

## Hezbollah chief declares US-brokered framework agreement ‘effectively nonexistent’

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a speech on October 28 that the resistance will keep its weapons for as long as Israel occupies Lebanese land.

There is “no room for discussion” on disarmament while the occupation and aggression continue, he said, declaring the U.S.-brokered framework agreement signed in June “effectively nonexistent.” ► Page 5

## Trump’s falling popularity hangs over a midterm vote shaped by Iran war, inflation

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Donald Trump is not on the ballot, yet the election is about little else. On November 3, roughly 210 million registered voters will decide all 435 House seats, 35 Senate seats and 36 governorships.

Their verdict on the war on Iran, inflation and the campaign his party has run will determine how much power Trump keeps for the last two years of his term. ► Page 5

## Trump’s bluff meets Iran’s resolve : Limits of American power

By Ranjan Solomon

GOA, INDIA – Donald Trump has been bluffing for far too long. He threatens, he warns, he issues ultimatums, and then he expects the world to believe that he has everything under control. But there comes a point when even the loudest threats begin to lose their effect. Iran may well be that point for Trump. He seems to have underestimated a country whose political instincts, historical memory and civilisational confidence cannot be understood through the narrow lens of American power.

Trump appears to believe that if he raises his voice, threatens military action and keeps the world guessing, Iran will eventually surrender. That might work with some governments. It is unlikely to work with Iran. The Iranian leadership has survived decades of sanctions, isolation, political pressure and military threats. ► Page 3

## Qalamkari: The centuries-old art of printing stories on fabric in Isfahan

TEHRAN – In the historic Iranian city of Isfahan, where centuries of artistic ingenuity have shaped one of the country’s richest cultural landscapes, an age-old craft continues to bring colour, patterns and stories to life on fabric. Known as Qalamkari, this traditional textile art combines hand-carved wooden stamps, carefully prepared dyes and intricate Persian designs to produce decorative fabrics that are both functional and artistic.

Rooted in Iran’s long tradition of craftsmanship, Qalamkari became particularly prominent in Isfahan, especially during the Qajar era, when its printed textiles developed into some of the city’s best-known artistic products. Beyond their decorative appeal, some of these fabrics served as visual narratives, portraying episodes from Persian epics, historical events and religious traditions. ► Page 6



# Washington’s Midterm Letter Game

*From Carter to Vance, US messages have failed to break Iranian resistance*

*The ball is in the US court. If Washington wants more than an election show, it must trade the logic of imposed agreement for balanced agreement: end the blockade, release Iran’s frozen assets, lift oil sanctions, accept verification in exchange for guarantees, and let West Asia’s security be built within the region. Otherwise, the letter from Vance will join the long archive of American letters since 1979 — received, read, measured against Iran’s roadmap, and answered not with surrender but with resistance.*

By staff Writer

TEHRAN — The disclosure of a letter from US Vice President JD Vance to Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei has triggered a wave of contradictory narratives in Washington, speculative reporting in American media, and a calm, conditional response in Tehran.

The story broke on Oct. 28 when The Wall Street Journal, citing US officials and people familiar with the matter, reported that Vance had written to Rezaei, Iran’s top security official and former commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, to explore a framework for restarting negotiations and averting a new round of US strikes. The report said the outreach was made at President Donald Trump’s direction.

Hours later, Trump himself undercut that account. Asked by reporters whether he had directed Vance to restart peace talks, he said “No,” and claimed the contact was about helping Iran obtain “medical supplies and various things.”

“Basically, it’s getting supplies in to help people that are not well,” Trump said.

The semi-official Tasnim news agency con-

firmed on Oct. 29 that Tehran had received the letter but had not yet responded. Iran’s Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, one of Tehran’s negotiators, wrote on X that “Iran’s conditions have been repeatedly and clearly communicated to the mediators” and that “the carrot-and-stick approach has no effect on Iran.” Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi added that while Iran’s

Armed Forces are fully prepared to defend the homeland, Iran “continues to give diplomacy a chance.”

