sustainable settlement.

Al Busaidi did not suggest that cooperation with international partners should end. Instead, he called for a shift away from military commitments toward investment, economic development and other forms of constructive engagement.

Iran-US negotiations and Strait of Hormuz security

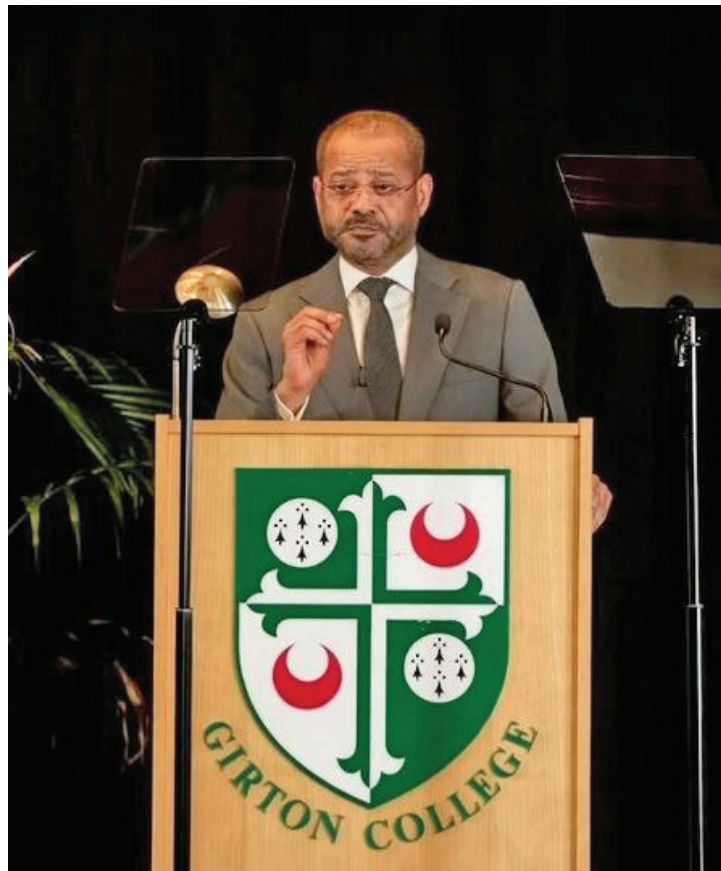
The Omani foreign minister cited the Iranian nuclear issue and negotiations over maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz as examples of regional challenges that have been complicated by external involvement.

Oman has played a mediating role in indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States. According to Al Busaidi, Muscat facilitated five rounds of talks in April and May 2025 and three further rounds in February 2026.

He said substantial progress had been achieved, and an agreement had appeared within reach before the US-Israeli military aggression against Iran disrupted the diplomatic process.

Al Busaidi also reported progress in discussions between Oman and Iran on a preliminary framework for an interim maritime security agreement, while acknowledging that political obstacles remained.

The Strait of Hormuz is a vital international energy transit route, making security arrangements there a matter of importance not only for the Persian Gulf's coastal states but also for global energy markets and



maritime trade. The Omani position points to the importance of addressing navigation and maritime security through engagement with the countries directly concerned.

Reviving a regional security initiative

As a way forward, Al Busaidi proposed reviving a 1976 initiative for collective security among the eight states bordering the Persian Gulf: Iran, Iraq and the six GCC members.

He identified a non-aggression pact as a possible foundation for an inclusive regional arrangement, suggesting that a shared commitment to refrain from aggression could help establish the trust needed for broader cooperation.

Such a framework would place regional states at the center of decisions affecting their security and provide a platform for addressing disputes through dialogue rather than military con-

frontation.

Al Busaidi's proposal also leaves room for continued international engagement but envisages a different role for external partners—one focused more on economic investment and development than on military deployments and security guarantees.

The central message of his speech was that lasting stability cannot be imposed on the Persian Gulf through arrangements that exclude one of its principal coastal states. Instead, he argued, security must be built through the participation of all regional countries and grounded in their shared responsibility for peace and stability.

The proposal reinforces the importance of regional diplomacy at a time when tensions involving Iran, the United States and Israel have heightened concerns over military escalation, maritime security and the wider consequences for energy supplies and regional stability.

Iran opposes nuclear technology monopoly, calls for equal access to advanced technologies



TEHRAN — Iran has called for equitable global access to advanced nuclear technologies, urging the international community to eliminate discriminatory barriers, expand technical cooperation and strengthen protections for peaceful nuclear facilities.

Hossein Derakhshandeh, deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and chief executive of the Nuclear Power Production and Development Company of Iran, outlined four priorities for the equitable development of nuclear power at the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in South Korea on Tuesday.

He stressed the need to remove discriminatory restrictions, facilitate access to advanced technologies, broaden technical cooperation and reinforce international measures to protect peaceful nuclear facilities, warning against the use of nuclear technology to establish monopolies.

Derakhshandeh also called for equal access to advanced nuclear technologies in accordance with international law and without double standards. He reaffirmed the inalienable right of states party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to conduct nuclear research and development and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Emphasizing the importance of upholding the rights of NPT signatories, he called on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to function as an independent, technically focused and development-oriented organization, in line with its Statute. The Agency's mandate includes promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and facilitating technical cooperation

among member states without discrimination, he said.

However, Derakhshandeh argued that developments in recent years had shown the Agency to be increasingly influenced by political considerations, undermining its impartial implementation of its statutory responsibilities. He cited the US-Israeli attacks on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities as an example of the challenges facing the international nuclear framework.

He described the attacks as a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and IAEA General Conference resolutions prohibiting attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities. He also criticized the Agency for an 'inadequate response,' saying it had failed to uphold the fundamental principles of impartiality and professionalism effectively.

Derakhshandeh stressed that protecting peaceful nuclear infrastructure was a shared international responsibility. He also condemned 'international silence over violations of the Iranian people's rights' in areas including energy, healthcare, food security, the environment and industry.

He further criticized the Israeli regime, the United States and certain European countries for 'politically motivated campaigns' against Iran, involving unfounded accusations and negative media coverage.

His remarks underscored Iran's call for a nuclear order grounded in equal access to technology, respect for the peaceful-use rights of NPT signatories, and the consistent application of international law, free from political pressure and discriminatory treatment.

Liquidity growth slowed, monthly inflation on a downward trend: economy minister

He described MPs' concerns as legitimate and said the fact that the government and parliament can debate such problems openly is itself an achievement of the Islamic Republic's governance system.

He stressed that his explanations were not intended to deny the hardship people face, and that neither he nor the Ministry of Economy is trying to evade responsibility.

Acknowledging Pressure and the Economic War

Madanizadeh said that when he received a vote of confidence about a year and a half ago, the country was in an economic-war environment in which multiple economic imbalances and structural crises had converged. He said the Ministry of Economy was handed a difficult situation and responded by setting up an "economic war operations room." One of its first tasks was to monitor and examine insolvent banks. He said the case of Bank Ayandeh was handled successfully, while other insolvent banks and financial institutions are now on the agenda of the Ministry of Economy and the Central Bank and are going through their legal processes.

He also said bank balance sheets have been placed at the center of efforts to control inflation, and that this work has been pursued seriously since the beginning of the year. According to him, liquidity growth has fortunately taken a declining trend, and its inflationary effects should become visible; he added that the downward trend in monthly inflation over the past four months is already completely clear.

The minister also pointed to the capital market as an alternative source of non-inflationary financing. He said the stock market index rose from around 3 million units to more than 8 million units, a significant increase, and that the market has played an important role in financing the economy.

He said the goal is to direct financing of economic enterprises toward the capital market and the debt market rather than making them dependent on the banking network.

He also referred to the reform of the government bond market after eight years, saying that for the first time in eight years rates were made realistic and corruption and rent-seeking in that market were eliminated. This, he argued, helped financing through the capital market and reduced the government's dependence on the monetary base, which could otherwise increase liquidity and inflation.

Monetary, banking, and budget reforms

Madanizadeh described the financing of the government budget as another major axis of the ministry's work, aimed at preventing a budget deficit from spilling over into the Central Bank's monetary base and creating inflation.

Despite all the difficulties imposed by the war, he said, the government tried to close the budget with the minimum possible deficit and to minimize its effects. He acknowledged the difficulties in collecting taxes from people and businesses, but said the government zeroed out the taxes of 10 million businesses and focused instead on large firms that engage in tax evasion.

He also cited the project to make financial statements transparent and electronic, saying it had been stalled for eight years and was finally implemented with the aim of making economic activity transparent and ending the problem of firms keeping dual ledgers. He said the process began several months ago and is intended to create a basis for economic activity grounded in transparent financial statements and verifiable information.

