

Leader to students: Arm yourselves with knowledge and faith to build Islamic- Iranian Civilization

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has called on university students to equip themselves with knowledge, faith and self-purification to contribute to the strength of Iran and the march toward an Islamic-Iranian Civilization.

In a reply issued on Oct. 28, 2026, to letters from a group of university students, the Leader thanked them for their kindness and said their letters reflect a resolute determination and sense of responsibility for building the future. ► [Page 3](#)

Lula's victory once again showed Latin America is not US backyard

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN — History has a peculiar way of embarrassing those who believe political opponents can simply be imprisoned, exiled or erased. Nelson Mandela walked out of prison after 27 years and became South Africa's first Black president. Juan Pern returned to Argentina after nearly two decades in exile and reclaimed the presidency.

In Brazil, Luiz Incio Lula da Silva has written his own chapter in this tradition. A former factory worker and trade unionist who rose to the presidency, ► [Page 5](#)

Each of three options facing US in confrontation with Iran carry strategic losses for Washington

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – America's available options in the West Asia region are 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. ► [Page 5](#)

'Night of Iran' highlights need for better global understanding of Iranian civilization

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Iran has yet to properly present its rich history and civilization to younger generations and the international community, the cultural heritage minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri underlined at an event titled "Night of Iran," calling for a more comprehensive and historically grounded account of the country's cultural, scientific and artistic achievements.

"We have not yet succeeded in telling the story of Iran as it deserves, given the history, culture and civilization of this land," the minister said on Tuesday evening. "We must address this shortcoming and present a comprehensive account of Iran based on historical evidence and facts."

The event was held at the Museum of the National Bank of Iran in downtown Tehran and brought together cultural officials, archaeologists, researchers, lawmakers and other figures involved in the country's cultural heritage sector. ► [Page 6](#)



A grand Qur'anic gathering, "Mahfel," featuring prominent reciters was held in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, on October 26, 2026.

'Narration of Resistance' Caravan Highlights Sistan-Baluchestan's Cultural Riches

The initiative's organizers have emphasized resistance, solidarity and the province's capabilities as central themes. Its coverage of everyday life and local traditions also places the experiences of residents at the heart of the program.

TEHRAN – A group of Iranian cultural, religious, media and sports personalities has traveled to Sistan-Baluchestan province as part of a program titled "Narration of the Resistance of the Brave," aimed at showcasing the region's cultural diversity, social solidarity and local capabilities.

The caravan, which arrived in the southeastern province on October 25, has organized a series of cultural, Quranic, media and sports activities across several cities, bringing its participants into contact with local residents, community figures, businesses and institutions.

According to reports by Persian media, the program seeks to present a broader picture of life in Sistan-Baluchestan, highlighting its cultural traditions, religious life, scientific and medical facilities, economic activities and

the coexistence of its diverse communities.

Among the prominent figures accompanying the caravan are Hojjatolislam Alireza Panahian, cultural activist Hossein Yekta, writer Vahid Yaminpour, television presenter Raheleh Aminian, travel documentarian Javad Gharai, television host Iman Qiasi, religious program presenter Najmeddin Shariati, singer Hamed Homayoun and several former

Iranian footballers.

The initiative combines public gatherings and face-to-face encounters with television production and visits to local institutions, using familiar public figures to draw attention to a province whose cultural and social realities are often less visible in national media coverage.

Quranic gatherings emphasize religious and social ties

Quranic programs have formed a major part of the caravan's activities, with gatherings involving nationally recognized reciters in Zahedan and Iranshahr.

These events brought residents together around Quran recitation and religious programming, highlighting the role of shared religious traditions in strengthening social connections across the province. ► [Page 8](#)



Putin to Pezeshkian: Russia honoring all commitments in joint projects with Iran

TEHRAN — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow remains fully committed to all joint projects with Iran, including the continued construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, during a meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Moscow on Tuesday evening.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 8th Summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

Pezeshkian thanked Russia for its hospitality and its continued support for Iran in political, security and economic areas, expressing satisfaction that bilateral trade is on an upward and growing trajectory. ► [Page 2](#)

Pezeshkian pledges to end 'neither war nor peace' situation

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has pledged that his administration will mobilize all its capacities to implement the directives of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei aimed at fulfilling Iran's conditions for ending the current state of "neither war nor peace."

Addressing a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Pezeshkian referred to the Leader's recent directive to Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei to pursue the fulfillment of conditions set by Iranian officials to bring an end to the current situation. ► [Page 2](#)

Araghchi briefs cabinet on Tehran security summit, warns of risks to global energy markets

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has briefed the cabinet on the latest diplomatic developments, with a focus on a quadrilateral meeting in Tehran involving Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye, emphasizing the need for regional cooperation to safeguard security, prevent escalation and protect national sovereignty.

Araghchi presented his report at Wednesday's cabinet meeting, chaired by President Masoud Pezeshkian, outlining recent diplomatic consultations on regional and international affairs, including discussions with senior officials from neighboring and regional countries.

The report covered meetings involving a Qatari delegation, as well as consultations with Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council; Khalid bin Salman. ► [Page 3](#)

Iran, Belarus ink energy cooperation MOU

TEHRAN- A cooperation memorandum of understanding was signed between Abbas Aliabadi, Iran's Minister of Energy, and the Belarusian Minister of Energy, aimed at establishing cooperation between the parties in the energy sector for mutual benefit.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Energy, a cooperation memorandum of understanding was signed between the Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Belarus with the aim of promoting cooperation between the parties in the energy sector for mutual benefit. ► [Page 4](#)

Knesset stalemate plunges Israel into political paralysis

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israel voted in record numbers on October 27 and produced a parliament nobody can run.

With more than 85 percent of ballots counted as of writing this, Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc held 53 seats, down from the 68 his coalition controlled. Former military chief Gadi Eisenkot's bloc had 48. Arab parties had 19. A government needs 61, and nobody is close.

Double-envelope ballots from soldiers, diplomats, and others away from home, more than half a million, are still being counted, and certified results are due by November 4.

This was Israel's sixth election since 2019, and like the other five, it delivered a verdict on Netanyahu and nothing else. Turnout reached 77.7 percent, the highest since 1999, and more than seven points above 2022. Likud fell to roughly 27 seats from 32. ► [Page 5](#)

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The region is reconsidering its previous model

In an article, the Iran newspaper discussed the visit of senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey to Tehran. According to the paper, the four-party meeting in Tehran provides an opportunity to transform a shared concern over the spread of insecurity into practical cooperation. The significance of this gathering becomes clearer when considering its participants. Senior officials from these three countries attended the meeting in Tehran at a time when any change in the pattern of regional cooperation between them and Iran could influence the future course of security developments in the Middle East. At the same time, Riyadh's earlier statement that the purpose of these talks was to prevent escalating tensions and facilitate the path toward an agreement has increased the importance of the consultations. It has also highlighted a key question: whether the pressure created by recent crises will ultimately push regional countries to reconsider previous security models.

Shargh: Ending the war will benefits all sides

In an interview with senior foreign policy analyst Ali Bigdeli, Shargh examined the importance of President Pezeshkian's visit to Russia. Bigdeli believes that Russia's diplomatic activities and President Putin's role in political consultations should be viewed alongside the efforts being made by regional countries. Under current circumstances, these developments collectively indicate that preventing a new war has become a major priority in regional diplomacy. Russia is one of the actors involved in political issues related to Iran, and consultations between Tehran and Moscow are therefore significant. Overall, continuing the war would not produce favorable results for any side, and all parties must conclude that resolving disputes through diplomacy is essential. The key issue is whether they can reach a solution that enables an end to the conflict and allows them to move beyond the current situation without incurring further costs.

Sobh-e-No: Tehran is the new regulator of regional security environment

Sobh-e-No also addressed the significance of the four-party meeting involving Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. According to the paper, this meeting represents an achievement for Iran. Tehran has successfully brought together three members of a defense arrangement (the Mecca defense pact) that was seemingly formed against it and seated them at the negotiating table. In practice, this reflects an important reality: no lasting regional security framework can emerge without Tehran. The meeting also demonstrated that regional countries have increasingly realized that relying solely on external security guarantees

cannot provide sustainable security. Rather than signaling the emergence of a completely new security order, the gathering reflects an urgent effort to prevent the collapse of the existing one. The central question is not whether the meeting can create a new regional security pact, but whether it can prevent tensions from escalating into a full-scale war. At least in the short term, it appears that all parties have reached a consensus on this common objective.

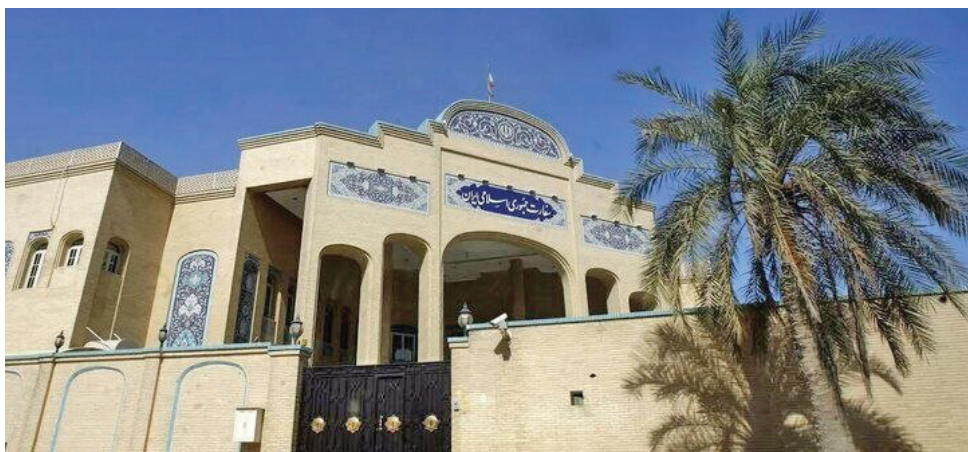
Etemad: Diplomacy is the art of seizing opportunities

In an article, Etemad emphasized the importance of Iran making effective use of diplomatic opportunities. The paper argued that Iran currently needs a balanced and multilateral foreign policy, one that pursues the development of relations with Russia and China while simultaneously enhancing cooperation with neighboring countries and seeking ways to open channels of dialogue with the United States. The art of foreign policy lies in making use of all these opportunities simultaneously, without becoming dependent on any particular power and while maintaining a clear focus on national interests. At the same time, developments surrounding Israel's elections further increase the importance of diplomatic timing. Iran should not tie its security to the outcome of Israeli elections or to potential disagreements between Washington and Tel Aviv. The more actively regional countries work to prevent war and manage disputes, the greater the political obstacles to further escalation. What can endure is the creation of understandings that link shared regional interests to practical commitments.

Ham-Mihan: Tel Aviv's dangerous trap for Iran

In an analysis, Ham-Mihan discussed Israel's strategy toward Iran. The paper noted that Iran has clearly stated it would respond forcefully and extensively if attacked by Israel or the United States. In such a scenario, Saudi Arabia and other members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council would likely face considerable instability. According to the analysis, such a reaction could work entirely in Israel's favor. The more Iran targets southern Persian Gulf Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, the greater the likelihood that these countries would seek support from Israel. As a result, the framework of the Abraham Accords could regain momentum. Therefore, the paper argues that Tehran should evaluate its options far more carefully and avoid acting hastily in response to Israeli provocations, as such a reaction could play directly into what it describes as a trap set by Israel for Iran.

Iran's embassy in Kuwait rejects allegations linking Iranian national to assassination plot



TEHRAN— Iran's embassy in Kuwait has categorically rejected allegations that an Iranian national was involved in a plot to assassinate public figures or undermine Kuwait's national security, stating that the individual had not been in the country for the past decade.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the embassy expressed deep regret over 'persistent negative approaches' toward Iran, including repeated allegations of Iranian interference in Kuwait's internal affairs.