Beyond those confirmed facts — a letter was sent via Qatari mediators, delivered on Sunday, acknowledged in Tehran, with no published text and no formal reply — almost everything else published in the past 48 hours is speculation and cannot be verified. ► Page 3

## Iran’s nuclear doctrine debate reflects national demand for stronger deterrence

TEHRAN — Tehran’s interim Friday prayer leader, Mohammad Javad Haj Ali Akbari, has described calls to review Iran’s nuclear doctrine as a growing national demand rooted in the Iranian people’s experience of Western conduct, heightened security concerns and the need to strengthen the country’s deterrence capabilities.

Addressing worshippers during Friday prayers in the Iranian capital on October 30, Haj Ali Akbari said the debate over a possible revision of the country’s nuclear doctrine should not be dismissed as an emotional reaction or attributed to a particular political faction. Rather, he argued, it reflects a broader public reassessment of the security requirements facing Iran following years of confrontation, unfulfilled commitments and hostile actions by its adversaries. ► Page 2

## Iran condemns Canada, UAE for reiterating territorial claims over three Persian Gulf islands

TEHRAN— Iran has strongly condemned Canada and the United Arab Emirates for reiterating territorial claims over Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb, reaffirming that the three islands are inseparable and eternal parts of Iranian territory. ► Page 2

## Iran targeted USS Abraham Lincoln with cruise missile, Navy Cmdr. says

TEHRAN – Iran’s Navy targeted the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier with a strategic cruise missile during the 40-day Ramadan War, the Iranian Navy’s deputy coordinator has said, noting that the force carried out more than 20 operations against U.S. warships and around 300 operations against American interests in various locations.

Rear Admiral Jalil Moghadam said Iranian forces identified the carrier during the first two days of the conflict, using visual observation and available surveillance systems to track its position. ► Page 2

## Tehran hosting international industry exhibition

TEHRAN– The 26th Tehran International Industry Exhibition opened on October 28 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, with the participation of 157 domestic companies, including 30 knowledge-based companies, and the presence of representatives of foreign brands from Germany, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

In this edition, machinery and production lines, industrial and workshop equipment, tools, and technical and engineering services are on display to visitors and economic actors, providing an opportunity to become acquainted with manufacturers’ capabilities, products, and industrial technologies.

Among the notable points of this exhibition are the independent presence of Chinese companies and the participation of other countries, including Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, mainly through their representatives; this presence can provide a basis for greater familiarity with the products and capacities of international companies and for examining opportunities for trade cooperation. ► Page 4

## 19th International Resistance Film Festival kicks off

TEHRAN – The opening ceremony of the 19th International Resistance Film Festival was held on Thursday in Isfahan.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Jalal Ghaffari Ghadir, the secretary of the 19th festival, stated: “In its first 11 editions, the Resistance Film Festival was known as the Sacred Defense Festival. Starting from the 12th edition, two developments occurred: first, the addition of the international section, and second, the semantic evolution and upgrade of ‘Sacred Defense Cinema’ to ‘Resistance Cinema’.”

“Let us not forget that the Resistance Film Festival emerged from the heart of war and the Sacred Defense. An important feature of this current edition is that it is being held amidst active conflict, and the developments we have witnessed in the two recent wars have made its significance even more distinct,” ► Page 8



## TEHRAN PAPERS

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

## Grossi has become part of US-Israeli efforts against Iran

Kayhan criticized the latest statements of IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi. Grossi showed clear bias toward Western countries by claiming that the Agency currently has access only to the Bushehr nuclear power plant while inspections at Natanz, Fordow, Isfahan, and Arak remain suspended. Such remarks effectively place Grossi in line with American and Israeli pressure campaigns against Iran. In its view, the IAEA under his leadership no longer acts as a neutral monitoring body but rather as a political instrument serving major powers. Kayhan further claimed that Grossi is not genuinely concerned with nuclear safety or safeguards obligations. The Agency's credibility has been damaged, and Grossi has become part of Western and Israeli efforts directed against Iran.

### Iran: Ending the “neither war nor peace” situation

The Iran newspaper examined what it described as Tehran's new strategy for ending the long-standing “neither war nor peace” condition. According to the analysis, ending this situation has become an important objective in both domestic and foreign policy. The paper argued that the initiative in the dispute is increasingly moving into Iran's hands. Western governments and media organizations have long promoted the idea that the outcome of the conflict and any future negotiations would be decided mainly by Washington rather than Tehran. In that narrative, the United States was seen as the actor determining the timing of war, peace, and diplomacy. According to Iran, this balance is changing. The newspaper maintained that the Islamic Republic's influence over developments has increased and that the country now possesses greater ability to shape the course and outcome of the dispute. It described this shift as a significant strategic change that has strengthened Iran's position.