On facilitating production and reducing cost pressures on firms, he said automatic issuance of permits is among the measures being pursued; only in the past week, about 12,000 permits were issued through the Ministry of Economy's permit system.

He also mentioned the comprehensive collateral system, designed to make it easier for people and firms to access financing through non-inflationary channels at a time when inflation-control policies impose limits on financial resources.

The minister emphasized the need to increase the share of tax revenues in financing the public budget. He said about 50 percent of public budget resources are now supplied



through taxes, and that systematizing tax processes is meant to raise this share. Tax revenues grew by 39 percent last year, and a 70 percent growth is projected for this year.

He expressed hope that with continued progress and a more efficient tax system, a significant part of the country's budget resources will be supplied through taxes from next year, reducing budget dependence on other sources.

He also said full reports on the causes of imposed inflation have been presented to MPs in private sessions, and that many events cannot be discussed on official platforms. He asked MPs not to use the phrase "the government made the currency expensive," arguing that the situation was imposed on the country and that access to foreign currency and dollar resources was blocked.

Inflation, tax, and resistance narrative

Madanizadeh said the rise in prices had two main causes: the economic-war conditions and imposed pressures on the country. He said 230 million cubic meters of Iran's export gas and gas allocated to industries were damaged, and that petrochemical and steel facilities were hit. When the sources of foreign-currency supply are damaged, he argued, the government does not have access to foreign currency, and price increases are natural.

He added that when transport costs rise tenfold because of an economic blockade, and when import and export prices rise by 100 percent, all of these affect the exchange rate. He also rejected the idea that the government removed preferential currency, saying preferential currency was not removed but simply ran out.

He said this reality should not be conveyed to the people as a government choice; rather, he said, the US Treasury Secretary framed it as a crime against the Iranian people, and the enemy killed children in the military arena and in the economic arena prevented medicine from reaching people, including through air and sea blockades.

Despite these pressures, he said, monthly inflation has fallen below 4 percent. He described the effort as trying to bring inflation from above 90 percent down to 40 percent, and hopefully to 20 percent next year. He insisted that Iran's economy has not collapsed and will not collapse. He said the "criminals and killers" who imposed the war first tried to disrupt the economic decision-making system, but the Ministry of Economy responded by launching the economic war room and passing resolutions in the government and the Supreme National Security Council to compensate for the imposed budget deficit.

He referred to a seven-axis plan covering inflation control, trade facilitation, investment facilitation, production facilitation, energy management, and livelihood reconstruction.

He said the ministry has moved toward replacing oil revenues with new sources, managed the treasury's cash flow, is launching oil certificates, and doubled the stock market index.

He also said a new investment campaign would be launched, and that diplomacy with neighboring countries has been activated. He told the people that the "soldiers" in the Ministry of Economy and Finance have not and will not shrink under pressure and will stand for the elevation of the country until their last breath.

Addressing the enemy, he said: "You have not yet understood the Iranian nation, and you imagine that by closing trade routes and pressuring people's tables you can break the will of a nation, but that is a vain fantasy. Iran is the land of a people who have stood firm in the hardest storms of history, and the government and parliament, as servants of the people, will defeat the enemy. Iran is a civilization, and a civilization will never be defeated."

Iran calls on gas exporters to strengthen cooperation, safeguard energy security

TEHRAN- At the 28th Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Moscow, Iran's Acting Minister of Oil, Hamid Bovard, presented a broad strategic vision linking global energy security to peace, regional stability, the security of critical infrastructure, and respect for national sovereignty.

Speaking as the Forum marked its 25th anniversary, Bovard said the global energy system is passing through one of its most complex periods of geopolitical, economic, and technological change. He thanked Russia for hosting the meeting and honored the memory of those killed in the recent war waged by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran, including Ayatollah Khamenei, civilians, schoolchildren in Minab, and athletes from Lamerd.

Bovard argued that the recent energy crisis caused by the imposed war demonstrated that energy security is not merely an economic or technical issue. It is inseparably tied to peace, regional stability, infrastructure security, and respect for national sovereignty. The consequences of aggression, he said, can extend beyond the region and affect global energy supply, economic growth, and development. He criticized US military interventions in areas including the Persian Gulf and unilateral economic sanctions, saying they not only target Iran's legitimate rights and interests but also damage trust, investment security, and the predictability of global energy markets. In Iran's view, world energy security cannot be achieved without the security of energy producers, respect for their sovereignty, sustainable investment, and effective international cooperation.

He said the GECF must become more than ever a platform for convergence, dialogue, and practical cooperation among producing countries, and described the Eighth GECF Summit as a valuable opportunity to strengthen this approach and set a new horizon for strategic cooperation. While the Forum was founded in Tehran in



2001 and is entering a new institutional phase, Bovard said rapid global changes require members to preserve fundamental principles while reconfiguring priorities, tools, and cooperation mechanisms. Iran's strategic priorities include flexibility toward global energy crises, strengthening natural gas's role in the future energy mix, and expanding investment, management, and technological cooperation.

Citing the COVID-19 crisis in 2020 and geopolitical developments in 2026, Bovard said global energy markets are more exposed than ever to unpredictable shocks. The GECF should strengthen its capacity for early risk identification, crisis scenario analysis, and coordinated responses. He called for revising the Forum's long-term strategy with emphasis on strengthening the natural gas value chain. Natural gas, he said, will remain a key pillar of global energy security and economic development because of its reliability, abundance, operational flexibility, industrial applications, and complementary role in renewable energy development. According to the GECF Global Gas Outlook, global gas demand will rise 31 percent by 2055 to more than 5,400 billion cubic meters, and its share of the world energy mix will increase from about 23 percent to 26 percent.

Bovard proposed that the Secretariat, with member participation, study a roadmap to raise natural gas's share of the global energy mix to an ambitious 30

percent. Such a roadmap should rest on economic studies, long-term demand assessment, investment requirements, and environmental considerations. He also said members should adopt a coordinated approach, based on technical realities and common interests, toward climate regulations and mechanisms that could impose unbalanced restrictions on energy trade and investment, including the possible effects of the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

He stressed that huge underground reserves alone do not guarantee supply security. What converts gas resources into energy security is timely investment, access to technology, infrastructure development, and sustainable demand. The GECF outlook estimates that meeting global needs through 2055 will require about \$11.6 trillion in upstream investment and \$735 billion in midstream investment—more than \$12 trillion in total. This makes a stable, predictable environment with appropriate financing mechanisms essential.

Bovard said member cooperation could focus on three areas: first, joint financing and investment mechanisms for gas projects using national, regional, and international financial institutions; second, technological cooperation, knowledge transfer, training, and joint upstream, midstream, and downstream projects, where Iran has extensive experience; and third, structured dialogue between producers and

consumers to increase demand security, reduce investment risks, and balance supplier and consumer interests. The Secretariat could play a more active role in identifying opportunities, facilitating contacts among specialized institutions, and following up on practical results.

As a proposer and main founder of the GECF, Iran has consistently emphasized multilateral cooperation, mutual respect, and common capacities for sustainable gas industry development. Bovard said the 14th government, under the Seventh Development Plan, prioritizes cooperation with international energy organizations, especially the GECF. Iran holds the world's second-largest proven gas reserves and has strategic geography and extensive technical, industrial, and human capacities.

Despite decades of sanctions and imposed wars, Iran's gas industry has reached annual production capacity of about 300 billion cubic meters, making it one of the world's three largest producers. Natural gas accounts for about 70 percent of Iran's energy mix, and the gas network covers about 95 percent of the population. Bovard said Iran is ready to share these experiences through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and to help develop joint projects and strengthen GECF members' capabilities.

He concluded that the future of the gas industry depends not only on reserves and production capacity but also on the quality of cooperation, policy stability, and the ability to respond jointly to global challenges. The Forum's 25th anniversary, he said, is an opportunity to begin a new chapter of results-oriented cooperation, joint investment, and strategic convergence. He expressed confidence that collective will and the Secretariat's capacities can further strengthen the GECF's role in global energy dialogue and hoped the ministerial meeting and Eighth Summit would strengthen solidarity and realize the common interests of gas producers and consumers.

Acting oil minister in Moscow: trilateral energy co-op, Iran–Russia gas swap via Azerbaijan

TEHRAN- Hamid Bovard, caretaker of the Ministry of Oil, on Monday, while announcing the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 28th Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, held bilateral and multilateral consultations aimed at strengthening Iran's cooperation with other energy-reserve-holding countries.

According to an IRNA report on Monday evening, Hamid Bovard in Moscow continued the thread of contact and trilateral interactions among Iran, Russia, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, which had previously been pursued at the level of the heads of state of

these countries in Turkmenistan.

Accordingly, the caretaker of the Ministry of Oil and the energy ministers of Russia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, in a trilateral meeting, discussed strengthening cooperation in the energy sector and effective presence in gas markets.