It stressed that unfounded accusations against Iranian nationals ran counter to the principles of good neighborliness and international law.

The embassy also called for responsible and prudent policies across the region, warning that, in the wake of the dangerous consequences of US and Israeli military aggression against Iran, regional countries should act with caution to prevent further escalation of tensions.

The statement came after Kuwait's State Security and Terrorism Crimes Court sentenced three defendants to death over alleged espionage on behalf of Lebanon's Hezbollah and a purported plot to assassinate senior figures and officials. Eight other defendants were sentenced to five years in prison.

Putin to Pezeshkian: Russia honoring all commitments in joint projects with Iran

From page 1 ► He said U.S. unilateral actions in the region have further highlighted the need to strengthen multilateralism and expand cooperation among countries under sanctions.

Regional countries, without reliance on the United States, have the full capability and will to resolve challenges within the region, Pezeshkian stressed.

Pointing to the mutual will of the two countries, he said comprehensive expansion of ties in scientific, economic, industrial, cultural, security and military sectors is achievable.

The Iranian president described the successful holding of Iranian cultural festivals in Moscow, Kazan and Astrakhan as a valuable achievement in bilateral exchanges.

Referring to a report and proposal by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Pezeshkian announced that the necessary permits for establishing a rep-



resentative office of Russian state radio and television in Iran have been issued, with executive coordination underway.

He also welcomed the holding of a reciprocal Russian cultural and media festival and exhibition in Tehran, calling it an effective step toward deepening cultural and media relations between the two countries.

For his part, Putin said trade between Russia and Iran grew by 10.4 percent in the first eight months of 2026.

He added that work on the Bushehr nuclear power plant is ongoing and that Russia is fulfilling all of its obligations under joint projects with Iran.

Referring to his talks with the

Iranian president, Putin also expressed hope that developments in the Middle East move in a positive direction.

He described the GECF summit as constructive, saying Russia is always pleased to host the Iranian president.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday night before departing Russia, Pezeshkian said detailed and in-depth discussions were held during the GECF summit, leading to good understandings, and described the summit as constructive and fruitful.

Referring to his bilateral meetings with the Russian president and the Emir of Qatar on the sidelines of the summit, he said issues related to agriculture, oil and gas, road construction, security matters and bilateral cooperation were discussed. Overall, it was a very good and productive trip, he added.

Pezeshkian pledges to end 'neither war nor peace' situation

From page 1 ► Describing the directive as conveying "a great and important message" and outlining the country's future prospects, the president stressed that all government institutions would work to the fullest extent of their capacities to implement the specified objectives and measures.

Pezeshkian also emphasized the need for executive bodies to maintain full readiness to respond to changing circumstances, calling on ministers, heads of executive organizations and their deputies to prioritize effective management and cost reduction in line with the country's current conditions.

He reaffirmed Iran's determination to confront threats, sanctions and external pressure with strength and national unity.

"Enemies must not imagine that by increasing pressure and threats, they can weaken the will of the Iranian nation and force the country to surrender," Pezeshkian said.

The Leader recently met with Rezaei, describing the Supreme National Security Council and its Secretariat as the "crossroads of policymaking" in the country's affairs.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Hosseini Khamenei stressed the importance of national unity, mutual trust between the people and officials, and making full use of constitutional capacities to help the president and executive bodies address the country's challenges.

He also underscored the need to safeguard national and regional security and called for the fulfillment of the conditions established by Iranian officials to end the war and overcome the current "neither war nor peace" situation.

US-Iran war bill reaches \$47.1 billion

required to replenish depleted stockpiles.

The Pentagon has also spent \$6.1 billion replacing dozens of damaged or destroyed combat aircraft, weapons systems, and other military equipment.

These replacement costs illustrate how the financial burden extends beyond the direct expenditure on weapons used in combat to include the loss of valuable military assets.

Air Force, Navy and Army face mounting costs

The Pentagon's breakdown shows that the US Air Force has spent approximately \$7.6 billion operating dozens of fighter and bomber squadrons involved in the military mission.

The Navy has incurred around \$1.5 billion in costs associated with deploying more than two dozen warships, including several aircraft carriers, while maintaining Army forces in the region has cost approximately \$2.1 billion.

According to US Central Command, more than 50,000 American troops are assigned to the war mission.

The figures also reveal additional expenditures on specialized military operations and logistical support. The Pentagon has spent \$645 million to deploy and sustain several thousand Special Operations personnel in the region.

US Transportation Command has incurred \$92.2 million in costs for moving supplies and equipment, while US Cyber Command has spent \$14 million on cyber support operations.

A congressional official, speaking anonymously to discuss information provided to lawmakers, also disclosed that \$24.5 million had been spent on internal medical support for US service members.

The Pentagon has reported that 18 American service members have been killed and more than 860 injured in the war.

Official estimate excludes major expenses

Despite the scale of the reported spending, congressional officials said the actual cost of the war was



almost certainly higher than the Pentagon's estimate.

According to The New York Times, the administration's calculations excluded \$1.5 billion in fuel and other expenses that the Trump administration had requested through a supplemental funding proposal intended to cover the war's costs.

The estimate also did not include the cost of repairing or rebuilding US military facilities damaged or destroyed by Iranian attacks, including the US Navy's base in Manama, Bahrain.

The Pentagon has indicated that some damaged facilities could be closed permanently or left unreconstructed. However, if the US military or host countries decide to rebuild them, congressional officials estimate that the bill could reach tens of billions of dollars.

Such expenses could substantially increase the overall financial burden, particularly if Washington decides to restore damaged infrastructure while simultaneously replenishing weapons inventories and maintaining its regional military presence.

The extent of the additional costs remains uncertain, and the figures disclosed so far should therefore be treated as a partial accounting rather than a final assessment of the war's financial consequences.

Washington seeks up to \$70 billion in additional military funding

The disclosure comes as US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and the Trump administration seek as much as \$70 billion in emergency military spending to cover the costs

of the war against Iran and finance additional weapons and personnel.

The request underscores the growing financial demands associated with the campaign, particularly as the Pentagon faces the dual challenge of sustaining military operations and replacing equipment and ammunition already expended or lost.

The unclassified figures provided to Congress offer a rare glimpse into the financial accounting of a war whose costs have largely remained undisclosed by the Pentagon's senior leadership.

The reported \$47.1 billion in spending, combined with excluded fuel costs, potential reconstruction expenses and the administration's request for additional funding, indicates that the final bill could rise substantially beyond the amount currently acknowledged.

For Washington, the financial consequences extend beyond the immediate costs of military operations to the long-term task of replenishing strategic weapons reserves, restoring damaged facilities and maintaining military readiness across other regions.

The Pentagon has not immediately responded to The New York Times' request for comment on the figures.

While the final cost of the war remains undetermined, the disclosed estimates highlight the considerable financial resources consumed by the US military campaign and the additional expenditures Washington may face as it addresses the consequences of the conflict.

Leader to students: Arm yourselves with knowledge and faith to build Islamic-Iranian Civilization

From Page 1 ▶

The full text of the reply is as follows:

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Salam to my dear children,

I have read your kind letters. I am grateful for the abundant kindness of you, our young, enthusiastic students. I will keep all of you, who have placed me in your debt through your kindness, especially in my prayers.

Your letters, along with those of many other young people and students who show me such kindness and affection, reflect a resolute determination and a sense of responsibility for build-



ing the future. This firm covenant is a precious trust rooted in the school of the pure Islam of Prophet Muhammad, and in the

legacy of the Magnanimous Khomeini and the Martyred Khomeini (may God exalt their noble stations), and it is a bond that

unites us in our shared commitment.

To this end, equip yourselves to the fullest extent possible with the weapons of knowledge and faith, self-purification, communion with God, and a profound understanding of the teachings of the Quran and the Ahl al-Bayt (pbut). With greater effort and innovation, contribute to the strength and might of our dear Iran, so that with the prayers of our kind Master [Imam Mahdi], may God hasten his reappearance, the march of the forces bound by this covenant toward the summits of progress and an Islamic-Iranian Civilization may advance ever more effectively and swiftly, God willing.

Araghchi briefs cabinet on Tehran security summit, warns of risks to global energy markets

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has briefed the cabinet on the latest diplomatic developments, with a focus on a quadrilateral meeting in Tehran involving Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye, emphasizing the need for regional cooperation to safeguard security, prevent escalation and protect national sovereignty.

Araghchi presented his report at Wednesday's cabinet meeting, chaired by President Masoud Pezeshkian, outlining recent diplomatic consultations on regional and international affairs, including discussions with senior officials from neighboring and regional countries.

The report covered meetings involving a Qatari delegation, as well as consultations with Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council; Khalid bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's defense minister; Asim Munir, Pakistan's chief of army staff; and Ibrahim Kalin, head of Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization.

According to the report, participants in the four-way discussions stressed the importance of strengthening regional cooperation, developing joint security mechanisms and preventing the further escalation of tensions and conflicts.

They also warned against the 'Israeli regime's destabilizing policies,' including efforts to weaken regional states, expand military aggression, undermine governments and draw the United States into regional conflicts.

The senior officials underscored the need for regional countries to remain vigilant

against developments that could fuel tensions and to deepen cooperation in defence of their sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity.

Regional ownership of security

In a message posted on Instagram following the Tehran meeting, Araghchi described the talks as a valuable opportunity to advance dialogue on regional peace and security and address shared threats and challenges. He said the agreement to continue consultations represented an important step forward.

Turning dialogue into lasting cooperation, the foreign minister stressed, would require agreement on common principles, confidence-building, mutual respect for national sovereignty and practical commitments.

Iran's position, he said, was that sustainable regional security must be achieved through the participation of regional countries, without the military presence or interference of powers from outside the region.

"This approach is based on the responsibility of regional countries to determine their own destiny," Araghchi wrote.

He also emphasized the need to counter the Israeli regime's acts of aggression and destabilization, describing this as essential to protecting countries' independence and sovereignty and preventing the spread of war.

Instagram message concluded with Iran's diplomatic motto: "Our Neighbors, Our Priority."

Energy diplomacy and Persian Gulf security



Araghchi also highlighted the energy dimension of Iran's recent diplomatic engagements, saying the country's energy diplomacy had advanced during the eighth summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Moscow, where discussions addressed global gas markets and energy security.

He warned that any military adventurism initiated by Israel in the Persian Gulf could have potentially devastating consequences for international energy markets, making the prospect a serious concern for both gas-producing countries and consumers.

The foreign minister's remarks underscored the connection between regional stability and global energy security, as well as the importance of diplomatic coordination among regional states in preventing conflicts that could disrupt international markets.

Iran, Russia move toward joint construction of small modular nuclear reactors

TEHRAN — Iran is moving toward an agreement with Russia to accelerate the joint construction of small modular reactors (SMRs), as the country advances its domestic nuclear capabilities and seeks to expand the role of nuclear energy in meeting rising electricity demand, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has said.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, who also serves as the AEOI's deputy for International, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, made the remarks in an interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on Wednesday, discussing Iran's participation in the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in South Korea and the growing importance of nuclear energy worldwide.

Kamalvandi said Iran was in the process of signing a protocol with Russia aimed at accelerating cooperation on the joint construction of SMRs, a technology attracting increasing international attention for its potential to provide flexible, scalable sources of electricity.

"We are also in a good position in the field of small modular reactors," he said, adding that the proposed protocol would help advance bilateral cooperation in their construction.

Unlike conventional nuclear power plants, SMRs are designed to be built in smaller units and

can be deployed individually or in groups, offering countries an additional option for meeting growing energy needs. Their modular design also lends itself to standardized production and the deployment of multiple units.

Kamalvandi said global electricity demand was rising rapidly, driven in part by advances in artificial intelligence, digital technologies and the electrification of transport. These developments, he argued, were making the expansion of nuclear power an increasingly important consideration for countries seeking reliable electricity supplies.