### Etemad: Iran holds strong cards

In an interview with conservative political activist Mohammad Mohajeri, Etemad argued that Iran currently holds considerable leverage in diplomatic affairs. Mohajeri said recent developments in the United States suggest uncertainty regarding decisions about military action. He said that hesitation can be observed at high levels of American policymaking. In his view, the party most interested in military confrontation is the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Recent political and diplomatic efforts are aimed at creating a regional balance and reducing the likelihood of an immediate conflict. Mohajeri also stated that Iran has its own conditions and sources of strength. Referring to the previous two wars (the June 2025 and the Feb. 2026 wars), he said they improved Iran's military capabilities and strategic position. These capabilities

have forced both the United States and Israel to reconsider some of their positions. American and Israeli officials believe a third conflict could once again produce unfavorable results for them. Mohajeri suggested this concern may have contributed to Washington's earlier acceptance of a framework for understanding and compromise.

### Ham-Mihan: The importance of engagement with Tehran

Ham-Mihan discussed how countries in the region are reassessing their political and security policies. Analysts cited by the newspaper argued that recent events demonstrated the limits of relying on outside powers to provide security. The article suggested that many regional leaders now recognize the difficulty of maintaining stability when tensions are influenced by actors beyond the region. Observers noted that although Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey excluded Iran from the Mecca Pact, they were unable to fully replace the role that Tehran could play in regional affairs. Some analysts interpreted recent visits by military and security officials from neighboring countries as part of wider efforts to reconsider regional arrangements. The newspaper emphasized that a large-scale regional war would not harm only Iran. Such a conflict could also damage the ambitions and development plans of many neighboring states and leave long-lasting consequences throughout the region.

### Sazandegi: Stability must be achieved

In an interview with political analyst Ali Bigdeli, Sazandegi emphasized the importance of diplomacy in the current sensitive period. Bigdeli argued that war is unlikely to produce the desired outcomes for either Iran or the United States. Negotiations, however, could provide an opportunity to reach an agreement that both sides are able to accept despite existing disagreements. He pointed to recent meetings in Tehran and mediation efforts by Qatar, Pakistan, and Oman as examples of attempts to prevent further escalation. At the same time, he noted that the deep mistrust between Tehran and Washington, particularly where disputes intersect with issues involving Israel, cannot be resolved solely through regional mediation. For that reason, he stressed the potential importance of dialogue among major powers such as the United States, Russia, and China. Iran needs not only to reduce tensions with Washington but also to address domestic divisions and redefine its relations with both the region and the broader international community. Prolonged isolation and continued confrontation increase economic and political costs, while a policy based on engagement could create better opportunities for Iran's role in regional and international affairs.

## Iranian army chief of staff: Passive defense key to national resilience against emerging threats

TEHRAN –Army Chief of Staff and Deputy Coordinator Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari has stressed the strategic importance of passive defense in safeguarding the country's critical infrastructure, maintaining essential services and strengthening national resilience against emerging and increasingly complex threats.

In a message issued on October 30 to mark Iran's National Passive Defense Day, Sayyari emphasized that sustainable security depends on anticipating threats, reducing vulnerabilities, and ensuring preparedness before crises emerge.

Sayyari said modern warfare and recent conflicts had shown that threats were no longer limited to conventional military confrontations but were increasingly extending to critical infrastructure, supply chains, communications networks, and the economic and social foundations of countries.

Under such circumstances, he said, passive defense should be regarded not merely as a defensive requirement but as a strategic component of national security, essential to preserving national capabilities, ensuring the continuity of vital services and strengthening the country's ability to withstand multidimensional threats.

Sayyari emphasized that, in contemporary security calculations, national power is measured not only by conventional military capabilities but also by a country's capacity to prevent threats, maintain essential functions, and remain resilient during crises.

He described passive defense as a proactive approach to national security, highlighting the importance of identifying potential vulnerabilities and taking preventive measures before adversaries can exploit them.