Bovard, Sergei Tsiviliev, Russia's Minister of Energy, and Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijan's Minister of Energy, exchanged views on ways to develop trilateral cooperation among Tehran, Moscow, and Baku.

In this trilateral meeting, the caretaker of

the Ministry of Oil said: "A general agreement for gas exchange between Iran and Russia via the Republic of Azerbaijan has been reached, and the technical stages of implementing this agreement are now being pursued and are on the path to finalization."

Bovard added: "We hope that with the conclusion of the gas transfer program through the pipeline pursued by the Russian side via the Republic of Azerbaijan, the possibility of gas exchange between Iran and Russia will be provided in the near future."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Legumes production increases 15.5%

TEHRAN- The Director General of the Office of Grains and Basic Products of the Ministry of Agriculture said: With the improvement of rainfall, along with the implementation of technical measures, the country's legumes production in the current crop year has increased by about 15.5 percent compared with last year and has reached more than 800,000 tons.

Faramak Azizkarimi said on Tuesday in an interview with IRNA about the status of legumes cultivation and production in the country: According to statistics, every year more than 700,000 to 800,000 hectares of the country's agricultural land are allocated to legumes cultivation, of which about 600,000 to 650,000 hectares are allocated to rainfed legumes, including chickpeas and lentils, about 100,000 to 120,000 hectares to irrigated bean cultivation, and about 30,000 to 40,000 hectares to other legumes, including mung bean and faba bean.

The Director General of the Office of Grains and Basic Products of the Min-

istry of Agriculture stated: The total pulse production of the country (including chickpeas, lentils, beans, and other pulses) in the previous crop year was about 702,000 tons, which faced an increase this year and surpassed 800,000 tons.

He cited the reasons for this increase in production as the use of improved seeds, the development of mechanized cultivation and autumn cultivation, and the fight against pests and diseases, along with the improvement of rainfall conditions after five years, and said: Although the first half of the crop year did not have suitable conditions, minimum rainfall was provided at the time of need, and alongside rainfall, more than 600 tons of improved chickpea and lentil seeds, the supply of suitable fertilizer, and the implementation of all technical and mechanization measures played an effective role in increasing yield and productivity. Obviously, without minimum rainfall and water, one cannot expect increased yield and high productivity.



Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/18(renewed)

GolGohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.50) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.ggg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 03 Nov.2026-to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 03 Nov.2026 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Israeli voters choose between ‘rabid yellow dogs and ravenous jackals’

From page 1 ▶ Arab-led parties, projected at 14 to 16 seats, may hold the balance, and Eisenkot claimed he ruled them out. This is the sixth general election since 2019.

The day was ugly. Netanyahu filled X with emergency appeals, complaining that left-wing activists were “storming” the polling stations and that Arab parties were heading to the polls “in unprecedented numbers.” Itamar Ben-Gvir urged right-wing voters to respond to the “crazy voting rate” in Palestinian towns.

Haaretz reported that Likud had paid crews to film Arab voters outside polling places. Adalah, the Haifa legal center, described stalled admissions and missing Arabic ballot slips.

In Kafr Qara, one person had voted by 10 a.m. In Segev Shalom, 150 people stood outside a closed station. Ahmad Tibi blamed settlers for deliberate delays.

Those Netanyahu warned about make up a fifth of Israeli citizens. Roughly three million adult Palestinians, in Gaza, the West Bank and East al-Quds (Jerusalem), have no vote in the government that controls their borders and legal status.

The military closed every West Bank crossing for the day. Near Nablus, settlers beat a man in the town of Burqa as Israelis voted.

Same pack, different coats

On September 26, five opposition leaders signed a pact pledging a “Zionist, statesmanlike government.” None accepts that Gaza is a genocide, and none has challenged Israeli strikes on Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Iran.

Their quarrel with Netanyahu is about management, corruption,



and who failed on October 7. Daniel Levy, a former Israeli government adviser, says the treatment of Palestinians “is a consensus among Zionist parties.” Sociologist Yehouda Shenhav-Shahrabani sums up the field as “same lady, different dress.”

Iranians have a saying for similar situations: “Sage zard baradare shoghol aq” (The yellow dog is the jackal’s brother.) The candidates amount to rabid yellow dogs and ravenous jackals.

Iran, Lebanon and Gaza get the same offer

There is precedent. In 2021, Bennett and Lapid ended Netanyahu’s twelve-year tenure. By August 2022, Israel was intensifying its campaign of terror and covert aggression against Iran while simultaneously bombing Gaza, killing dozens of Palestinians, including children, while illegal settlement expansion continued without interruption.

Iran shows it best. The United States and Israel attacked on February 28 in the middle of negotia-

tions, and Trump has since urged Netanyahu to “finish the job.”

Eisenkot calls the war unfinished and mocks the U.S.-Iran talks as “a deal taking shape far from Israeli interests.” Yair Lapid wants “every Iranian energy facility bombed, Kharg Island first.” Bennett calls regime change “a must.”

Netanyahu posted an image of a mushroom cloud over an Israeli city and warned Tehran of “a devastating blow.”

The recent phase of the war on Lebanon began March 2, and by mid-August the health ministry counted more than 4,335 dead and nearly a million displaced.

Eisenkot wants troops to stay in the south, Bennett has said he would answer Hezbollah “by striking Iran,” and Liberman had described supposed limited operations as “complete madness.”

Israel holds about two-thirds of Gaza. 1,493 people have been killed since the so-called ceasefire, and Eisenkot promises “to destroy Hamas within 18 months.”

The records behind the slogans

Israeli and Western media have ludicrously tried to sell Eisenkot as the sober general and a loving father. In 2008 he outlined “the Dahiyyeh Doctrine,” promising that any village used to fire on Israel would suffer what Beirut’s southern suburb did in 2006: “This is not a recommendation. This is a plan. And it has been approved.”

The Goldstone report described the doctrine as civilian destruction for deterrence. This year he told a conference he had applied it through “disproportionate strikes,” and in March he said it had never been more relevant for Lebanon.

Bennett’s “Octopus Doctrine” claims Iran is the head and Hezbollah, Hamas and the rest are “tentacles.” He once urged shooting Palestinians who cross into Israel, and he cheered the 2025 strike on Doha.

Liberman said there were “no innocents in Gaza,” proposed transferring some 300,000 Arab citizens to a future Palestinian state, and backs cutting Gaza’s water and electricity. Smotrich, who voted vowing to “Judaize” Hebron, wants Israel to “go to war” in the West Bank.

Analyst Ahron Bregman expects a new prime minister to calm the mood and little more, since any government will mirror Israel’s sharp turn to the right. Some analysts see room for E1 and settler violence.

Palestinians, Lebanese and Iranians have heard these men speak for years. They know what to expect. The yellow dog and the jackal wear different coats, but the governing machinery grinds forward with identical malice.

Israeli and US elections could hasten the end of Iran war



From page 1 ▶ However, if Netanyahu wins the elections, the confrontation could be prolonged, increasing the likelihood that it would continue for the remainder of Trump’s term. This would result from Israeli calculations favoring the continuation of the war and an attempt to avoid ending it before achieving results that could be presented domestically as an accomplishment.

Nevertheless, if Netanyahu remains in power, it does not necessarily mean that Washington will be able to continue the war indefinitely. American decision-making will remain subject to the costs of mobilization, attrition, the global economy and relations with allies. Elections, therefore, are not the sole factor determining the end of the war, but they could accelerate or delay the decision to withdraw.

What if Netanyahu and the Republicans in the U.S. lose the elections? In that case, political pressure to end the war could intensify, whether through an agreement or through an American withdrawal without an agreement. The ultimate outcome would depend on the nature of the settlement, the conditions of withdrawal and the ability to translate military results into political gains.

In either case, the central argument remains that electoral changes could politically provide the American administration with an exit from the confrontation. However, they would not guarantee that the strategic consequences of withdrawal would match the narrative presented to the public.

The United States, particularly the Trump administration, faces a dilemma that extends beyond achieving an immediate military gain. The American objective is not simply to leave the war, but to do so in a way that allows the outcome to be presented to the American public and allies as a victory.

The problem, however, is that Washington’s available options are now constrained by substantial strategic costs, meaning that none appears to be free of losses. These options can be summarized in three main scenarios: maintaining a state of neither war nor peace, withdrawing without an agreement, or withdrawing under an agreement.

Maintaining a state of neither war nor peace

This scenario involves maintaining the current situation without reaching a final settlement and without returning to open warfare at the same intensity. At first glance, this option may appear to offer a way to postpone a decisive outcome while keeping pressure on Iran. However, it raises a fundamental question: how long can the United States maintain this situation?