Environmental challenges have also heightened international interest in nuclear energy, he said, as countries look for cleaner and more dependable sources of power.

According to Kamalvandi, the world currently generates around 400,000 megawatts of nuclear electricity, while Iran accounts for approximately 1,000 megawatts. He added that announced plans to triple global nuclear power capacity would require the construction of around 1,200 power plants comparable in size to the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in southern Iran.

The AEOI spokesman underscored nuclear power's capacity to provide a stable, continuous supply of electricity, distinguishing it from wind and solar gener-



ation, whose output fluctuates with weather conditions and the availability of sunlight and wind. Such reliability, he said, is particularly important as electricity consumption increases and modern economies become more dependent on advanced technologies.

Kamalvandi also highlighted the broader applications of nuclear technology beyond electricity generation, including nuclear medicine, agriculture and industry, emphasizing its potential contribution to scientific and technological development across multiple sectors.

Reflecting on Iran's progress, he said his approximately 14 years of continuous service at the AEOI had given him a clear perspective on the country's achievements in developing its

nuclear industry.

"I can say with confidence that the country's nuclear industry has reached full maturity, and we have now achieved self-sufficiency in the construction of nuclear power plants," he said.

His remarks highlighted Iran's emphasis on strengthening indigenous scientific, engineering and industrial capabilities, while pursuing international cooperation in emerging nuclear technologies.

The proposed Iran-Russia protocol on small modular reactors represents a further step in Tehran's efforts to develop its nuclear power sector and broaden cooperation in a field that is gaining prominence as countries confront rising electricity demand, energy-security concerns and environmental challenges.

US envoy should speak based on facts, not fabricated accusations, Iran says



TEHRAN — Iran's Ambassador and Chargé d'Affaires to the United Nations, Gholamhossein Darzi, has urged the United States to address the facts rather than level 'fabricated accusations against Tehran,' condemning US and Israeli military attacks against Iran and calling for accountability under international law. In a separate address to the UN General Assembly, Darzi denounced unilateral sanctions as economic terrorism and demanded an end to Washington's decades-long embargo against Cuba.

Speaking at the conclusion of a UN Security Council meeting on Iran, Darzi directly responded to remarks by US representative Mike Waltz, displaying photographs of Iranians killed in US and Israeli attacks.

"Let us speak based on facts, not on fabricated accusations," the Iranian diplomat said, rejecting Washington's allegations concerning Iran and its peaceful nuclear program.

Iran challenges Washington's account of the conflict

Darzi said the US representative had failed to provide credible arguments or justification for 'Washington's blatant act of aggression against Iran.' Instead, he argued, Waltz had resorted to repeated falsehoods and baseless allegations concerning Iran's nuclear activities to obscure the facts and evade responsibility.

The Iranian envoy stressed that the United States and Israel had carried out repeated military attacks against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, which are under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

He maintained that Iran was the victim of the conflict, not its instigator, and accused Washington and Tel Aviv of committing war crimes against the Iranian people.

According to Darzi, the attacks had struck a wide range of civilian targets and essential infrastructure, including residential areas, schools, hospitals, bridges, airports, energy facilities, sports complexes, cultural heritage sites and railway infrastructure.

He described the strikes as flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law and international humanitarian law, holding the United States and Israel responsible for the consequences of their military actions.

"No amount of propaganda can reverse the facts, erase the suffering of the Iranian people, or absolve those responsible of their international legal obligations," Darzi said.

He emphasized that those who ordered, carried out or facilitated the attacks must be held accountable, warning against allowing those responsible to escape justice.

The Iranian diplomat also criticized Washington for seeking to portray itself as the victim while, in his account, conducting military aggression and inflicting mass civilian casualties.

He insisted that the distinction between aggressor and victim must not be reversed, arguing that the United States could not carry out attacks against Iran and then use the Security Council to present itself as the injured party.

Darzi said the United States and Israel would ultimately have to answer for their actions and the crimes he accused them of committing against the Iranian people.

Iran condemns sanctions as economic terrorism

In a separate address to the UN General Assembly during a debate on the need to end the US economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, Darzi condemned unilateral sanctions as instruments of coercion that undermine national sovereignty, violate fundamental rights and obstruct economic development.

"Sanctions are examples of economic terrorism, while blockades enforced by armed force constitute acts of aggression under international law," he said.

Darzi argued that unilateral coercive measures, including so-called autonomous sanctions, threatened multilateralism, destabilized international relations and undermined the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

He described such measures as a form of collective punishment that imposed hardship on ordinary people, particularly women, children and older persons, while restricting access to healthcare, food and opportunities for development.

Referring to more than six decades of US sanctions and the economic blockade against Cuba, the Iranian envoy said Washington's policies had inflicted severe suffering on the Cuban population and impeded the country's development.

He rejected the justification of tightening the embargo in the name of promoting democracy, arguing that the humanitarian consequences contradicted the stated objectives of the policy.

"No government is allowed to dictate the political future of a sovereign nation," Darzi said, describing economic coercion as unlawful, immoral and inhumane.

He called for the immediate lifting of the embargo, full reparation for the damage inflicted on the Cuban people and accountability for those responsible for maintaining the restrictions.

Tehran links sanctions to violations of international law

Darzi said Iran's opposition to unilateral sanctions was reinforced by its own experience of US economic coercion and military aggression. He reaffirmed Tehran's unequivocal opposition to sanctions imposed against sovereign and independent states, including Cuba.

The Iranian envoy argued that invoking human rights to justify economic restrictions was fundamentally contradictory when those measures themselves undermined the rights to health, food, development and a dignified life.

He drew a parallel with the US president's promise of assistance to the Iranian people, recalling the statement that "Help is on its way." Darzi contrasted that promise with the subsequent US bombing of a primary school in Minab, which, according to the Iranian diplomat, killed 168 children aged between seven and 12.

He cited the incident as an example of the 'contradiction between Washington's stated humanitarian commitments and its actions.'

Darzi also invoked Articles 1 and 2 of the UN Charter, emphasizing the principles of sovereign equality, international cooperation and friendly relations among nations. He cited Article 2(7) in arguing that unilateral coercive measures violate the principle of non-interference when used to force governments to change their domestic policies.

He warned that sanctions deepen international divisions, fuel confrontation and undermine peaceful coexistence, while imposing the heaviest burdens on vulnerable populations.

Concluding his address, Darzi reaffirmed Iran's solidarity with the Cuban government and people and urged the General Assembly to press Washington to implement the numerous resolutions adopted by an overwhelming majority of member states calling for an end to the embargo.

He called for intensified international efforts to eliminate unilateral coercive measures, warning that their continuation undermined international law and reflected a failure to uphold fundamental legal and moral responsibilities.

Freight development, fleet productivity, service quality, top priorities of railways

TEHRAN- The CEO of the Railways listed the development of international rail transport, an increase in the movement of export cargo, faster wagon turnaround, improved safety, and higher quality passenger services as the company's priorities.

According to an IRNA report from the Railways, Jabbar Ali Zakeri, at a meeting of the High Committee for the Railway Transport Graph, emphasized the need to improve passenger services, especially on routes leading to holy Mashhad, and described providing the required fleet capacity and increasing readiness to offer satisfactory services to pilgrims and passengers as among the Railways' priorities.

He considered supplying the wagons needed by cargo owners, removing obstacles to international and export freight transport, and reducing wagon dwell times essential for increasing productivity in the freight sector, and stressed the optimal use of locomotive capacity and the formation of heavy freight trains on routes with adequate capacity and suitable technical conditions.

The deputy minister of Roads and Urban Development also described securing infrastructure and ensuring safe train movement as essential, and stressed strengthening cooperation between the railway police and security guard, increasing patrolling along the lines, and countering the theft of railway equipment.

In another part of the meeting, Zakeri presented certificates of appreciation to two Railways athletes who brought honor to the organization on the world stage: Kaveh Riahi, an employee of the General Directorate of Safety and holder of first place in world weightlifting competitions, and Davood Hadavand, employed at the Tehran Railway General Directorate and holder of third place in



world wrestling competitions.

He described support for athletes, the development of public and professional sport, and the expansion of sports programs as effective in increasing organizational vitality, and stressed continued support for the participation of Railways athletes in national and international competitions.

Further, Mirhasan Mousavi, Deputy CEO of the Railways, referring to passengers' welcome for passenger trains, emphasized increasing fleet readiness and carrying out locomotive overhauls precisely in order to improve service quality on high-traffic routes.

He described increasing the share of rail transport in passenger movement as one of the Railways' priorities, and listed reduced fuel consumption, improved travel safety, fewer road accidents and less air pollution, and better service quality as benefits of developing this sector.

Later in the meeting, the directors general of Railway North 2, West, Yazd, and Hormozgan, and the director of Khavar Sharq, presented reports on plans to increase fleet productivity, identify regional capacities, attract new cargoes, and strengthen the share of rail transport in freight movement.

Tehran hosting intl. exhibition of mines, mining, construction machinery, related industries

TEHRAN- Iran's 20th International Exhibition of Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery & Related Industries and Equipment (IRAN CONMINE 2026) opened on Wednesday with the participation of Mohammad Reza Bahraman, Chairman of the Iran Mine House; Kasra Nouri, CEO of the Iran International Exhibitions Company; the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia; a representative of the Russian Embassy; members of the board of directors of the Iran Chamber; and those active and specialists in the field.

At the ceremony, Mohammad Reza Bahraman stated: "This exhibition is the country's most important event in the mining sector and plays a significant role in helping achieve the country's economic goals."

Referring to the importance of IRAN CONMINE in introducing the country's mining capacities, the Chairman of the Iran Mine House said: "This event provides a platform for exchanging experience between domestic and foreign activists, developing international cooperation, and identifying new investment opportunities in the mining sector."

He continued: "A 13 percent growth in the mining sector is envisioned in the Seventh Development Plan, and one of the main focuses of this year's exhibition will be examining practical solutions for achieving this goal and removing obstacles to the development of this sector."

The Chairman of the Iran Mine House announced an increase of about 30 percent in exhibitors this year compared with the previous edition, and said: "With planning and optimal management of the exhibition space, efforts have been made to provide the ground for the participation of a larger number of companies and mining activists so that various parts of the mining value chain—from exploration and extraction to processing—can take part in this event."

Referring to the international dimensions of the exhibition Bahraman stated: "In this edition, representatives from 36 countries will be present, and the participation of ambassadors and foreign economic activists can help strengthen international communications and expand mining cooperation."

Pointing to the economic conditions and

restrictions caused by sanctions, the Chairman of the Iran Mine House noted: "The country's mining sector faces numerous challenges, and overcoming these conditions requires realistic decisions, maintaining stability in policymaking, and paying attention to the actual and potential capacities of this sector."

He emphasized: "To protect existing achievements and prevent damage to mining activities, solutions must be developed in line with the country's economic conditions, and mining capacities must be properly used to strengthen production, develop processing, and increase Iran's share in regional markets."

According to an IRNA report, Iran's 20th International Exhibition of Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery & Related Industries and Equipment (IRAN CONMINE 2026) opened on Wednesday for four days at the permanent venue of the Tehran International Exhibitions, with the participation of 128 domestic and foreign companies.

In this edition, 128 domestic companies and production units are present alongside foreign representatives from China, Japan, and India.

IRAN CONMINE is one of the country's specialized mining industry events, providing a platform for introducing machinery, equipment, products, and services related to mining and mining industries.

In early September, the CEO of the Mining Investment Insurance Fund, noting the fund's support for 960 private mines, stated that 2,815 mining machines have been placed on track for procurement and modernization.