Referring to the growing complexity of security challenges, the senior military commander said the experience of recent wars had underscored the need for comprehensive preparedness across different sectors of society.

He noted that disruptions to infrastructure, supply networks and communications systems could have consequences extending well beyond the immediate security sphere, affecting economic activity, public services and social stability.

This, he indicated, makes coordination among relevant institutions and the strengthening of the country's passive defense capabilities essential to maintaining national stability and ensuring the uninterrupted operation of vital systems.

# Iran's nuclear doctrine debate reflects national demand for stronger deterrence

From page 1 ► His remarks come amid renewed public discussion in Iran about the country's nuclear policy and the relationship between its established positions, national security requirements and the evolving regional and international environment.

### A debate shaped by security concerns

Haj Ali Akbari said Iran's adversaries had crossed the nation's red lines, pointing to the assassination of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and ‘repeated failures’ to honor commitments and agreements.

He argued that the Iranian people's accumulated experience had prompted a more considered debate about the country's deterrence requirements, including whether its nuclear doctrine should be reviewed in light of the security challenges it faces.

According to the cleric, the proposal is rooted in the Iranian nation's right to live in dignity and security. He stressed that the discussion should be understood as a matter of national concern rather than an initiative belonging to any single political group or current.

Haj Ali Akbari also said that some people had reacted angrily to the proposal but maintained that the public discussion surrounding it reflected a broader demand that policymakers should examine seriously.

Citing previous surveys, he said more than 70 percent of respondents in some polls had supported reviewing Iran's nuclear doctrine.

He added that calls for reconsideration had subsequently emerged from a range of social



and professional groups, including university students, school students, academics, intellectuals and professional associations.

The cleric urged universities, researchers, security specialists and other experts to contribute to the debate by conducting substantive studies and developing policy proposals. He also called on the relevant authorities to undertake further assessments, with the aim of submitting the resulting recommendations to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei.

He emphasized that the final decision rested with the Leader and said that any decision he made would be followed.

### Negotiations and the question of vigilance

Alongside the nuclear doctrine debate, Haj Ali Akbari cautioned against interpreting US calls for negotiations, diplomatic correspondence, or the involvement of intermediaries as grounds for relaxing Iran's vigilance.

Drawing on Iran's experience of dealings with Washington, he argued that diplomatic over-

tures should be assessed in the context of the other side's conduct and actions, rather than its statements alone.

He warned that, in some circumstances, US messages and proposals for negotiations could coincide with more serious threats than those conveyed through explicit declarations of hostility. His remarks underscored the importance of maintaining vigilance while assessing diplomatic initiatives.

The comments reflect a central concern in Iranian political and security discourse: that diplomatic engagement must be evaluated alongside practical guarantees, respect for commitments, and the broader security environment.

For Tehran, the question is not simply whether negotiations are proposed, but whether the process can produce credible and lasting commitments while safeguarding Iran's national interests.

### From public debate to policy assessment

Haj Ali Akbari's remarks place the nuclear doctrine debate within a wider discussion about

## Iran condemns Canada, UAE for reiterating territorial claims over three Persian Gulf islands

From page 1 ► Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Thursday denounced the UAE's “brazen and interventionist” claims and Canada's decision to endorse them in a joint statement issued following a meeting between Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Ottawa.

Baqaei stressed that the islands' established geographical, historical and legal status could not be altered by political statements or the repetition of ‘baseless territorial claims.’

“The islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb are inseparable and eternal parts of Iran's territorial domain, and the repetition of baseless and unfounded claims about them will not change the established geographical, historical and legal realities,” he said.

### Tehran denounces Ottawa's intervention

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman particularly criticized Canada's decision to endorse the UAE's position, describing Ottawa's move as short-sighted and contrary to the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

## Iran targeted USS Abraham Lincoln with cruise missile, Navy Cmdr. says

From page 1 ► Speaking to the IRNA news agency, Moghadam said the Navy launched the missile after locating the carrier. He added that the vessel halted flight operations for three days following the strike before moving farther away from Iran's coastline.

According to the official, Iranian naval forces concluded that the carrier had been hit after examining a series of developments following the operation.

Moghadam said aircraft operating from the carrier attacked Iran's second and third naval regions on the third day of the war. He noted that the carrier conducted no launches or flights for three days after Iran's operation.