Keeping forces mobilized and on continuous standby, rotating units, securing supplies and covering military and logistical expenses all impose accumulating burdens. These burdens increase when troops are deployed far from American territory, particularly in a region of critical importance to energy security and global trade.

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

Brazil’s elections: How Lula preserved sovereignty

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – The most insidious feature of domination is its insistence that people believe they are powerless and their future already written by others.

This is what makes Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s victory in Brazil significant far beyond the country’s borders. It demonstrates that people can shatter this illusion, reclaim their fair share of national wealth, and defend their right to choose who governs them.

Faced with the power of money and political blackmail, a majority of voters once again placed their trust in a man who rose from the ranks of the working class and brought a fundamental question into government: Whom does the state serve, and who reaps the rewards of economic growth?

Lula secured a fourth presidential term with 51.8 percent in the runoff vote, overturning his opponent’s lead in the first round. No candidate in Brazilian history has lost the first round and won the second. Voters renewed their confidence in the former factory worker and in a political project that links development to the rights of ordinary people and the independence of national decision-making.

When the poor become a political force

Lula emerged from the world of labor, led the metalworkers’ union, and helped establish the Workers’ Party in 1980. The deeper significance of his journey lies in his ability to organize social discontent and turn it into a force capable of shaping government policy.

When marginalized groups enter politics through organized movements and political programs, their suffering moves from the margins of public complaint to the center of decision-making. Ignoring them becomes politically costly.

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

UN inquiry confirms Israel continued Gaza genocide, committed torture and rape in West Bank

From page 1 ▶ The report covers October 7, 2023, through September 30, 2026. It appeared one day before Israel’s general election, and three days after Netanyahu ordered al-Khalil (Hebron) sealed. Reacting to the report, Israel’s mission in Geneva demanded the commission’s dissolution.

A ‘truce’ that has changed little on the ground

The commission says Israel is “continuing to commit genocidal acts with the genocidal intent to destroy, in whole or in part, the Palestinians in Gaza.”

The report says that the “ceasefire” lowered the volume of the war without ending it, and the Israeli military used the lull to advance. When the deal was signed, Israeli forces controlled 53 percent of the Strip. They now hold at least 60 percent.

Those seven points came with a grim body count. Fire along the advancing front has killed at least 196 Palestinians, among them 18 women, 32 boys and 11 girls.

Commission chair Srinivasan Muralidhar said the expansion continues to kill and injure civilians who approach or cross the so-called Yellow Line.

In May, Israeli vehicles shoved its concrete

markers dozens of meters west. On Monday, medical officials reported at least five more killed in air strikes, including a seven-year-old girl.

Gaza Health Ministry’s overall toll now exceeds 74,500, and nearly everyone in the territory has been displaced.

In September 2025, the commission found that Israel had committed genocide in Gaza, and in June it concluded that Israeli forces were deliberately targeting Palestinian children.

The West Bank under a widening assault

In the West Bank, the commission describes military operations, reinforced by sustained settler violence, as a “widespread and systematic attack” on civilians, meant to collectively punish residents for October 7.

Its legal conclusion names extermination, torture, rape and other sexual violence, plus persecution based on nationality, race and ethnicity “at its core.”

The air war is the clearest measure. From 2008 to October 6, 2023, six Palestinians died in air attacks in the West Bank. Between October 7, 2023, and September 30 this year, 254 died.

That works out to about 85 a year against fewer than one. Muralidhar tied the killings and the demolition of homes, together with Israel’s

refusal to accept responsibility, to a broader strategy to exterminate and displace Palestinians and “impose conditions of life that are unlivable.”

Rape and torture in custody

The report also documents sexual violence in detention. The commission says it recently recorded six cases in which guards at the Sde Teiman military prison abused male detainees from Gaza.

In one, a detainee was raped with a stick. In another, guards tied a plastic cord around a man’s genitals and ordered him to urinate.

Women describe invasive strip searches, including of a pregnant detainee, and denial of sanitary pads.

Al-Khalil and the ministers

Al-Khalil (Hebron) is where it is playing out now. Netanyahu ordered the city sealed on Friday after a shooting nearby and told security forces to prepare a lockdown of the whole West Bank.

UN human rights chief Volker Türk said Monday that more than 2,000 Palestinians have already been forced from their homes, houses have been demolished, and residents are confined to their neighborhoods.

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

‘No Kings’ movement sees public mobilization as essential to defending US democracy, says Mass 50501 executive director

Rebecca Winter discusses the role of mass protests, electoral participation and community organizing in challenging authoritarianism

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN– Rebecca Winter, executive director of Massachusetts 50501, is involved in organizing grassroots efforts to defend democracy and oppose authoritarianism in the United States.

The movement, which emerged from a nationwide call for protests in February 2025, seeks to mobilize Americans through demonstrations, boycotts, voter participation and community action. As the No Kings movement seeks to sustain public engagement beyond the US midterm elections, Winter spoke to the Tehran Times about the Trump administration, threats to dem-

ocratic institutions, immigrant rights, and the role of grassroots activism in holding elected officials accountable.

Below is the full text of the interview:

Could you tell us a little about how Massachusetts 50501 began and what its main goals are?

We started with the national 50501 call to action on February 5, 2025. The original call to action was for a protest in every state capital: 50 states, 50 protests, all on one day. That eventually grew into a single movement.

Our organization’s goal is to

protect democracy in the United States and fight authoritarianism. Once we hopefully overthrow the current authoritarian regime through nonviolent methods, we want to repair our democracy so that it actually works for everyone.

How would you describe the movement’s main concerns about the Trump administration?

We are incredibly concerned about how authoritarian Trump and his regime’s goals are. We see him acting against our Constitution and undermining the rule of law. He is also clearly more interested in supporting corporations and billionaires than working-class

Taekwondo athlete Sayna Karimi undergoes ACL surgery

TEHRAN – Iranian taekwondo athlete Sayna Karimi has undergone surgery after suffering a serious knee injury during her bout against a Japanese opponent at the Asian Games in Nagoya.

Karimi, who represented Iran in the women's under-49kg category, underwent surgery on her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) on Monday and is expected to be sidelined for several months as she recovers.

The Iranian athlete began her campaign with a victory over a Hong Kong athlete in her opening contest before facing Japan's Ruka Okamoto in the round of 16.

Karimi made a strong start to the match, claiming the opening round 17-6. However, her Japanese opponent fought back to win the second round 10-3, forcing the contest into a decisive third round.

The Iranian was leading 3-1 in the final round when she sustained a leg injury following an exchange of kicks.

Despite attempting to continue the bout, Karimi was unable to overcome the pain and was eventually forced to withdraw from the contest.

She ultimately lost the third round 15-6, bringing her campaign at the Asian Games to a premature end.

The injury represents a significant setback for the Iranian international, who will now face an extended rehabilitation period before returning to competitive taekwondo.

Women's futsal team to compete in China tournament

TEHRAN – Iran's women's national futsal team will participate in a four-national tournament in China as part of their preparations for the 2026 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

The Iranian squad will depart for China on Nov. 2, to take part in the tournament, scheduled to be held from Nov. 4 to 9.

Iran, China and Hong Kong have been confirmed as participants, while the fourth team are expected to be announced soon.

The Iranian team will compete under the guidance of head coach Shahrzad Mozafar, who will use the tournament to assess her players and fine-tune the squad ahead of the continental competition.

The event will provide Iran's women with valuable international experience as they continue their preparations for the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

The seventh edition of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games is scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from Dec. 11 to 22, 2026.

The multi-sport event is expected to bring together athletes from 45 countries competing across 18 sports.

Iran's women's futsal team will be aiming to make the most of the China tournament to strengthen their preparations and build momentum ahead of the Games in Riyadh.

Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Saudi Arabia postponed

TEHRAN – The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has officially announced the postponement of the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, originally scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December 2026.

According to the new schedule, the Games will be held from March 28 to April 8, 2027. The decision was made following consultations between the OCA, the Local Organizing Committee, national Olympic committees, and other relevant stakeholders.

Organizers explained that the postponement was necessary to address logistical and operational requirements, improve coordination, and ensure the widest possible participation of Asian countries.

Despite the change, Saudi Arabian officials emphasized that preparations remain on track and that the country is fully committed to delivering a successful international sporting event.

More than 4,500 athletes representing over 45 National Olympic Committees are expected to participate in the competition.

The Games represent an important milestone for Saudi Arabia, marking the country's first opportunity to host a multi-sport event under the Olympic Council of Asia.

The postponement also provides additional time for participating nations to finalize their preparations and logistical arrangements.

Organizers remain confident that the rescheduled event will strengthen sporting cooperation across Asia and contribute to Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 objectives.