Ali Khatibi, in an exclusive interview with IRNA, said: "The majority of active mines in the country are in the hands of the private sector. Out of a total of 6,451 active mines, 6,005 belong to this sector, and the fund has so far supported 960 mines by issuing credit insurance policies."

He added: "The aim of this support is not just to provide financial resources; rather, efforts have been made to reduce investment risk, enabling the equipping of mines, increasing operational capacity, and ensuring production continuity."

Iran, Belarus ink energy cooperation MOU

TEHRAN- A cooperation memorandum of understanding was signed between Abbas Aliabadi, Iran's Minister of Energy, and the Belarusian Minister of Energy, aimed at establishing cooperation between the parties in the energy sector for mutual benefit.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Energy, a cooperation memorandum of understanding was signed between the Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Belarus with the aim of promoting cooperation between the parties in the energy sector for mutual benefit.

According to this report, the main axes of this memorandum include promoting cooperation in sustainable energy development, including in the renewable energy sector; promoting cooperation in contracting and energy infrastructure services; and providing the possibility of exchanging experience, training, and technical support.

Also among the provisions of this memorandum are cooperation in the fields of construction and management of energy infrastructure, electricity distribution and transmission systems, joint participation in seminars, conferences, and exhibitions with the aim of attracting investment in the energy field, technical cooperation and exchange of information on engineering and advisory issues, and exchange of visits by senior officials and technical experts responsible for the development and implementation of energy policy.

Back in June, the Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade of Iran, in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Industry of Belarus, emphasized the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of industry, trade, transport, logistics, and joint production.

In this meeting, the two sides, referring to the growing economic relations between the two countries, stressed the need to increase the volume of trade exchanges and identify new opportunities for cooperation in various industrial and manufacturing sectors.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, pointing to the industrial capabilities of the two countries, cited cooperation in the supply of mining machinery as one of the important axes of joint cooperation and called for expanding interactions among active companies in this field.

During the meeting, the issue of joint tractor production in Iran was examined, and the two sides emphasized utilizing existing technical and industrial capacities to develop cooperation in this sector. Also, areas of cooperation for the joint production of urban and intercity buses and trucks with the participation of companies from both countries were discussed.

The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade considered the development of transport infrastructure and facilitation of communication among economic activists as requirements for expanding economic relations and stressed the need to establish direct air lines between Iran and Belarus, as well as facilitating the visa issuance process for traders and citizens of the two countries.

In another part of the meeting, the readiness of Iran to export medical equipment, medicine, and health sector products to Belarus was announced, and the two sides emphasized the development of cooperation in this sector.

Furthermore, the development of logistical cooperation and utilization of the capacities of the North-South International Corridor was emphasized as one of the important axes of joint cooperation. The two sides assessed the use of this strategic route as an effective ground for facilitating trade, reduc-



ing transport costs, and increasing economic exchanges between the two countries and the region.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides emphasized the continuation of consultations, follow-up of agreements, and strengthening of joint cooperation in the industrial, commercial, and transport fields in order to enhance the level of economic relations between Iran and Belarus.

Meanwhile, in mid-August, Iran's Deputy Agriculture Minister for planning and Economy Affairs met with the Minister of Agriculture and Food of Belarus, emphasizing the development of bilateral cooperation in the fields of agricultural fertilizers, machinery, and joint investment.

Akbar Fathi, Iran's Deputy Agriculture Minister for planning and Economy Affairs, met and held talks with Yuri Gorlov, Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, on the sidelines of the 7th meeting of the Policy Council of Agriculture and Industry of the Eurasian Economic Union, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

During the meeting, the capacities and areas for developing agricultural and economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Belarus were reviewed, and both sides emphasized the need to strengthen bilateral interactions and utilize existing capacities to develop trade and investment in the agricultural sector.

One of the main axes of the negotiations was the continuation and development of cooperation between the two countries in the supply and trade of potash and phosphate fertilizers. In this regard, existing capacities for expanding trade cooperation, as well as examining areas for joint investment in the production and supply of agricultural inputs, were taken into consideration.

The Iranian side, referring to the importance of sustainable supply of inputs needed by the agricultural sector, emphasized the use of capacities of EAEU member states to diversify input supply sources and develop long-term cooperation.

Also during this meeting, capacities for joint cooperation in the field of agricultural machinery and equipment were discussed and exchanged.

Both sides emphasized identifying the capacities of manufacturing companies and private sector activists of the two countries and paving the way for the development of exchanges, technology transfer, and joint investments in the field of agricultural machinery and equipment.

The development of trade in agricultural and food products between Iran and Belarus was another focus of this meeting. Within this framework, existing capacities for increasing trade exchanges in the fields of poultry meat, dairy products, and various fruits were reviewed, and the need to facil-

itate trade and create suitable grounds for greater presence of producers and exporters of the two countries in each other's markets was emphasized.

Also, the issue of developing trade relations and utilizing the capacities of existing agreements and mechanisms to increase the volume of agricultural and food product exchanges between the two countries was taken into consideration.

At the end of this meeting, both sides emphasized the continuation of consultations and follow-up on the issues raised with the aim of developing joint investments, increasing agricultural trade, strengthening cooperation in the field of inputs and agricultural machinery, and creating new opportunities for private sector cooperation.

The meeting was held within the framework of the programs of the 7th Policy Council of Agriculture and Industry of the Eurasian Economic Union and in line with strengthening the agricultural diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and developing economic interactions with the member states of this union.

Also, in early July, Iran's Minister of Agriculture emphasized the expansion of bilateral agricultural cooperation, increasing trade exchanges between Iran and Belarus, and accelerating the holding of the joint agricultural committee of the two countries.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeli, in a meeting with Dmitry Kaltsov, the Ambassador of Belarus in Tehran, examined the solutions for developing bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector and related industries.

The two sides, referring to the extensive capacities of Iran and Belarus in the fields of agricultural production, livestock, and machinery, emphasized the necessity of increasing the level of trade exchanges and facilitating economic cooperation between the two countries.

The development of imports and exports of agricultural and livestock products, expanding cooperation in the field of agricultural machinery, especially combine harvesters, and examining new areas of cooperation in various agricultural sectors were among the most important axes of the meeting between the Minister of Agriculture and the Belarusian Ambassador in Tehran.

Nouri and Kaltsov also agreed to accelerate the process of holding the joint committee on agricultural cooperation between the two countries and considered this commission a suitable platform for following up on agreements, removing existing obstacles, and elevating the level of technical, economic, and trade relations between Tehran and Minsk.

The two sides emphasized the continuation of consultations and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation with the aim of utilizing mutual capacities in the agricultural sector and food security.

Tehran, Doha discuss expansion of energy cooperation

TEHRAN- Iran's Acting Oil Minister Hamid Bovard met with Saad bin Sherida Al-Kaabi, Qatar's Minister of Energy, on Tuesday (October 27), on the sidelines of the eighth summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) held in Moscow, and discussed the development of Iran-Qatar cooperation in the energy sector.

At the meeting, Bovard, emphasizing the strategic proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the GECF, called for effective cooperation among the forum's members, especially major gas producers and exporters, with the aim of strengthening convergence and developing bilateral and multilateral dialogues.

The caretaker of the Ministry of Oil had earlier, during a trip to

Doha and a meeting with Qatar's Minister of Energy, emphasized the development of relations and cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector.

The eighth summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum was held on Tuesday (October 27) in Moscow with the participation of the heads of member states and high-ranking representatives of those countries; a meeting that provided an opportunity to review strategic issues of the gas industry and strengthen cooperation among the countries producing and exporting this energy carrier.

On October 19, Iran's Acting Minister of Oil and Qatar's Minister of Energy met and held talks on cooperation between Tehran and Doha.

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

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

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

Referring to the resumption of Iran-Qatar trade, Iran's Commercial Attaché in Doha stated: After approximately five months of halt in the maritime transport route

for goods between Dayyer Port in Iran and Al Ruwais Port in Qatar, following continuous follow-ups by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Doha and coordination with relevant Qatari officials, Al Ruwais Port has once again begun accepting Iranian goods.

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

Knesset stalemate plunges Israel into political paralysis

Netanyahu loses his majority, Eisenkot cannot win one, and the wars go on

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Israel voted in record numbers on October 27 and produced a parliament nobody can run.

With more than 85 percent of ballots counted as of writing this, Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc held 53 seats, down from the 68 his coalition controlled. Former military chief Gadi Eisenkot's bloc had 48. Arab parties had 19. A government needs 61, and nobody is close.

Double-envelope ballots from soldiers, diplomats, and others away from home, more than half a million, are still being counted, and certified results are due by November 4.

This was Israel's sixth election since 2019, and like the other five, it delivered a verdict on Netanyahu and nothing else.

Turnout reached 77.7 percent, the highest since 1999, and more than seven points above 2022. Likud fell to roughly 27 seats from 32.

Eisenkot's Yashar took 21, Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid's joint list about 12, Yair Golan's Democrats 8, Avigdor Liberman's Yisrael Beiteinu 7.

On the other side, Itamar Ben-Gvir's Otzma Yehudit kept seven and Bezalel Smotrich's Religious Zionism six. Three years into the war, millions queued to pick its next manager.

Arab voters sink the right's majority

Palestinian "citizens" inside the Israeli regime, a fifth of the population, voted at an estimated 75 to 80 percent.

The Joint List and Ra'am nearly doubled their combined strength from 10 seats in 2022 to 19, the best "Arab" showing in Israeli history.

Netanyahu helped them along. All day Tuesday, he and Ben-Gvir warned followers about Arab turnout, and Likud paid crews to film Arab voters outside polling stations.

The legal center Adalah described stalled admissions and missing Arabic ballot slips. Joint List chair Yousef Jabareen said his voters had sent the fascist government "to the dustbin of history."

The arithmetic that sinks Netanyahu does nothing for his rival. Add the Arab seats to Eisenkot's 48, and the anti-Netanyahu side reaches 67.

But Eisenkot promised a "Zionist government," and Bennett, Lapid, and Liberman have ruled out the Arab parties outright. Eisenkot has said he would consider them only if they recognize Israel as "a Jewish state" and condemn Hamas. Golan alone broke ranks.

Each of three options facing US in confrontation with Iran carry strategic losses for Washington

By Batoool Subeiti

LONDON - America's available options in the West Asia region are 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 involves maintaining the current situation without reaching a final settlement and without returning to open warfare at the same intensity.

The first option of maintaining a state of "neither war nor peace" does not mean that Iran's instruments of pressure will cease to operate. If Iran continues working to break its blockade and retains the ability to target vessels or assets connected to the confrontation, Washington will find itself facing a prolonged war of attrition rather than a stable situation that can be managed without cost.

Maintaining the situation in this form may not be sustainable for more than two years, that is, until the end of Trump's term, although this timeframe remains a political estimate rather than an established certainty.

The second option is "withdrawal without an agreement". The United States may withdraw without reaching a comprehensive agreement, while maintaining its policy of sanctions against Iran.

In such a situation Iran will retain its right to respond effectively to the instruments of blockade. Its response could go beyond the methods used before the war.

Iran would continue working to break the naval blockade and impose costs on the countries maintaining it. This could include economic and political pressure and extend to military action if circumstances will warrant it.

This would leave the region in an unstable condition and force the U.S. to pull out of the region without a settlement, a step that postpones the conflict, rather than addressing its underlying causes. Iran would then gain additional strategic advantages on top of those it had already acquired through the war, including experience and the ability to shift the confrontation to another level, one in which the balance would be more favorable to Iran.

However, the consequences of a prolonged state of "neither war nor peace" for the global economy, commercial activity, financial

markets and fertilizer supplies would create intense pressure to end the war. Such an outcome would not serve American interests, given that the United States would be regarded as responsible for initiating the illegitimate war on Iran.

This would significantly weaken American influence and international standing, as the country would be seen as a source of instability and negative repercussions, having drawn dozens of countries and entangled them in the consequences of a reckless war.