He added that, on the day of the attack or that night, the carrier requested assistance from a coastal country and reported having injured personnel.

“Later, it was announced that the carrier had caught fire,” Moghadam said, adding that images released from the site of the damage did not, in his assessment, correspond to an ordinary fire.

He said the images showed ruptures in the hull and deformation of the structure, which he interpreted as evidence of a missile strike.

Iran Navy rejects claims of destruction

Moghadam also rejected U.S. claims that Iran's naval forces had been destroyed, arguing that de-

He said Canada's involvement in the territorial dispute was especially objectionable given that the country itself faces territorial assertions by the US administration.

Baqaei stressed that endorsing another country's territorial claims against Iran carries international responsibility for the Canadian government.

He also called on Abu Dhabi to respect the principles of good-neighborliness rather than repeatedly raising territorial claims against a major neighboring country, emphasizing the importance of mutual respect and respect for national sovereignty in relations between regional states.

Canada's position is not new. Ottawa had previously endorsed the UAE's claim in a joint statement issued during Carney's visit to the Emirates in November 2025, in which the two countries likewise called for an end to what they described as the occupation of the three islands.

The latest statement, however, comes as Canada and the UAE move to elevate their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, expanding cooperation in trade, investment, energy, defence and security, advanced technology and diplomacy.

velopments during and after the war demonstrated that the force remained operational.

He said U.S. and Israeli forces had refrained from approaching Iran's coastline, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, and questioned why they had remained hundreds of kilometers away if Iran's naval capabilities had been eliminated.

The official mentioned that Iranian naval forces had continued to inflict damage on U.S. and Israeli interests during the 40-day conflict and after the ceasefire.

He added that the Navy had reviewed its military doctrine following the conflict, incorporating lessons from the war and reassessing its equipment and operational

deterrence, national sovereignty and the country's response to changing security conditions.

By calling for contributions from universities, professional bodies and relevant specialists, he presented the issue as one requiring sustained examination rather than a decision driven by immediate political pressures.

The distinction is significant: a public demand for a review does not, in itself, constitute a formal change in national policy. Any revision would require consideration by the competent authorities and a decision through the country's established institutional framework.

Iran's nuclear policy has long been a subject of international debate, particularly in relation to its stated position against nuclear weapons, its nuclear program and the country's security concerns. A discussion about revising the doctrine therefore raises questions that extend beyond technical nuclear policy to include deterrence, strategic calculations and the country's assessment of the international environment.

Haj Ali Akbari called for the debate to be informed by expert analysis and national considerations, while reaffirming that the Leader would make the final decision.

His remarks signal that calls for a reassessment of Iran's nuclear doctrine have become an issue of public and political discussion, with supporters framing the debate around national security, deterrence and the lessons drawn from past confrontations. Whether that discussion results in any change in policy remains a matter for the country's competent decision-making authorities.



Iran has consistently maintained that Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb are integral parts of its national territory and rejects any foreign government's endorsement of competing claims over them.

Tehran has also repeatedly stressed that relations with neighboring countries should be founded on mutual respect, respect for territorial integrity and the principles of good-neighborliness, rather than political alignments with extra-regional powers.

priorities.

Moghadam said that, in the event of another war, Iran's naval operations would extend beyond the scope of the previous conflict, citing improvements in the force's equipment and capabilities.

He also described the Strait of Hormuz as a strategic advantage for Iran, arguing that regional maritime security would not return to its desired state while U.S. forces remained in the region.

The Iranian Navy official's remarks come amid continued tensions between Tehran and Washington over regional security and the strategic waterway, through which a significant share of global oil shipments passes.

# Washington’s midterm letter game

## From Carter to Vance, US messages have failed to break Iranian resistance

From Page 1 ►

### A routine channel, not a breakthrough

Viewed in historical perspective, the letter is anything but unprecedented. Writing to Iranian leaders has been a standard American practice since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, and at least 20 letters, messages and written contacts have been publicly disclosed so far.

The list begins with President Jimmy Carter’s Nov. 6, 1979 letter to Imam Khomeini carried — but never delivered — by Ramsey Clark and William Miller after the takeover of the US Embassy. It continued with President Ronald Reagan’s signed Bible inscribed on Oct. 3, 1986 with the verse Galatians 3:8, handed to Iranian intermediaries in the Iran-Contra affair, along with the earlier McFarlane mission carrying a key-shaped cake.