Monolopoulos arrives in Iran

TEHRAN – Sotirios Monolopoulos, Greek head coach of Iran's national basketball team, arrived in Iran on Tuesday to monitor Iranian Basketball Super League matches and plan the national team's upcoming training camp.

Monolopoulos arrived in Iran today through Imam Khomeini International Airport.

During his stay in Iran, the national team head coach will attend Iranian Basketball Super League matches to evaluate players' performances and assess the current form of national team members.

Another key objective of Monolopoulos' visit is to plan and organize the national team's training camp in preparation for the fifth window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers.

During his stay, Manolopoulos will evaluate players' performances and identify potential candidates for the national squad.

The Greek tactician will also hold discussions with basketball officials regarding the national team's training schedule.

Manolopoulos aims to strengthen Iran's squad, improve team coordination and ensure the players are fully prepared for the crucial qualifying matches ahead.

Al Ain beat Tractor in AFC Champions League Elite

TEHRAN – Houssine Rahimi scored the winning goal as Al Ain FC defeated Iran's Tractor FC 2-1 on Monday, securing their third consecutive victory in the AFC Champions League Elite 2026/27.

The Moroccan forward, who previously scored twice against Al Nassr and Air Force SC, struck in the 70th minute to seal another important win for the UAE side.

Tractor, meanwhile, remain winless after three matches, collecting just one point.

Al Ain dominated the early stages, but Tractor nearly opened the scoring when Danial Esmailifar forced goalkeeper Khalid Eisa into an impressive save in the 15th minute.

The hosts took the lead six minutes later through Ramy Rabia, whose powerful long-range strike beat goalkeeper Parsa Jafari.

Tractor responded strongly after halftime. Esmailifar struck the post in the 55th minute before Croatian midfielder Tibor Halilovic curled home a spectacular equalizer.

However, Al Ain regained their advantage when Rahimi converted Yahya Benkhaleq's accurate cross in the 70th minute.

Despite further opportunities for the hosts, Tractor defender Shojae Khalilzadeh prevented additional goals.

The victory strengthened Al Ain's position in the competition, while Tractor face increasing pressure to secure their first win in their upcoming matches.

Permanent handicrafts exhibition planned at Shams Tabrizi shrine in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – A permanent handicrafts exhibition themed around the spiritual and literary traditions of Shams Tabrizi and Jalal al-Din Rumi is planned at the shrine of Shams Tabrizi in Khoy, West Azarbaijan province, as part of efforts to promote local artisans and strengthen cultural tourism.

Rita Khazrzadeh, deputy director of handicrafts at the West Azarbaijan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, announced the plan during a meeting with handicrafts producers and artists in Khoy on Tuesday.

Khazrzadeh outlined the department's plans for the county and discussed artisans' concerns, calling on them to produce competitively priced handicrafts inspired by the shrine and the life and legacy of Shams Tabrizi.

The products would be marketed to tourists and visitors interested in Shams and Rumi, the renowned Persian mystic and poet whose spiritual outlook was profoundly influenced by his encounter with Shams.

Khazrzadeh said the permanent exhibition would provide an opportunity to showcase the skills and creative potential of Khoy's artisans to pilgrims and tourists visiting the cultural and religious complex.

The initiative also aims to create a dedicated space for presenting locally made products



and connecting the region's handicrafts with its rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

Ali-Akbar Chitsaz, cultural and artistic affairs director at Khoy Municipality, welcomed the proposals and pledged municipal support for developing the handicrafts sector.

He said the municipality was prepared to cooperate in organizing specialized handicrafts exhibitions and setting up regular open-air markets at suitable locations, with careful planning.

Chitsaz stressed the need to implement the initiatives promptly to provide artisans with better opportunities to sell their

work and contribute to the local economy.

During the meeting, participating artists and craftspeople also raised concerns and shared their views on the challenges facing the development of handicrafts in Khoy.

The proposed exhibition comes amid broader efforts to develop the Shams Tabrizi shrine as a destination for cultural and spiritual tourism.

Earlier this month, a vast extension to the original mausoleum was officially inaugurated after two decades of anticipation, marking another step in efforts to promote the legacy of the Per-

sian mystic.

The shrine complex covers 7,000 square meters and includes a domed chamber, a library housing 8,000 volumes and research facilities. The site was inscribed on Iran's National Heritage List on October 3, 2026.

Shams Tabrizi, a Persian mystic who lived in the 13th century, is widely known for his transformative spiritual relationship with Rumi, whose mystical poetry became a major contribution to Persian literature and Sufi tradition. Rumi's Divan-e Shams-e Tabrizi bears the mystic's name and reflects the significance of their relationship.

170-million-year-old fossil in northern Iran presented for scientific study

TEHRAN – A fossilized tree trunk estimated to be 170 million years old and discovered in Iran's northeastern Golestan province has been presented as a valuable resource for scientific research, natural heritage conservation and the development of science tourism.

The fossil was identified in 2021 during road-widening work along the Azadshahr-Shahrud route and was subsequently transferred to the Golestan Department of Environment after officials confirmed the discovery, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Preliminary assessments suggest that the specimen belongs to a group of coniferous trees, although further specialist studies are needed to determine its precise classification and geological age.

Mahmoud Shakiba, head of the wildlife protection and management, natural history museum and genetic resources department at the Golestan Department of Environment, said the fossilized trunk was among the province's valuable natural heritage assets.

He said the specimen could help researchers investigate the region's geological history and ancient vegetation while raising public awareness of paleontology and natural heritage.



Although the fossil has been estimated to be around 170 million years old, its precise geological period remains uncertain. Further expert examination is required to establish whether it dates to the Late Triassic or Middle Jurassic, Shakiba said.

A fragment of the fossilized trunk has been donated to the Department of Environment's Biodiversity Museum in Tehran, a move intended to make the specimen more accessible for scientific and educational purposes.

Shakiba said the provincial environmental department had collected about 100 fossil specimens of different plant and animal types, which are being kept at its museum. Recently, 50 specimens were sent to the biodiversity museum in Tehran for further iden-

tification and taxonomic assessment.

Fossils provide important evidence of the history of life, past environmental conditions and changes in the Earth's ecosystems over geological time. Proper preservation and documentation in specialized museums can support scientific research and help transmit knowledge of the natural world to future generations.

Shakiba said identifying, protecting and presenting fossil discoveries was part of the broader responsibility to safeguard Iran's natural heritage. He added that greater public awareness of such resources could strengthen conservation efforts and improve understanding of the country's natural history.

The fossil discovery also highlights Golestan's wider potential for nature-based and educational tourism. The province is home to part of the Hyrcanian forests, an ancient forest ecosystem whose history extends back tens of millions of years.

Unlike fossilized remains, these forests are living ecosystems that preserve elements of ancient vegetation and provide important evidence for understanding long-term ecological change.

Saffron festival added to Iran's intl. tourism events calendar



TEHRAN – The National Saffron Day festival in Iran's northeastern Khorasan Razavi province has been registered as an international event on the country's tourism calendar, with a permanent secretariat established at the province's Chamber of Commerce to promote Iranian saffron and strengthen its value chain from production to export.

Samira Sabzevari, secretary of the National Saffron Day conference, said the registration marks a significant step in efforts to

safeguard the position of Iranian saffron and expand activities related to the prized agricultural product.

Speaking to ISNA, Sabzevari said the Khorasan Razavi Chamber of Commerce had placed a range of initiatives on its agenda following the festival's registration and the establishment of its permanent secretariat.

The initiatives aim to preserve saffron's standing in domestic and international markets while

strengthening links among producers, processors, traders and exporters, she said.

Over the past two years, the National Saffron Day festival has featured exhibitions, conferences, urban advertising campaigns and plans for promotional caravans and tourism tours in different counties across the province.

This year's program takes an integrated approach to the saffron value chain, covering all its stages and related industries, she added.

Also, an international saffron exhibition was inaugurated in the presence of officials and featured traditional and cultural programs intended to celebrate the local heritage associated with saffron cultivation.

Sabzevari said the festival's registration as an international event on Iran's tourism calendar had been secured through follow-up with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Known as "red gold," saffron is a valuable agricultural product widely used in Persian cuisine, where it lends distinctive aroma and color to dishes and desserts. It also has a long-standing place in traditional Iranian medicine and cultural practices.

Iran is one of the world's major saffron-producing countries, with much of its cultivation concentrated in the country's eastern and northeastern regions. The annual harvest generally begins in early November, when saffron's vivid purple flowers emerge across fields in otherwise dry landscapes.

Beyond its economic value, the harvest season offers opportunities for rural tourism, allowing visitors to experience saffron picking and learn about the cultivation and processing of the spice. Organizers' plans for promotional caravans and tourism tours reflect efforts to connect the product more closely with the region's cultural heritage and travel industry.