The third option of "withdrawal under an agreement" would allow the United States to end the confrontation on the basis of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding that contains 14 clauses. An agreement would pose a dilemma for the U.S. since the issue is not simply about money, but about the changes that an agreement could bring to the nature of Iran's relationship with the wider region.

If Iran were integrated into regional political and economic relationships, the effectiveness of the terminology and policies used to isolate it could diminish.

Furthermore, the normalization of economic and political relations could give Iran's allies

greater room to operate within recognized regional arrangements, rather than remaining under pressure and confrontation.

This could strengthen Iran's regional position, consolidate the position of Ansarallah in Yemen and strengthen the Lebanese resistance's position. At the same time, the Israeli occupation entity could withdraw from the areas it entered following the war that began on February 28 in accordance with the first clause of the memorandum of understanding. If this outcome is materialized as described, it would represent more than a ceasefire. It would amount to a restructuring of the regional balance of power and political relationships.

Withdrawal without an agreement could leave Iran under naval blockade but it would fail to bring Iran under American control, yet withdrawal under an agreement could provide Iran with extensive economic and political opportunities. Maintaining the current situation would also leave America facing continuous attrition. This leads to the argument that all three options, despite their differences, carry strategic losses for the United States.



Four ways out, none of them open

After certification, President Isaac Herzog will pick a nominee. He is not obliged to choose the biggest party's leader.

That person gets 28 days, extendable by 14. If he fails, a second nominee gets a turn, and after that the Knesset heads for dissolution. Herzog has urged parties to keep an "open mind."

A Netanyahu coalition is the longest shot. He is eight seats short. Even if three of Eisenkot's lawmakers defected, he would reach 56 against 64.

Bennett and Liberman have both served in Netanyahu's governments and walked out, and both campaigned on ousting him. Liberman also refuses to sit with the ultra-Orthodox parties over conscription.

A unity government is the option Washington has floated. The Washington Post reports Netanyahu's allies are pushing it, that Trump's envoys are receptive, and that it would let Netanyahu shed Ben-Gvir.

Eisenkot refuses to serve under him, rotation included. The only version that works on paper is Likud without Netanyahu, plus Yashar, Bennett, and Liberman: about 67 seats. Likud would have to dump its long-time leader.

Trump, who endorsed Netanyahu twice, claimed credit Wednesday for a "come-from-behind stalemate."

An Eisenkot minority government is the realistic alternative and the riskiest. He trails the Netanyahu bloc by five seats and needs at least six votes from outside his camp.

Jabareen says the Joint List will help remove Netanyahu, and Ra'am sat in the Bennett-Lapid government in 2021. But Eisen-

kot's own partners recoil from relying on Arab votes, and a handful of defections to Likud would sink it. Expect Netanyahu's operatives to work the phones.

A seventh election, likely in spring 2027, may suit both leaders better than compromise. Netanyahu would stay caretaker throughout, with a wartime premier's full powers.

On election night, he called this a "historic, one-time opportunity" to "finish Iran" alongside Trump. A new phase of hot war may freeze the political calendar in his favor.

Same wars, new cabinet

No outcome touches Israel's wars of aggression. Eisenkot, who laid out the Dahiye Doctrine of punishing civilian areas in 2008, promises to "destroy Hamas" within 18 months. Bennett calls a change of government in Iran "a must." Lapid wants Iranian energy facilities bombed.

Liberman has said Gaza holds no innocents. When five opposition leaders signed a September pact for a "Zionist, statesman-like government," none of them even got close to accepting that the war on Gaza is a genocide, a conclusion a UN commission reached in 2025.

Israel holds about two-thirds of Gaza, and 1,493 Palestinians have been killed there since the ceasefire, by one count. Settlers beat a man in Burqa, near Nablus, as Israelis voted, while the army sealed every West Bank crossing.

Netanyahu enters the coming weeks as caretaker, under indictment, with his war powers intact. His possible successors have offered Palestinians, Lebanese, and Iranians the same wars with some changes in appearance.

Lula's victory once again showed Latin America is not US backyard

By Syeda Farheen Naqi Mossavi

TEHRAN — History has a peculiar way of embarrassing those who believe political opponents can simply be imprisoned, exiled or erased. Nelson Mandela walked out of prison after 27 years and became South Africa's first Black president. Juan Perón returned to Argentina after nearly two decades in exile and reclaimed the presidency.

In Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has written his own chapter in this tradition. A former factory worker and trade unionist who rose to the presidency, endured imprisonment and returned to power, Lula represents something that political establishments have repeatedly underestimated: the resilience of popular movements.

His political journey carries significance beyond Brazil's borders. At a time when Washington seeks to consolidate its influence across Latin America and Israel faces growing international opposition over its treatment of Palestinians, Lula has refused to surrender Brazil's independent political voice. His solidarity with Palestine is particularly significant.

Wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh, Lula publicly identified himself with the Palestinian people, turning a familiar symbol of resistance into a statement of political defiance. His criticism of Israel's military campaign in Gaza has likewise challenged the Western assumption that solidarity with Palestinians must remain subordinate to Washington's strategic preferences. For Lula, the Palestinian question is not separate from the broader struggle over sovereignty, dignity and the right of nations to determine their own future.

The October 25 presidential election demonstrated that this independence still commands substantial support at home. Brazil entered the final weeks of campaigning deeply polarized. Flávio Bolsonaro, son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, led the first round by approximately 2.22 million votes. Most electoral calculations favored the challenger. Lula faced a deficit no candidate had previously overturned in

Brazil's modern presidential runoffs. Yet elections are not decided by opinion polls alone.

Between October 4 and October 25, Lula's campaign transformed an apparent mathematical disadvantage into a nationwide mobilization. Workers, students, rural communities and social movements returned to the streets.

The Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST) helped sustain the grassroots offensive, while an energetic digital campaign challenged the right's political narrative. The result was historic. Lula secured 51.79 percent of valid votes against Bolsonaro's 48.21 percent, winning by more than 4.43 million ballots.

The overall electoral margin shifted by approximately 6.66 million votes between the two rounds. For the first time in Brazil's modern presidential history, a candidate who finished second in the opening round emerged victorious in the runoff.

The victory also exposed the limitations of treating working-class voters as an electoral constituency to be courted every four years rather than an organized political force. Lula's achievements, including Bolsa Família, minimum-wage increases, expanded university access and support for family farming, established that poverty was not an unavoidable national condition.

Public policy could change millions of lives. But Brazil's economic contradictions remain unresolved. Wealth, land and financial power are still concentrated in relatively few hands. Conservative parliamentary forces, expensive credit and fiscal restrictions continue to constrain the government's ability to deliver deeper reforms.

Lula's fourth mandate will therefore demand more than preserving previous social achievements. Agrarian reform, industrial development, public investment and greater economic participation by ordinary Brazilians must become central priorities. The movements that rescued his electoral campaign must also have a meaningful role in shaping his government's direction.

Beyond Brazil, however, the election delivered an uncomfortable message to Washington. Donald Trump had considerable political reasons to prefer a Bolsonaro presidency. A right-wing government in Brasília would have strengthened his administration's attempt to consolidate a sympathetic regional bloc through the Shield of the Americas initiative, launched in



Miami in March 2026.

Brazil is not an insignificant prize. It is Latin America's largest economy, a founding BRICS member and a country possessing enormous agricultural, energy and mineral resources. Its strategic independence complicates Washington's ambition to maintain the Western Hemisphere as an exclusive American sphere of influence.

Trump's reaction to the election was revealing. Rather than welcoming Brazil's democratic verdict, he publicly questioned the legitimacy of Lula's victory without substantiating his allegations. Bolsonaro initially challenged the outcome before his party acknowledged the result. There is a familiar contradiction here. Washington celebrates democracy when elections produce governments compatible with American interests, yet becomes considerably less enthusiastic when voters choose an independent political direction.

For Iran, this contradiction requires little explanation. From the 1953 Anglo-American coup against Mohammad Mossadeq to decades of sanctions and coercive diplomacy, Tehran has experienced the consequences of Washington's determination to shape other nations' political choices. Brazil and Iran have different political systems and national priorities, but both recognize the importance of a multipolar international order in which sovereignty is not conditional upon American approval. Their participation in BRICS provides an institutional platform for strengthening South-South cooperation and reducing excessive dependence on Western dominated economic structures.

Lula's position on Palestine gives this broader political argument an unmistakable moral dimension. In February 2026, he wore a Palestinian keffiyeh presented by Palestinian Ambassador Marwan Jebri during a diplomatic ceremony in Brasília. The image captured something that Western governments have increasingly attempted to suppress: public identification with Palestinians as a people entitled to dignity, freedom and statehood.

Lula has also challenged Israel's conduct in Gaza, refusing to accept that Palestinians' suffering should be treated as an unfortunate footnote to Israeli security. His position exposes the double standards of a Western political establishment that invokes international law against its adversaries while repeatedly accommodating Israeli aggression. This does not make Lula an ideological counterpart of Iran, nor does it erase differences between their governments. It demonstrates something more important: opposition to Israeli policies and American unilateralism extends far beyond West Asia. It is increasingly part of a wider international demand for political independence and equal application of international law.

Brazil's election has not dismantled American influence in Latin America, nor has it eliminated the far right. Bolsonaro received nearly 60 million votes, demonstrating that the political forces behind his campaign remain formidable. Nevertheless, Lula's victory has disrupted Washington's preferred regional trajectory and given progressive movements across Latin America renewed political confidence.

Mandela's freedom did not automatically dismantle South Africa's economic inequalities. Perón's return did not resolve Argentina's political divisions. Lula's reelection will not, by itself, transform Brazil's entrenched economic structures. But history offers another lesson through these extraordinary political returns: powerful establishments may imprison leaders, manufacture political isolation and declare popular movements defeated. What they cannot always control is whether the people accept that verdict. On October 25, Brazil refused to accept it. And Washington was reminded, once again Latin America is not its backyard, the Strait of Hormuz is not its playground, and neither Brazil nor Iran needs America's permission to defend their sovereignty.

Shabab Al Ahli more clinical in decisive moments: Bakhtiarizadeh

TEHRAN - Esteghlal head coach Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh said that the difference between his team and Shabab Al Ahli came down to two decisive goal-scoring moments, in which the Emirati side showed greater professionalism and managed to score.

Speaking at the post-match press conference following Esteghlal's 2-0 defeat to Shabab Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates, Bakhtiarizadeh said: "My players gave everything they had today. We could have performed well and earned points, as we did in previous matches, although we knew we were facing a difficult challenge.

"We have played several demanding matches over the past two months. I apologize to our supporters, and we will do everything we can to make up for this defeat," he added.

"The way we played in the second half did not suggest that we were heading for a defeat," Bakhtiarizadeh stated.

"The difference between us and Shabab Al Ahli was in two goal-scoring situations. Their players acted more professionally in those moments and managed to find the back of the net."

"We also created scoring opportunities, but we lacked precision in front of goal. It was natural for us to play deeper because we were playing away from home," he went on to say.

"Our aim was to deny the opposition space. If Shabab Al Ahli had traveled to Tehran to play at Azadi Stadium, they probably would have spent much of the match defending deeper as well."

"The only negative aspect of the match was the refereeing. I have never seen officiating like this at this level of football," Bakhtiarizadeh concluded.

Mes Shahr Babak parts ways with Shahba

TEHRAN - Mes Shahr Babak Football Club have officially announced the departure of head coach Ghasem Shahba following a series of disappointing results in the Iranian football league.

The club confirmed the decision through an official poster published on their media platforms, announcing the termination of co-operation with Shahba after the team's poor performances this season.

Mes Shahr Babak have struggled throughout the opening 10 weeks of the competition, collecting only five points and sitting at the bottom of the league standings.