President Bill Clinton sent messages through the Swiss ambassador in 1997 proposing direct government-to-government talks after Mohammad Khatami’s election, repeated the offer via Vice President Al Gore through Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah in May 1998, and wrote the detailed June 1999 letter on the Khobar Towers bombing while insisting the US had “no hostile intentions” toward the Islamic Republic.

President Barack Obama wrote at least four letters to Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei — in May 2009, September 2009, January 2012 on the Strait of Hormuz as a “red line,” and mid-October 2014 linking cooperation against ISIS to a nuclear deal — plus the exchange of letters with President Hassan Rouhani in August-September 2013 that led to their historic phone call, not to mention six Nowruz messages.

President Donald Trump sent a letter via late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in June 2019, which was publicly rejected, then relied on the Swiss encrypted fax channel in January 2020 after the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani to warn against escalation, and sent the March 5, 2025 letter delivered on March 12 by Emirati diplomat Anwar Gargash, setting a 60-day deadline that led to five rounds of indirect Steve Witkoff-Abbas Araghchi talks in Oman and Rome before the June war.

From this standpoint, a message from a US vice president to the SNSC secretary is a routine and conventional step, not a turning point. Washington writes when pressure fails. Tehran listens, measures, and decides on the basis of interests, not envelopes.

### No one knows what is inside

No official text of Vance’s letter

has been published by either side, and every claim about its content comes from anonymous “officials familiar with the matter.”

The Journal said it contained “no specific peace plan” but focused on a framework for negotiations. Axios, citing a US official, added that Vance stressed any talks to head off strikes “require discussions on the nuclear issue,” and called it the most senior-level US outreach in months. The New York Times, citing a US official and an Iranian official, claimed the letter proposed an early meeting led by Vance himself, possibly as soon as next week in Qatar or Turkey, technically “without preconditions.”

Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, citing a US official, went further, writing that Vance offered to meet Rezaei personally in Istanbul or Doha, defined America’s interest as ensuring Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon and Iran’s interest as rebuilding its war-ravaged economy and preserving sovereignty, and demanded “representatives who are empowered to discuss the nuclear issues.” He portrayed Rezaei as “the essential point of contact in Tehran and the only person who could build a consensus.”

None of this has been confirmed by Tehran or by any published document. Iranian media have treated all of it as guesswork. Until a text is released or an official reply is issued, responsible journalism requires treating these versions as competing American leaks aimed at shaping expectations, not as facts.

### Midterm panic at the pump

The timing, however, is revealing. The United States is days away from midterm elections on Nov. 3, and all signs point to a very difficult contest for Republicans. The eight-month war with Iran has become the administration’s Achilles’ heel.

Despite repeated threats to “finish the job,” Trump has failed to control domestic gasoline prices, which have surged on the back of disrupted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, oil prices above \$110, damaged tankers, and a US naval blockade that has raised insurance and shipping costs globally rather than forcing Iranian submission.

Washington has tried everything to calm the pump before the vote, from emergency releases and arrangements with Russia to stabilize the fuel market to the highly controversial authorization for the use of cheaper red-dyed diesel, yet prices remain politically toxic. A short, sharp new war would send them even higher; a televised diplomatic “process” would, in the White House calculation, create a positive shock and allow Trump to

claim the situation is under control.

That is why the same administration that warns Gulf allies to “prepare” for post-midterm strikes simultaneously leaks a peace letter. The goal is not peace but performance: to stage a show of agreement-seeking before the elections and inject artificial calm into the Republican camp at a moment when it is in no good shape at all.

### Seven conditions, no retreat

Tehran’s answer to such theater has been consistent and public. Iran has announced seven conditions for ending the current state of war and reopening the Strait of Hormuz to free navigation, centered on a region-wide ceasefire, lifting the US naval blockade of Iranian ports, lifting sanctions on oil exports, unfreezing Iranian assets abroad, and guarantees against renewed aggression.