Iran joins Coalition of Action to Recover Endangered Species

TEHRAN – Iran has officially joined the Coalition of Action to Recover Endangered Species (CARES), which aims to strengthen international cooperation to preserve and restore the country's wildlife.

The CARES was unveiled at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Yerevan on October 16. Colombia and Armenia launched the initiative with 17 founding participating governments: Armenia, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mexico, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, United Kingdom, and Vanuatu. Iran has become a member of the coalition as the 18th country.

The coalition is supported by the Reverse the Red Action partnership as secretariat.

The membership document was signed by Hamid Zohrabi, deputy head of the Department of Environment (DOE), on Monday.

Speaking at a meeting on this occasion, Zohrabi underlined the need for equitable distribution of resources and technology to save endangered species.

Iran's name will be listed on the website of the coalition as a country that has developed action plans for the conservation of 40 wildlife species to benefit from technical, scientific, and financial support from CARES.

Some organizations have come together to commit more than \$500 million over the next five years to prevent extinctions and recover the world's most threatened species.

On the sidelines of COP17, Zohrabi and Vivek Menon, chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC), discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in developing management and conservation programs for endangered species.

The talks particularly focused on conservation and restoration programs for the Asiatic chee-



tah, the great bustard, and the Persian zebra, onager, their respective habitats, as well as the reintroduction of the Persian fallow deer into its natural habitats.

Both parties also discussed enhancing technical and scientific cooperation and providing funding under sanctions.

Menon expressed hope that ongoing collaboration between IUCN officials and Iranian experts would guarantee the survival of endangered species, such as the Asiatic cheetah, in Iran.

COP17 is being held under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, alongside the Twelfth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-MOP-12) and the Sixth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (NP-MOP-6).

The two-week negotiations are being held in two stages: technical-level discussions followed by the ministerial segment.

The leaders' summit took place on October 16, featuring an address by President Masoud Pezeshkian. It marked the first time a president of the Islamic Republic of Iran had attended a Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Addressing the summit,

Pezeshkian called for "peace diplomacy" to protect biodiversity, condemning the devastating environmental impact of wars of aggression as ecocide and urging the international community to establish effective, transparent and enforceable mechanisms to safeguard natural heritage during wartime.

According to the latest report by the IUCN Red List, about 154 vertebrate animal species and around 25 percent of plant species in the country are at risk of extinction, with 117 species being classified as critically endangered in the national list. Persian zebra, Asiatic cheetah, black bear, great bustard, and yellow deer are among animals that are in danger of extinction.

Among extinct animals, the Hyrcanian tiger and Persian lion are the two feline species that have disappeared forever in the country. Fortunately, the Persian zebra and the Persian yellow deer are examples of successful conservation efforts where scientific measures and local community participation have resulted in the species' recovery.

Genetic map for endangered species being developed

The DOE is developing a genetic map of endangered wildlife species to increase their chance of survival, create a breeding plan, manage their population, and address the risks facing them in their natural habitats.

Effective conservation of endangered species is almost unattainable without a precise understanding of population genetics. To this end, genetic and molecular studies of key wildlife species in the country have been put on the agenda, ensuring that management decisions are based on accurate scientific data, IRNA quoted the head of the National Museum of Natural History and Genetic Resources, Leila Ezzeddinlou, as saying.

Preserving genetic diversity within and between populations, preventing declines in effective population size, avoiding inbreeding and genetic erosion, conserving genes adapted to diverse environmental conditions, and providing genetic resources for species restoration, propagation, and introduction or reintroduction programs are among primary objectives of these studies, she added.

Referring to three research agreements signed between the DOE, the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources of the University of Tehran, and Gorgan University, the official said that as part of the cooperation, a project is underway to investigate the genomic diversity and phylogeny of Levant viper and Latifi's viper populations, employing conservation and therapeutic approaches based on genomic markers.

Moreover, the development of genetic profiles and maps for the Asiatic cheetah, black bear, and Persian yellow deer, as keystone and threatened species, has kicked off.

The other part of the agreements focuses on the assessment of genetic variation, inbreeding, and kinship relationships within the Persian zebra population, which is being conducted in collaboration with Yazd's provincial DOE department. The initiative plays a key role in managing small populations and preventing the loss of genetic biodiversity, she highlighted.

Iranian, Russian universities explore potential to boost co-op

TEHRAN – Iran's Persian Gulf University and Russia's Novosibirsk State University have discussed ways to strengthen scientific cooperation and expand joint research initiatives.

During an online meeting, the two universities outlined their respective capacities, explored potential areas of collaboration, and agreed to examine mobility programs involving industry participation in both countries.

Persian Gulf University initiatives are primarily focused on three strategic areas of excellence: energy, petroleum, gas, and petrochemistry; marine studies; and international business and commerce. By prioritizing these areas of scientific knowledge and academic activity, Persian Gulf University aims to strengthen its constructively important role in establishing and maintaining peaceful coexistence and sustainable development, as well as enhancing human prosperity and well-being in the Persian Gulf region.

The university's internationalization project has begun in recent years, and there has been significant growth in the international indicators, including the number of international academic members, international students, and international events. The university's mission is to become a third-generation international university with excellence in science, technology, and entrepreneurship to respond to the surrounding society's needs and create value for society, develop competent citizens, and perform its social roles.

Persian Gulf University has an excellent reputation for teaching quality, academic research, and graduate employability. Admission is limited to students who pass the national entrance examination administered annually by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology.

Novosibirsk region is home to one of Russia's most prominent universities—a symbol

of the research-oriented university model in Siberia—situated in the heart of the science city, Akademgorodok.

Relying on high-quality education, fundamental research, and close collaboration with institutions of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the university holds a distinguished position within the country's science and technology system.

The combination of a dynamic academic environment, an international scholarly community, and a focus on basic sciences and advanced technologies has established it as a key center for cultivating the next generation of scientists and innovators—both in Russia and globally.

Tehran, Moscow set to establish joint science and technology commission

Iran and Russia are preparing to establish a joint commission on science and technology, with a document on international scientific cooperation between the two countries set to be signed at a meeting of the commission.

In September, Ehsan Qaboul, head of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology's Center for International Scientific Cooperation, said Iran is firmly committed to expanding ties with Russia, outlining the next steps by Tehran and Moscow to strengthen bilateral cooperation, including the formation of the joint science and technology commission.

Qaboul added that the Minister of Science, Research and Technology is scheduled to travel to Moscow within the next three months to finalize the document on international scientific cooperation between Iran and Russia.

He also announced plans for 500 cooperation programs with Russian universities and scientific institutions.

The programs include holding 100 joint educational courses involving Russian pro-

fessors, enabling 100 doctoral and master's students to choose a second academic supervisor from among professors at

Russian universities, and organizing 100 technology events aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation from science and education into the technology sector.

Qaboul further said that 100 joint cultural events with Russian universities and academic and educational institutions, as well as 100 scholarships for Russian students, are also among the planned initiatives. The scholarships will give priority to students seeking to study Persian language and literature.

The official also stressed Iran's support for Persian-language programs at Russian universities, saying Iranian professors are ready to teach Persian to Russian speakers either in person or online.

In June, Iranian Science, Research and Technology Minister, Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, and Russian Science and Higher Education Minister, Valery Falkov, reviewed strategies for developing scientific, educational, and academic cooperation between the two countries, with an emphasis on expanding professor and student exchanges, strengthening research cooperation, and facilitating academic interactions.

Simaei-Sarraf considered the development of Russian language chairs in Iranian universities and Persian language chairs in Russian universities as a sign of deepening scientific and cultural ties between the two countries.

Falkov, for his part, pointed out the beginning of a new university admission period in Russia and the welcoming of Iranian students to study at the country's universities, emphasizing the importance of providing employment opportunities and utilizing the academic potential of graduates after their return to Iran.

Family Physician Program being implemented in 64 medical networks nationwide

TEHRAN – The health ministry is implementing Family Physician Program in 64 medical networks across the country, providing services to some 3.5 million individuals in the initial phase, and diagnosing new cases of patients with diabetes, hypertension, and pre-diabetes.

Around 13.6 million people are currently covered by the program, including 7.7 million in urban areas and the remainder in rural areas, IRNA quoted Alireza Raeisi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

Noting that the rural population has been fully assigned, the official said that the process of assigning individuals to Family Physician Program in the urban population is being completed, and urban coverage will expand with more physicians joining the program.

Around 2,528 physicians are operating in rural and urban pilot centers, and some 1,610 specialists will soon start providing essential services to the patients, he added.

Referring to the development of digital health infrastructures, Raeisi said integration of systems at different levels of service, the connection with insurance systems, the scheduling of appointments, the referral of patients, and the creation of management dashboards are parts of the adopted measures.