The team's disappointing results and failure to improve their position in the table ultimately prompted club officials to make a managerial change.

Shahba's departure comes as Mes Shahr Babak look to reverse their poor form and improve their results in the remaining matches of the season.

The club have yet to announce a replacement for Shahba, while supporters await further developments regarding the team's coaching staff and future plans.

Dadgar elected president of Iran's Shooting Federation

TEHRAN - Ali Dadgar has been elected president of Iran's Shooting Federation after securing a majority of votes in the federation's electoral assembly.

The election was held under the chairmanship of Mohammadshervin Asbaghian, Deputy Minister of Sports and Youth for Championship and Professional Sports Development.

Dadgar was elected as the federation's new president after receiving 26 votes from the 51 members of the assembly.

Six candidates had initially been approved to contest the election: Ebrahim Barkhordari, Ali Dadgar, Hossein Zakizadeh, Salar Mohammadnia, Abbas Mohammadipour, and Masoud Nosrati Qazvininejad.

However, Barkhordari, Mohammadnia, and Nosrati Qazvininejad withdrew their candidacies before the voting began, leaving Dadgar, Zakizadeh, and Mohammadipour to compete for the presidency.

In the first round of voting, Dadgar received 25 votes, followed by Zakizadeh with 19 and Mohammadipour with five. One ballot was declared invalid.

As no candidate secured an absolute majority in the first round, the election proceeded to a runoff between Dadgar and Zakizadeh.

In the second round, Dadgar narrowly defeated Zakizadeh by 26 votes to 25, securing the presidency of Iran's Shooting Federation for the next four years.

Dadgar has previously served as president of the federation.

Greco-Roman wrestler Esmaili wins gold at World Championships

TEHRAN - Iran's Greco-Roman wrestler Saeid Esmaili from Iran won gold at the 2026 World Wrestling Championships Tuesday night.

The Paris Olympic champion completed a successful defense of his 67kg crown with a crushing victory by fall over Aytjan Khalmakhanov from Uzbekistan on Tuesday, giving Iran its fourth champion as the Greco-Roman competition wrapped up at the World Championships in Astana.

"This is the World Championships, which is different from other tournaments," Esmaili said. "It gets tougher year after year. My opponents study and analyze me, making it very difficult to win medals consistently, especially in the 67kg weight class, which is one of the most competitive in the world."

In earlier finals, Semen Novikov from Bulgaria handed Iran a rare loss with a 4-0 victory over Alireza Mohmadi in a repeat of the 2024 Paris Olympics final, while Karen Aslanyan defeated Nihat Mammadli (AZE) 8-4 at 63kg to become a first-time champion.

Esmaili's victory over 2025 world 63kg champion Khalmakhanov capped one the most dominant team performances in modern World Championships history.

Not only did Iran easily top the team standings with 192 points, the powerhouse took home medals in nine of the 10 weight classes for the first time, and its seven finalists were its most ever in either men's style.

"Before a match, we face a lot of pressure because expectations have risen," Esmaili said. "For many people, we are a primary source of joy. They rejoice in our victories and weep over our defeats. Hopefully, we can always keep all happy."

Taekwondo athletes win medals at Uzbekistan open

TEHRAN - Iranian taekwondo athletes won four gold medals and one silver at the 2026 Uzbekistan Open, held in Namangan on Oct. 27-28, with Nahid Kiani taking silver in the women's under-57kg category.

The tournament is a G1-level international event, where winning medals also contributes to improving athletes' world rankings.

Iranian taekwondo athletes secured four gold medals and one silver at the competition.

In the women's division, Nastaran Valizadeh won gold in the under-62kg category and was named the tournament's best technical athlete. Shaparak Najafi claimed gold in the under-53kg category, while Nahid Kiani won silver in the under-57kg category.

In the men's division, Amir sina Bakhtiari won gold in the under-80kg category, and Radin Zeinali took gold in the under-74kg category.

Danyal Bozorgi also competed in the under-68kg category but did not win a medal.

Nastaran Valizadeh was named the tournament's best technical athlete, while Sajjad Mardani received the award for best technical coach.

'Night of Iran' highlights need for better global understanding of Iranian civilization

From Page 1 ▶ The gathering also featured the unveiling of "Thousands of Years, Iran", a collection of photographs by Herbert Karim-Masihi documenting aspects of Iran's historical and cultural heritage.

Salehi-Amiri described Iran as a country with deep-rooted identity, an unbroken historical continuity and a living culture that has endured through thousands of years of upheaval and foreign invasions.

He said successive invasions and political upheavals, from the Mongol and Afghan incursions to more recent threats, had inflicted damage on the country but failed to destroy its cultural and civilizational foundations.

"Iran is like a tree whose branches may bend in a storm, but whose roots remain firm," he said, arguing that the survival of Iranian civilization demonstrates its resilience across generations.

The minister said cultural heritage was among Iran's most important national assets because it strengthens social cohesion, reinforces national identity and creates a shared sense of belonging among Iranians.

He described Iran as a unifying force for people across the world, bringing together those with different ethnic, cultural, social and intellectual backgrounds through their historical ties to the country.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran's history and civilization should play a greater role in shaping the country's international image, questioning why the country is often viewed primarily through the lens of war, missiles and political disputes.

"Iran has a history spanning thousands of years, an extensive heritage and an influential culture," he said, adding that greater attention to these achievements could help international audiences develop a deeper understanding of Iranian identity.

He called for stronger efforts to introduce the country's historical legacy through education, research and public cultural programs.

Farhangsara-ye Khorasan, a cultural hub rooted in Tehran's history

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Farhangsara-ye Khorasan, or Khorasan Cultural Center, in southern Tehran is a place where people can take part in cultural activities, enjoy artistic programs and attend educational and social events. But what makes it especially interesting is its location in an area with a rich history.

The center stands near the site of Iran's first Mashin Doodi railway station, linking its present-day cultural activities with an important part of Tehran's past.

There is usually a variety of programs to choose from, ranging from art and educational activities to local celebrations and community gatherings. These events give people living in the area a chance to meet, learn something new and take part in the cultural life of their neighborhood.

The center also has an amphitheater with audio and visual equipment and seating for 80 people. It can be used for performances, presentations, meetings and other events, making it a useful space for local cultural activities.

Yet a visit to Farhangsara-ye Khorasan is about more than what happens inside the building. Its surroundings have a story of their own, closely tied to the early days of railway travel in Iran.

A cultural center with a historic legacy

The Mashin Doodi railway began operating in 1882, during the reign of Qajar king Naser al-Din Shah. Its name, which refers to the smoke and steam produced by its locomotives, became familiar to people in Tehran. The railway connected the capital with the historic city of Rey along a route of about eight kilometers.

Before the railway arrived, people mainly travelled by horse-drawn carriage or used camel caravans to move goods. Such jour-

neys could be slow and expensive. The new railway made travelling between Tehran and Rey easier and helped trade and everyday interactions grow.

It also played a part in changing the face of Tehran. Shops and businesses sprang up around railway facilities, more people settled in the area, and construction gradually spread. As the city grew, streets and public services also developed.

The Mashin Doodi railway remained in operation for decades, until regular services ended in 1962, when more modern forms of transport began to take its place. Its story did not end there, however. In 2018, sections of the old railway were rediscovered during construction work in Rey. Restoration efforts later helped preserve parts of this heritage, including a Qajar-era locomotive, which now attracts visitors interested in Iran's early railway history.

The story of Khorasan station is part of this wider period of change. Historical accounts describe how French specialists studied possible railway routes and locations for the station before the project received approval from the Qajar court. Building the railway was not easy. Workers and engineers faced financial problems, shortages of materials and equipment, and technical difficulties in laying tracks and constructing bridges and small tunnels.

The station building itself reflected a mix of Iranian and European influences. Brickwork, high arches, spacious halls and decorative details gave it a distinctive character, while its design served the practical needs of a modern railway.

As Tehran expanded and passenger numbers grew, the railway facilities changed over the years. Eventually, after



serving the country's heritage.

Addressing the country's difficult circumstances, Salehi-Amiri called for national solidarity and said the government was working to support the public and ease their difficulties. He apologized for shortcomings and expressed confidence that Iran would overcome its current challenges.

Amuzegar, an Iranian scholar of ancient cultures and languages, mythology, and literature, also spoke at the event, emphasizing the importance of hope and confidence in younger generations.

"Iran will not die with the young people and artists it has, and we must not lose hope," she said.

She argued that Iran's cultural vitality rests on a broad base of creative talent rather than a handful of prominent figures. Across generations, she said, the country has continued to produce people capable of sustaining its artistic and cultural life.

"People come and go, but Iran remains," Amuzegar said, expressing confidence in the country's ability to preserve its cultural identity and continue developing its creative potential.

Mohsen Seyfi-Kafashgari, chief executive of Bank Melli Iran, said the bank's century-long history was closely connected to the country's economic and social

development and deserved to be documented for future generations.

He said the institution had experienced numerous changes and challenges throughout its first 100 years and that preserving records of its activities and major events could help illuminate aspects of Iran's contemporary history.

The documentation project, he added, would offer an opportunity to examine the relationship between the economy, society and national identity, while preserving the experiences of an institution that has played a significant role in the country's financial history.

The ceremony was attended by Abdo Hossein Khosropanah, secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution; Gholamreza Amirkhani, head of the National Library and Archives of Iran; Kim Jun-pyo, South Korea's ambassador to Iran; archaeologists, cultural heritage specialists, representatives of parliament and officials from cultural institutions.

Among those present were researchers and archaeologists Fakhri Daneshparvar, Jalil Golshan and Mehrdad Malekzadeh, as well as Jabrael Nokandeh, head of the National Museum of Iran, and Mohammad Mehdi Asgarpour, head of the board of directors of the Iranian House of Cinema.

railway services ended, the historic site found a new purpose as a cultural venue.

Connecting Tehran's past with its cultural present

Today, Farhangsara-ye Khorasan gives the historic area a new lease on life. Instead of being just a reminder of an earlier era, it has become a place where people can gather for cultural events, learn new skills and enjoy artistic activities.

For an ordinary visitor, that combination is what makes the center worth discovering: it is a place to take part in cultural life today while getting a glimpse of Tehran's past.



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National call launched to advance Persian medicine, herbal research

TEHRAN - Iran has launched a national call for scientific, research, and technology-based proposals in Persian medicine, medicinal plants, traditional pharmacy, and natural products, focusing on technological development, artificial intelligence (AI), international cooperation, and commercialization.

The initiative aims to identify and support the country's scientific and technological capacities, facilitate innovation and help translate research findings into marketable products. Projects involving multiple national committees and research centers will receive particular priority.

The call covers education, research, AI applications, international partnerships, pharmaceutical development and industrial production. It seeks to strengthen links among universities, research institutions and industry, supporting projects from initial scientific investigation to the development and commercialization of new products.

Advancing research in Persian medicine

Persian medicine, one of the world's oldest traditional medical systems, has a long history of scholarship associated with prominent physicians such as Rhazes and Avicenna. Its traditional framework places considerable emphasis on maintaining health, preventing disease, and adopting appropriate lifestyles.

According to figures previously reported by the health ministry, the country ranks third globally in traditional medicine clinical trials registered on the World Health Organization's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), following China and India. Traditional and complementary medicine trials account for approximately three percent of all



clinical trials registered in Iran, while specialists in the field represent around 0.3 percent of the country's healthcare workforce.

The national call seeks to build on this research capacity by supporting clinical trials, cohort studies, molecular research, microbiology, bioinformatics, and other scientific approaches. It also emphasizes preclinical investigations and the evaluation of the safety and effectiveness of traditional medical interventions.

These priorities reflect a broader effort to connect Iran's traditional medical heritage with contemporary research methods and evidence-based healthcare.

Medicinal plant resources

Iran's rich plant diversity offers considerable potential for herbal medicine research and the development of natural products. Around 8,000 plant species are found in the country, according to figures previously cited in reports on Iran's medicinal-plant resources.

A scientific review published in *Medicina* in 2020 documented 245 plants used in Iranian traditional medical practices and identified scientific studies involving 89 plants collected in Iran. The review highlighted the potential of traditional knowledge to inspire pharmaceutical research, while

noting that many herbal remedies still require further scientific investigation and validation.

The national call aims to help researchers and manufacturers explore this potential through the development of herbal medicines, natural pharmaceutical ingredients, functional foods and nutraceuticals. It also supports product standardization, quality assessment, technology transfer and the establishment of pilot production facilities.

The proposed initiative identifies Iranian products such as saffron, Damask rose, rosewater, pomegranate, barberry, pistachio, black seed, licorice, cumin and Shirazi thyme as potential areas for research, product development and branding.

Plans also include strengthening distribution networks, developing domestic and international brands, and helping small-scale manufacturers and knowledge-based companies bring research-based products to market.

Artificial intelligence and health research

Artificial intelligence and digital technologies are central to the initiative. Proposed projects include AI-based healthcare tools, research databases, digital patient records and improved health information systems.

Research priorities include nutrition, sleep, stress management, reproductive health, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, fatty liver disease and digestive disorders. Other areas include cardiovascular disease prevention, respiratory and musculoskeletal conditions, neurological diseases, mental health, addiction treatment and healthy aging.

The program encourages researchers to investigate potential applications of Persian medicine in these areas through appropriate scientific methods. AI and digital infrastructure could also support data analysis and collaboration among research centers.

Education and international cooperation

The call also prioritizes professional education, research networks, reference books, clinical guidelines, and digital learning platforms. These measures are intended to strengthen the skills of healthcare professionals and improve the documentation and scientific assessment of traditional medical knowledge.

International cooperation is another key component, with proposed activities including joint research and development, clinical trials, drug discovery and partnerships with BRICS member states, neighboring countries and Indian Ocean nations. The initiative also encourages technology transfer, international co-branding and cooperation in the production and marketing of traditional medicines and natural products.

By bringing together scientific research, digital innovation and industrial development, the call seeks to strengthen the evidence base of Persian medicine and expand opportunities for Iran's medicinal-plant and natural-product industries.

Health ministry, WHO hold TOT workshop on generating reliable mortality data

TEHRAN - The health ministry, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office, has held a training-of-trainers workshop on cause of death determination and medical death certification.

Hosted by Ardabil University of Medical Sciences in close collaboration with the Health Management and Social Development Research Centre affiliated to Golestan University of Medical Sciences, the two-day workshop was held on October 13 and 14, the WHO website announced in a press release on October 26.

The workshop provided an opportunity to further build national capacity and promote the consistent application of good practices in cause of death certification. It aimed to strengthen physicians' knowledge and skills in accurately determining cause of death and completing medical death certificates.

The workshop was inaugurated by Saeed Sadeqiyeh Ahari, Vice-Chancellor for Public Health at Ardabil University of Medical Sciences; Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative in the Islamic Republic of Iran; Babak Farokhi, Director-General of the Health Network Management Centre, MOHME. Jaber Gharedaqui, Academic Member of the Forensic Medicine Organization; and Ardeshtir Khosravi, Director of the Secretariat for Research and Development in Deputy for Public Health, MOHME.

Dr. Jabbour reaffirmed WHO's commitment to supporting national efforts to improve the quality and accuracy of cause of death certification and highlighted the importance of reliable mortality data for understanding population health, setting priorities, and informing evidence-based health policies and planning.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has made important progress in strengthening its death registration system, including using the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) and capacity-building for physicians and medical coders.

"Better medical death certification leads to more reliable mortality data, providing a stronger foundation for evidence-informed health planning and public health action," said Dr. Jabbour.

WHO has supported MOHME in developing

an applied training package to strengthen physicians' skills in accurately completing medical death certificates. The workshop provided an opportunity to further build national capacity and promote the consistent application of good practices in cause of death certification.

Physicians from universities of medical sciences across the country and specialists from the Forensic Medicine Organization participated in the workshop, bringing together expertise from clinical practice, public health and forensic medicine. The participation of Behzad Davarnia, Chancellor of Ardabil University of Medical Sciences, underscored the commitment of academic institutions to advancing the initiative.

The workshop is part of broader efforts to strengthen vital statistics and health information in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Accurate cause of death certification is essential to generate reliable mortality data, identify health priorities, and support better-informed decisions on health policy, planning and resource allocation.

WHO will continue to work with national institutions and academic partners to support efforts to strengthen health information systems and advance evidence-informed public health action.

Recent services

WHO, with support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), has delivered 10,000 cholera rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) to Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education to strengthen early detection and help prevent potential outbreaks.

The tests will be distributed to the high-risk provinces of Hormozgan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Khuzestan to enable the rapid identification of cases and support timely public health responses.

"Early detection is our most critical tool in preventing infectious disease outbreaks. By equipping local health systems with these tests, we are empowering frontline workers to respond swiftly and protect vulnerable communities," said Dr. Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative to Iran.

The broader project aims to benefit more than 112,000 people. Despite logistical chal-

lenges affecting air and sea transport, WHO is also working to deliver essential supplies for malaria and dengue fever.

In response to the growing crises affecting public health infrastructures in Iran, the WHO, in cooperation with the Health Ministry, kicked off in May a two-million-dollar project to support urgent health responses in the country.

Supported by the United Nations CERF, the project, titled 'preventing the spread of diseases and maintaining essential health services during emergencies', aims to minimize the outbreaks of diseases, stabilize the process of providing health services, and safeguard health system from declining performance across the country, the health ministry's website reported.

Since the beginning of the imposed US-Israeli war against Iran, on February 28, airstrikes have lowered the country's capacity to provide vital health services.

The aggressors destroyed 229 health centers, 49 hospitals, 78 pharmaceutical facilities, laboratories, and warehouses.

Moreover, 56 emergency bases were targeted, nine hospitals were evacuated, 47 ambulances and 10 emergency vehicles were severely damaged.

Attacks on pharmaceutical and diagnostic equipment manufacturing facilities and their surrounding areas have disrupted the domestic supply chain of medical equipment and challenged the process of providing critical care to those in need.

Climatic shocks in southern provinces of the country have exacerbated the situation. Irregular, above-normal rainfall, following prolonged periods of drought in 2025-2026, has led to localized flooding and the accumulation of stagnant water.

High-risk provinces, including Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Kerman, and Khuzestan, are at greater risk of exposure to contaminated water sources. The situation, coupled with conflicts in water and sanitation infrastructure and disease surveillance, has increased the risks of infectious disease outbreaks and waterborne diseases, particularly cholera, and acute water diarrhea.

ICRC praises Iranian rescuers, pledges support for Red Crescent

TEHRAN - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has expressed readiness to strengthen cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and provide it with the necessary equipment, praising Iranian rescuers for their efforts during crises.

Nicolas Von Arx, the ICRC's regional director for the Middle East, made the remarks during a meeting with Pirhossein Kolivand, head of the IRCS, in Tehran on Tuesday, Mehr News Agency reported.

Referring to the ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world, the official said wars are cruel, violent, and destructive. Still, the presence of first responders and aid workers who risk their lives on the front lines to help people, clear debris, and provide psychological support and mental health services makes them seem a bit less horrific.

"From a distance, we observed how relief workers and even the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society arrived at the scenes of explosions and conflicts on motorcycles to reach those who were injured and in need of assistance; a truly extraordinary effort," he emphasized.

The official referred to the expansion of cooperation in specialized fields between the two organizations since June, saying that "the joint efforts can further expand. Our team is ready to boost ties with your team and provide the essential items and support needed by the society."

He went on to say that the ICRC is following up on regional issues like reopening IRCS hospitals in Qatar and the UAE.

For his part, Kolivand presented a report on the activities of the IRCS during the imposed 40-day war.

Lauding the ICRC's support and assistance, Kolivand underlined the necessity of promoting collaborations in relief, humanitarian, legal, and rehabilitation sectors, the IRCS website reported.

"Given the extensive scope of humanitarian missions and the specific conditions in the region, we expect this cooperation to be strengthened further, particularly in protecting civilians, developing specialized services, and addressing violations of international humanitarian law," he stressed.

Elaborating on the IRCS capacities, he said the IRCS benefited from quick response teams, consisting of some 120,000 trained rescuers, to provide relief services during the recent conflicts. They managed to rescue 7,215 individuals alive from under the rubble.

The IRCS rescue teams carried out thousands of relief missions on a daily basis, reaching affected locations in less than four minutes. Some relief operations lasted one single day, while some others extended up to 25 days. The complexity of these operations showcases the operational capabilities, preparedness, and the spirit of self-sacrifice of the aid workers, Kolivand noted.

Beside rescue operations, 2,388 experts affiliated with the IRCS also provided free psychological support, some took an hour or more, to some 25,000 callers. The service played a crucial role in helping those affected by warfare recover.

The official also expounded on the US-Israel attacks targeting civilians and rescue centers, including residential areas, universities, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, and research centers, which were directly targeted. The IRCS sent over 40 letters and legal documents elaborating on the violations of human rights by US-Israeli attacks on Iran.

He urged the ICRC to help facilitate the reopening of the IRCS medical branch in Dubai.

The official called for strengthening joint efforts through training and equipping teams and providing technical expertise and support in locating and clearing landmines and explosive remnants of war from conflict-affected areas and managing the health effects from blast and toxins.

Recent joint efforts

The IRCS and the ICRC held the second and third training courses on the Application of Personal Protective Equipment during Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

The first round of the course was held in Tehran from June 7 to 21. The second and third courses were held from October 4-8 and 11-15, separately. The courses aimed to improve preparedness and the operational capacity of relief teams and have been attended by a total of 150 members of rapid response teams from different provinces in the country, the ICRC website announced in a press release on October 15.



During the closing ceremony, the attendees and instructors reviewed achievements, strengths, and grounds for improvement. Stressing the need to repeat the exercises, organize the course in provincial levels, and to provide complementary equipment required, the attendees emphasized that the experience was different from previous maneuvers.

The instructors also expressed gratitude for the participants' active involvement, reiterating their positive performance during practical simulation exercises in applying the learning points and following the decontamination process suited to each type of contamination.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ceremony, the head of ICRC's Tehran Delegation, Marisela Silva Chau, highlighted the close collaboration between ICRC and the Iranian Red Crescent Society, citing the workshop as a concrete example, putting together IRCS' operational experience and ICRC's academic expertise and technical and equipment support. She reiterated the ICRC's readiness to throw support behind similar courses to be held at a provincial level, while stressing the importance of transferring learnings to operational teams and their application in daily activities.

The IRCS Deputy Director for Education, Research and Technology, Rouzbeh Rajaei, also stressed continued training, teacher training, and planning for similar courses to be held for female participants, noting the participation of experts from different scientific institutions and centers.

The continued collaboration and transfer of knowledge and experience to operational teams is an important step in strengthening the incident preparedness and response capacity.

The first training course targeted basic health care unit (BHCU) team leaders from five high-risk provinces, namely Tehran, Qom, Markazi, Isfahan, and Bushehr, as well as passive defense trainers.

In September, IRCS, in cooperation with the ICRC, held the first three-day training workshop on 'Trauma for First Responders' for selected IRCS personnel, with a focus on trauma and pre-hospital care.

The training aims to enhance the emergency response and pre-hospital care capacities of the IRCS personnel, particularly in mass-casualty incidents, to provide timely and effective lifesaving services and ensure the safe evacuation and transfer of injured and sick people, the ICRC website announced in a press release on September 26.