According to the official, some 408,000 referrals to higher health services, about two million prescriptions, and 753,000 medical tests have been recorded so far.

Up until now, 19,246 new cases of diabetes, 34,731 individuals with high blood pressure, and 9,322 individuals with prediabetes have been diagnosed, amounting to 49 and 37 percent of expected target population with hypertension and diabetes, respectively.

The official went on to say that the subsequent phases of the program will include breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening tests, disease risk assessment, hearing screening tests, child care, identification of overweight and obesity, and childbearing counselling.

In July, the third phase of the Family Physician Program and referral system kicked off on July 28 in 19 cities, Alireza Raeisi, an official with the health ministry, said.

The program aims to make treatment referrals more concentrated and provide more convenient access to health services.

Successful implementation of the Family Physician Program is essential to the health system. There are no other options; the failure to implement the program would inflict the greatest damage on the health system, IRNA quoted Raeisi as saying.

"Over 100 countries worldwide have implemented the program, and an analysis of global experiences indicates that its full implementation is not feasible in the short term; rather, it requires developing a supportive culture, careful planning, patience, perseverance, and

continuous follow-up. Nevertheless, based on existing experiences, we assess the program's implementation process in the country as positive and promising," Raeisi highlighted.

Referring to the implementation of the program in Fars and Mazandaran provinces, the official said that the unsuccessful experiences in these provinces resulted from improper implementation rather than a failure to fully implement it. Hence, the precise and principled implementation of the current program is of great importance.

The new phase of the program should be implemented in some cities, like Firoozabad, Jahrom, Larestan, Fasa, and Jouybar, in which previous phases of the program were implemented, to ensure its efficiency, he noted.

Drawing upon the experiences of the first and second phases, the implementation of the third phase should be pursued with enhanced speed, precision, and quality. Furthermore, the chancellors of the universities and the heads of the colleges should continuously oversee the selected networks, regularly monitor the implementation process, and collect necessary feedback. They will also need to consider the Social Determinants of Health (SDH), Raeisi further noted.

The rural family physician program started in 2005. Back then, it also targeted villages and cities inhabited by fewer than twenty thousand individuals to make treatment referrals more concentrated and provide more convenient access to health services, ISNA reported.

Periodic examinations and monitoring of people's health status, easy and round-the-clock access to basic services and primary care, and frequent visits to doctors are the characteristics of a family physician.

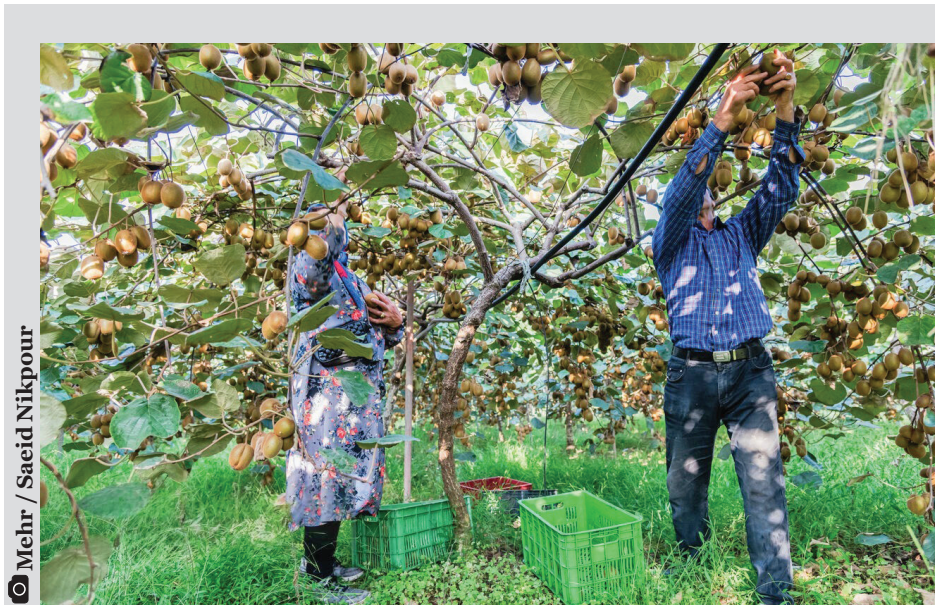
Medical, dental, mental, midwifery, nutrition, laboratory, pharmaceutical, and medical imaging are among the services offered by the program.

Based on the Family Physician Program, a physician and a midwife offer services in rural areas; every 3,300 villagers have a physician, and there is a midwife per 5,200 people in villages.

The program will gradually target other parts of the country as well, ISNA quoted Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi as saying.

"It is a large-scale program based on social behavior change. Designing new patient pathways, reforming the referral pattern, and improving the healthcare network system requires careful coordination between the Health Ministry, governors, and other relevant institutions at the provincial level," IRIB quoted Zafarqandi as saying.

So, it is essential to develop a national headquarters headed by the President to oversee the overall management of the program, he added.



Kiwi harvest underway in Talesh orchards

Farmers in Talesh, northern Iran, are harvesting kiwifruit as the autumn season gets underway.

Talesh is one of the country's major kiwi-producing areas, and part of its annual harvest is exported to markets such as India and Russia.

The crop plays an important role in supporting local livelihoods, strengthening the agricultural economy, and generating foreign exchange.



OCTOBER 28, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who imagines himself to be all-knowing will surely suffer on account of his ignorance.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:33 Dawn: 4:58 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:22 (tomorrow)

‘The Story of the Panda Bears’ to be staged in Tehran

TEHRAN- Iranian director Maryam Amini is set to stage “The Story of the Panda Bears Told by a Saxophonist Who Has a Girlfriend in Frankfurt,” a play by Romanian-French playwright Matei Vişniec, at the Medea Hall of Tehran Theater.

The production, translated into Persian by Hanieh Rajabi and produced by Vahid Salekfar, will begin performances on Thursday.

Iranian actors Khayyam Vaqar Kashani and Ghazaleh Akrami will perform in the two-character play, which explores an unusual encounter between a man and a woman, unfolding over nine nights and blurring the boundaries between reality, memory and imagination.

The story begins when a man wakes up to find a woman beside him whom he does not recognize. Despite the uncertainty surrounding their encounter, he asks her to stay with him for nine nights. The woman eventually agrees, and the two embark on a strange and intimate journey that gradually raises questions about their identities, their relationship and the nature of their shared experience.

Rather than following a conventional dramatic structure, the play develops through a series of encounters between its two central characters. Their conversations and interactions gradually reveal fragments of their inner worlds, leaving audiences to interpret the events and the meaning of their connection.

The play’s surreal atmosphere and poetic dialogue are characteristic of Vişniec’s theatrical writing, which frequently combines elements of the absurd with reflections on hu-



man relationships, loneliness and the instability of reality. In “The Story of the Panda Bears,” the seemingly simple premise of a man asking a stranger to remain with him becomes a framework for exploring the need for companionship and the uncertainties that shape human encounters.

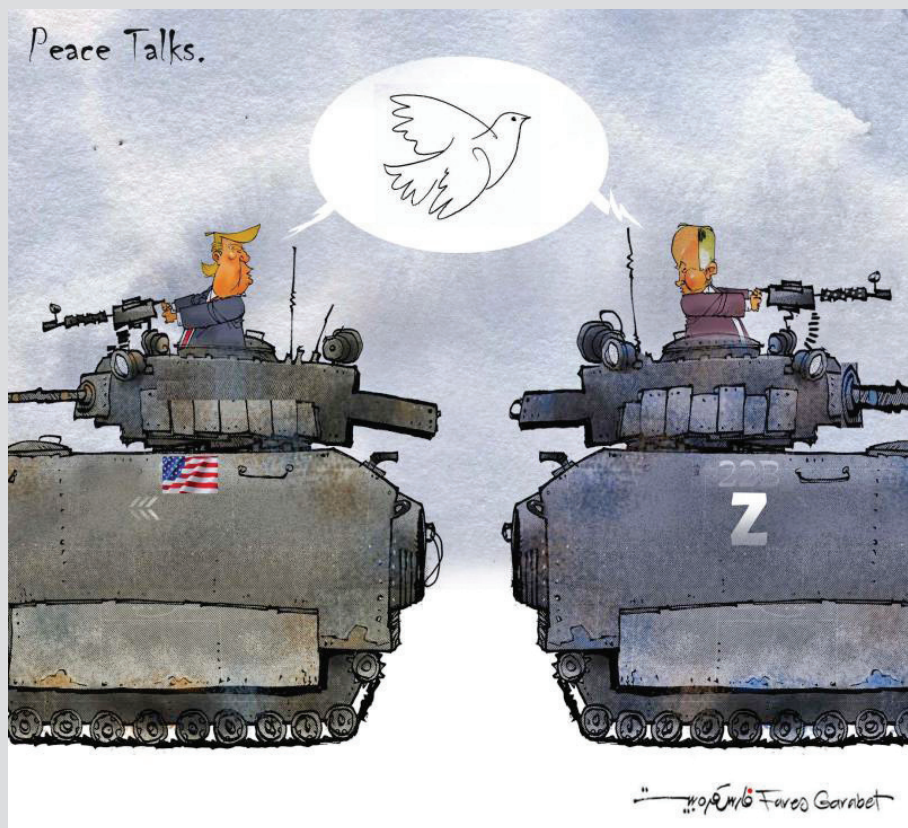
The nine-night structure also provides the drama with a sense of anticipation, as each meeting adds another layer to the relationship between the man and the woman. The audience is invited to piece together the significance of their exchanges while confronting the ambiguity at the heart of the narrative.