The recent escalation of hostilities has created significant operational challenges for the IRCS Relief and Rescue Organization, one of the key actors at the forefront of emergency response. Its teams are often among the first responders at the scene of mass-casualty incidents and, in high-risk environments, are responsible for evacuating casualties, stabilizing patients and carrying out emergency transfers. This has further highlighted the importance of strengthening technical preparedness through specialized training in mass-casualty management.

The training brought together eight IRCS personnel from the Training, Relief and Rescue, and Emergency Health departments from Tehran and Alborz provinces.

In the opening ceremony, IRCS Under-Secretary-General for Education, Research and Technology, Dr. Rajaei, said the course aims to improve staff knowledge and skill levels, bring education closer to global standards, and eventually form a specialized team for pre-hospital trauma.

"The planning for the course began last year after the first hostilities." Explained Navid Dadbin, Health Program Manager at the ICRC. "It will be implemented with three 3-day training courses followed by selection of a group of participants to be trained as trainers. A road map for continuation will be drawn up in the end," he added.

The courses include theoretical and practical sessions, group work, scenario-based exercises covering different types of incidents, and simulation exercises.



OCTOBER 29, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who adopts cupidity as motto in life will be disliked by people, and he who reveals his distress, abases himself before all, and he who is ruled by his tongue has no worth in his own eyes and those of others.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:31 Dawn: 5:00 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:24 (tomorrow)

TMoCA exhibition to explore how 'Iran' is presented and conceptualized in artworks

TEHRAN – The exhibition “In Search of Iran: In the Collection of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art” will open on Saturday afternoon at the museum.

It explores how “Iran” is presented and conceptualized through the lens of various artists among the works kept in the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA), Mehr reported.

The exhibition addresses the national significance of the TMoCA collection within the history of contemporary Iranian art by examining the diverse ways artists experience and interpret “Iran.”

The exhibition statement reads: “We do not ask which work is ‘more Iranian’; rather, we ask how Iran has been the subject of seeing and representation, and how it persists within the modes of seeing and creating. The inquiry into Iranian identity in this exhibition begins with the distinct experiences of artists—experiences that are sometimes explicitly the subject of the work, and sometimes manifest in the style of expression and construction. Belonging to Iran can be accompanied by the memory of a place, daily life, migration, or a sense of loss, taking on different forms in the works of each artist.”

“The exhibition ‘In Search of Iran’ invites the viewer to re-examine their own conception of Iran when encountering these works. In these pieces, soil sometimes becomes the very material of the work, writing turns into a way of seeing, and objects preserve the traces of life and human memory. The presence of familiar symbols does not predetermine the meaning of the work, nor does their absence necessarily signify a disconnection from the Iranian experience.”

“The seven sections of the exhibition, each guided by a specific question, offer parallel paths for the viewer to interpret the works. These paths do not follow a chronological sequence of art history; instead, the visual and conceptual connections between the pieces allow for a confrontation with diverse interpretations. In this view, no single landscape, face, or motif serves as the sole representative of the



Iranian experience.”

The exhibition will feature over one hundred works from the Iranian Modern Art collection, including pieces by artists such as Sohrab Sepehri, Parviz Tanavoli, Parviz Kalantari, Hossein Zenderoudi, Farah Osouli, Reza Mafi, Mohammad Ehsaei, Bahman Mohassess, and others. It will be open to the public from Sunday, through mid-December.

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

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

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

‘Narration of Resistance’ Caravan highlights Sistan-Baluchestan’s cultural riches

TEHRAN – A group of Iranian cultural, religious, media and sports personalities has traveled to Sistan-Baluchestan province as part of a program titled “Narration of the Resistance of the Brave,” aimed at showcasing the region's cultural diversity, social solidarity and local capabilities.

The caravan, which arrived in the southeastern province on October 25, has organized a series of cultural, Quranic, media and sports activities across several cities, bringing its participants into contact with local residents, community figures, businesses and institutions.

According to reports by Persian media, the program seeks to present a broader picture of life in Sistan-Baluchestan, highlighting its cultural traditions, religious life, scientific and medical facilities, economic activities and the coexistence of its diverse communities.

Among the prominent figures accompanying the caravan are Hojjatoleslam Alireza Panahian, cultural activist Hossein Yekta, writer Vahid Yaminpour, television presenter Raheleh Aminian, travel documentarian Javad Gharaei, television host Iman Qiasi, religious program presenter Najmeddin Shariati, singer Hamed Homayoun and several former Iranian footballers.

The initiative combines public gatherings and face-to-face encounters with television production and visits to local institutions, using familiar public figures to draw attention to a province whose cultural and social realities are often less visible in national media coverage.

Quranic gatherings emphasize religious and social ties

Quranic programs have formed a major part of the caravan's activities, with gatherings involving nationally recognized reciters in Zahedan and Iranshahr.

These events brought residents together around Quran recitation and religious programming, highlighting the role of shared religious traditions in strengthening social connections across the province.

The caravan also included members of the television program “Mahfel,” a Quran-focused show that features reciters and participants from Iran and other countries. The team met with border guards at the country's frontier.

The visit offered an opportunity to highlight the work of border personnel and their role in protecting Iran's borders, while bringing media figures into direct contact with those serving in remote areas.

Hossein Yekta also visited Imam Hussein Mosque in Zahedan, where he met residents,



hedan, where he met residents, including members of the local Sunni community. During the visit, he recalled the late Molavi Rigi, describing him as a figure associated with service to the people and the Quran.

The encounters reflect one of the main themes of the caravan's program: presenting religious identity and community engagement as common elements connecting residents across different backgrounds.

Visits showcase medical and scientific capabilities

Beyond religious and cultural activities, the caravan has sought to introduce visitors to the province's medical and scientific infrastructure.

Television presenter Peyman Talebi and Yekta visited Al-Zahra Ophthalmology Hospital in Zahedan, drawing attention to the specialized medical services available in the provincial capital. Media personality Raheleh Aminian also highlighted the province's medical capabilities in her coverage of the visit.

The program extended to the region's scientific and technological sector, with Yekta visiting Zahedan Science and Technology Park. The visit focused on the work of researchers, young innovators and technology-oriented businesses, presenting another dimension of the province beyond its geographical location and traditional economic activities.

Such visits are intended to bring greater visibility to local institutions and professionals and to encourage a more comprehensive understanding of the province's development potential.

Markets and local traditions take center stage

The caravan's activities have also included visits to Zahedan's commercial districts, where participants met shopkeepers and residents and observed everyday economic and social life.

These visits provided opportunities to introduce local trades, culinary traditions and the social character of the city's marketplaces.

Together, the market visits and cultural encounters offered a window into the everyday lives of residents, placing local customs, food, occupations and social interactions alongside the province's religious and institutional activities.

Television and sports bring programs closer to local audiences

A major feature of the initiative has been the production and presentation of television programs from locations across the province.

Among the activities was the “El Clasico” football program in the Karimabad neighborhood of Zahedan, featuring national television presenters.

The neighborhood event brought sports-related entertainment into a local setting, allowing residents to interact directly with television personalities.

The children's program “Mal Mal” was also scheduled in Zabol and Zahak, while “Samte Khoda,” a religious television program presented by Shariati, featured Panahian in a public gathering in Zabol.

A football match between a team of former Iranian football stars and a selection representing Sistan-Baluchestan was also announced as part of the program.

The participation of former players, including Nikbakht Vahedi, Mohsen Mosalman, Mohammad Ansari, Mohsen Bengar, Mohsen Khalili, Mehdi Amirabadi, Adel Kolahkaj and Ali Shiri, added a sporting dimension to the caravan's activities.

A broader portrait of southeastern Iran

Sistan-Baluchestan occupies a

strategically important position in southeastern Iran, bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan. Its geographical location, diverse landscapes and distinctive cultural traditions give it significance in Iran's social, economic and regional life.

The province is home to communities with varied cultural and religious traditions, including both Sunni and Shiite Muslims. Its Balochi heritage, traditional clothing, handicrafts, cuisine and local customs form an important part of Iran's broader cultural landscape.

At the same time, the province faces development challenges, making the visibility of its educational, medical, scientific and economic institutions an important part of discussions about its future. Visits to hospitals, technology centers, markets and community spaces can help introduce these dimensions to audiences beyond the region.

The “Narration of the Resistance of the Brave” caravan brings these themes together through a mix of public engagement and media production. Rather than concentrating on a single event or institution, its activities span religious gatherings, neighborhood programs, cultural encounters, scientific visits and sporting events.

The initiative's organizers have emphasized resistance, solidarity and the province's capabilities as central themes. Its coverage of everyday life and local traditions also places the experiences of residents at the heart of the program.

As the caravan continues its activities across Sistan-Baluchestan, the combination of familiar media figures and local encounters is intended to draw wider attention to the province's people, cultural identity and institutional capacities, presenting a multifaceted view of one of Iran's most distinctive regions.

Cartoon of Day



One box opens all the others

The Key

Cartoonist: Dennis Goris from the U.S.

Hoorakhsh Studios to produce animated series ‘Shahnameh’

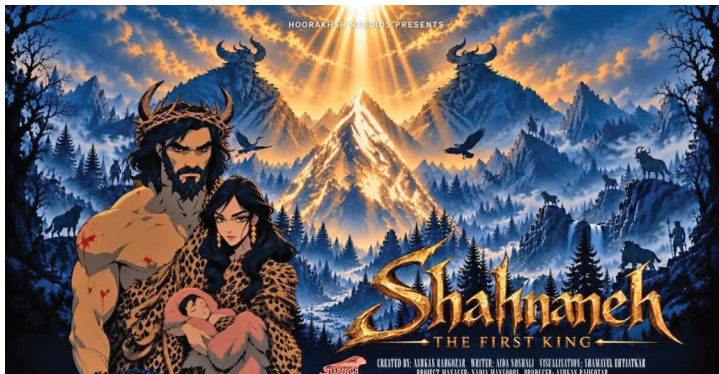
TEHRAN – Production of the animated series “Shahnameh,” directed and produced by Ashkan Rahgozar, has commenced at Hoorakhsh Studios, utilizing artificial intelligence and 2D animation techniques.

Following his feature-length animated film “The Last Fiction” and the writing and production of seven graphic novels based on the stories of the “Shahnameh,” Ashkan Rahgozar has once again turned to this epic work by Ferdowsi, ILNA reported.

Aiming to adapt all the stories of Ferdowsi's “Shahnameh” from beginning to end, the series is scheduled to be produced and broadcast simultaneously over a span of approximately ten years.

The animated series “Shahnameh” will be produced in both Persian and English, with international streaming platforms in mind.

Each season will consist of 8



to 12 episodes, with each episode estimated to run between 15 and 20 minutes.

The first season of the series, titled “The First King,” narrates the reign of Keyumars, a legendary figure from Iranian mythical history, appearing in both the Avesta and the “Shahnameh.”

“Shahnameh” is Hoorakhsh Studio's first major, independent animated series. The studio's portfolio includes two feature-length animated films, over

11 short animations, more than 10 music videos, the publication of 11 graphic novels, and the design and development of five video games.

The “Shahnameh” (Book of Kings) is a long epic poem written by the Persian poet Ferdowsi between c. 977 and 1010 CE and is the national epic of Greater Iran. Consisting of some 50,000 distichs or couplets (two-line verses), the “Shahnameh” is one of the world's longest epic poems,

and the longest epic poem created by a single author.

It tells of the mainly mythical but to some extent historical past of Iran from the creation of the world until the Muslim conquest in the seventh century. Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and the greater region influenced by Persian culture such as Armenia, Dagestan, Georgia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan celebrate this national epic. It took Ferdowsi 33 years to complete the Shahnameh in its entirety.

The work is of central importance in Persian culture and Persian language. It is regarded as a literary masterpiece, and is the definitive work of the ethno-national cultural identity of Iran.

Ferdowsi (940 – 1025) is celebrated as one of the most influential figures of Persian literature and one of the greatest in the history of literature.