Born in Romania in 1956, Vişniec is a playwright, poet and journalist who has established an international reputation for his works exploring the absurdities of modern life, political realities and the human condition. He moved to France in 1987 and has since written extensively for the stage, with his plays translated and performed in numerous countries.

His dramatic works often employ fragmented narratives, symbolic imagery and unconventional situations to examine questions of identity, communication and existence. His writing combines philosophical concerns with theatrical experimentation, allowing directors to approach his texts through a range of interpretations.

“The Story of the Panda Bears Told by a Saxophonist Who Has a Girlfriend in Frankfurt” will remain on stage at the Medea Hall of Tehran Theater for a month.

Cartoon of Day



Peace Talks

Cartoonist: Fares Garabet from Germany

Tehran exhibition explores Hazrat Fatemeh Zahra’s legacy through art

TEHRAN – An exhibition bringing together calligraphy, traditional crafts, visual arts and religious performances to celebrate the legacy of Hazrat Fatemeh Zahra (SA), the daughter of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), opened at Tehran’s Azadi Cultural and Artistic Complex on Monday.

Titled “The Wisdom of Zahra Was Imprinted on the World,” the event showcases works inspired by the spiritual teachings and cultural heritage associated with Hazrat Fatemeh Zahra (SA), a revered figure in Islam whose life is widely associated with piety, compassion, modesty and devotion to her family.

The opening ceremony was attended by the CEO of the Rudaki Foundation Mohammad Allahyari Foumani, Director General of the Visual Arts Office Aydin Mahdizadeh, Rudaki Foundation Deputy for Artistic Creation Amirabbas Setayeshgar, Deputy for Coordination of Halls and Centers Reza Mardani, and Azadi Cultural and Artistic Complex Director Seyyed Mohsen Hosseini, along with artists and cultural figures.

Organized by the Azadi Cultural and Artistic Complex, the program brought together 110 artists from different disciplines. Visitors have the opportunity to view exhibitions, attend artistic workshops and speak with participating artists about their creative approaches and the religious concepts behind their works, the Rudaki Foundation reported.

One of the main sections is an exhibition dedicated to Hadith al-Kisa, a narration describing an occasion when Prophet Muhammad gathered his close family members under a cloak. In Islamic tradition, the narration is associated with the special status of the Prophet’s household, known as the Ahl al-Bayt. Seventy calligraphers participated



in the exhibition by writing the Arabic text of the narration and its Persian translation.

Another 20 calligraphers contributed works featuring Ziyarat Ashura, a devotional text associated with Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The opening ceremony also included the unveiling of a book of Ziyarat Ashura featuring the contributions of the participating calligraphers.

A separate workshop, held under the event’s title, brought together 15 artists working in engraving, qalamkari (traditional Persian textile printing), painting, miniature painting and calligraphy. The artists created works drawing on Fatemi teachings and the artistic traditions through which religious ideas have been expressed and preserved across generations.

The exhibition also features a section on modesty and hi-

jab, supervised by artist Zohreh Abdollahi, exploring women’s identity and dress through an artistic lens. A performance by the Daughters of the Revolution choir added a ceremonial element to the program.

The exhibition brings together 110 artists to celebrate Hazrat Fatemeh Zahra’s legacy through calligraphy, traditional crafts, visual arts and religious performances.

Hazrat Fatemeh Zahra (SA) holds a central place in Islamic history and devotion. As the daughter of Prophet Muhammad and Khadija, she is revered by Muslims, particularly in the Shia

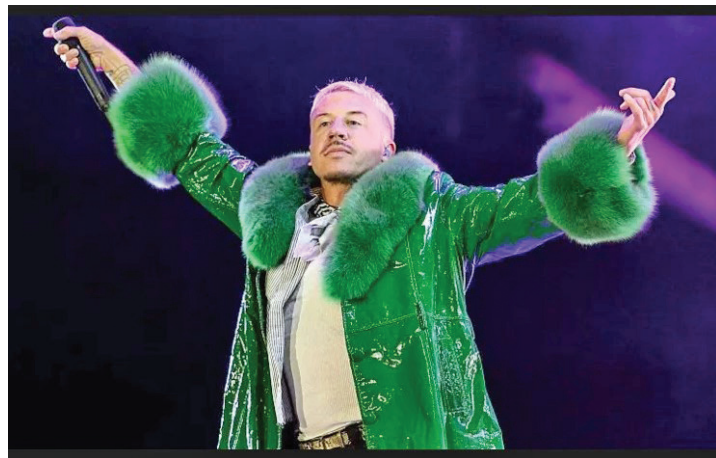
tradition, as a model of faith, dignity and moral integrity. She was the wife of Imam Ali (AS) and the mother of Imam Hassan (AS) and Imam Hussein (AS). Her life and legacy have inspired centuries of religious literature, poetry, calligraphy and other art forms.

Events celebrating Hazrat Fatemeh Zahra (SA) are often held in connection with Fatemiyeh, a period of mourning and commemoration observed by many Shia Muslims in remembrance of her death. The occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on her place in Islamic tradition and the values associated with her life.

The exhibition’s combination of sacred texts, traditional crafts and contemporary artistic expression offers a setting for exploring these themes through Iran’s cultural heritage.

The exhibition will remain open to visitors for four days, through Friday, October 30.

Macklemore begins Free Palestine tour after Ed Sheeran fallout



people have been killed, according to the territory’s health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the UN.

Israel says its troops conduct self-defense operations in Gaza and the occupied West Bank in accordance with international law.

Tickets for the Dublin show sold out, and dozens of concertgoers were queueing at the venue hours before its doors were opened.

Some were dressed in Palestinian jerseys, others had tied Palestinian and Irish flags to themselves, and many were wearing keffiyeh scarves, a symbol of Palestinian identity.

Vendors outside the arena sold Palestinian bucket hats and flags, as well as hats and flags with the Kneecap logo.

Nicola McCollough travelled with her daughter Lily Rose Murphy from Belfast for Lily Rose’s first ever concert.

They both said they were happy Macklemore spoke out in support of Gaza.

“More people need to, if you have the platform, do it because not everybody has that kind of stage,” said Nicola.

“I would speak about anything if I’m supportive of it,” said Lily Rose.

Gillian Duffy travelled from Cork with her son Joshua.

She said that if Macklemore had “put on 10 shows in Dublin, all 10 would have been filled”.

“This is the hottest ticket because people want to be here, they really, really want to show their support,” she said.

“You’re going to hear [the chant] ‘Free, free Palestine’ all over Dublin tonight.”

Jess O’Riordan, who also travelled from Cork, said it was “absolutely appalling” when Macklemore was “kicked off” Sheeran’s tour.

“I wish we had more people out there that would use their platform the way he does,” she added.

The controversy began when Macklemore, performing as the opening act for Sheeran at a con-

cert in New Jersey in early September, said: “A big part of the reason why I wanted to do this tour in the first place is so that I could stand up in stadiums like this and say two words that are very, very dear to my heart: Free Palestine.”

The Thrift Shop rapper then performed a song dedicated to pro-Palestinian protesters at Columbia University in the US.

The lyrics are critical of Israel’s military actions in Gaza after the 7 October 2023.

After he was taken off the tour on 14 September, Macklemore accused stadium owners of rallying together to push him out.

He was also accused by billionaire stadium owner Robert Kraft of hate speech and antisemitic rhetoric surrounding Israel and Gaza.

Sheeran said that the decision to drop Macklemore from his tour was made by concert promoter Messina Touring Group.

His early remarks led to all of his support acts to drop out of the tour in solidarity with Macklemore, and fans to express frustration.

Sheeran then addressed the controversy during the start of a gig in Philadelphia.

He said he had made “mistakes” handling the fallout, apologizing to fans and taking a stand on the Israel-Gaza conflict, which he said was “a humanitarian issue”.

He described the 7 October 2023 attacks as “horrific” and also called the situation in Gaza “unjustifiable and disproportionate”.