Rezaei himself drew the line on Oct. 21: “Not a single ounce of enriched nuclear material will leave Iran,” and negotiations are possible only if Iran’s demands are met. Tasnim stressed on Oct. 29 that “any position that undermines this firm framework is unacceptable.”

This firmness is not rhetorical. It reflects the assessment of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, who in his recent meeting with Rezaei described the SNSC and its Secretariat as the “crossroads of policymaking” stressed safeguarding national and regional security by maintaining control over the Strait of Hormuz, and insisted on pursuing the rights of the Iranian nation and the Resistance Front by ensuring the country’s conditions for ending the war are met and bringing the state of “neither war nor peace” to an end.

Most importantly for the present episode, the Leader said sound and well-grounded decisions require a roadmap based on a comprehensive understanding of each undertaking, from its starting point to its conclusion. In other words, Tehran will not enter a process whose end is pre-scripted in Washington.

### Open door, not open eyes

Iran has not closed the doors of diplomacy. The quadrilateral meeting hosted by Tehran on Monday with senior officials from Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the continued Qatari mediation — with Qatari envoys returning to Tehran on Friday — and Rezaei’s own statement that security in West Asia must originate from within the region show that Tehran prefers a regional, endogenous order to foreign dictation.

But openness does not mean naivety. Tehran remembers too

well the March 2025 Trump letter to Ayatollah Khamenei, the five rounds of Witkoff-Araghchi talks, and then the Israeli attack of June 13 and the 12-day war. It remembers four Obama letters followed by maximum pressure, and a signed JCPOA abandoned unilaterally.

Iran will not walk blindfolded and wishfully into a negotiation so that Trump can exploit the mere image of talks for electoral gain, freeze the battlefield in his favor, pocket a nuclear concession upfront, and postpone sanctions relief, unblocking and guarantees to an indefinite “later.” Sequencing matters: Washington demands nuclear-first, relief-later; Tehran demands simultaneous, verifiable steps. Without that, there is no roadmap from start to finish, only a photo opportunity.

### Desperation after failure

Behind the letter is a serious American impasse. Neither eight months of direct strikes and Israeli operations, nor the naval blockade of ports, economic warfare, cyber operations and threats of regime change, have forced Iran to surrender its enrichment, its missile program, or its control over Hormuz. The economy, though wounded, has not collapsed; the Armed Forces have not fractured; regional partners have not defected — they came to Tehran.

A new round of war will not bring Iran to its knees. It will only deepen American costs: higher energy prices before and after the midterms, wider regional escalation that Qatar, Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia openly fear, further exposure of US bases and warships that Leader Khamenei’s commanders have explicitly vowed to target, and a deeper reputational defeat when a superpower cannot dictate terms to a nation it has sanctioned for 47 years.

Washington now acknowledges, in its own leaks, that it must talk to the hard core of Iranian power — the SNSC secretary with direct access to the Leader and the trust of the IRGC — because no imposed settlement is possible. That is an admission of failure, not a gesture of goodwill.

The ball is in the US court. If Washington wants more than an election show, it must trade the logic of imposed agreement for balanced agreement: end the blockade, release Iran’s frozen assets, lift oil sanctions, accept verification in exchange for guarantees, and let West Asia’s security be built within the region. Otherwise, the letter from Vance will join the long archive of American letters since 1979 — received, read, measured against Iran’s roadmap, and answered not with surrender but with resistance.

continue to behave as though the application of sufficient force will eventually produce the desired political result.

Trump appears determined not to learn from these experiences.

### Iran is more than a military challenge: it has a long historical memory

One does not have to romanticise Iran to recognise the depth of its historical consciousness. Persian civilisation stretches back thousands of years. Its political culture has developed through periods of empire, foreign intervention, revolution and war. Modern Iran has also experienced the overthrow of its elected prime minister in the 1953 coup, the restoration and support of the Shah by the United States, and the revolution of 1979 that transformed the country’s political order. The Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s left a deep mark on the national psyche.

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

## Iran reports destruction of US drone and three tanker incidents in Strait of Hormuz



TEHRAN – Iran’s armed forces have reported the destruction of two different American unmanned platforms and incidents involving three oil tankers attempting to navigate unauthorized routes through the Strait of Hormuz, as the country maintains restrictions on maritime traffic through the strategic waterway.

In separate announcements on Thursday and Friday, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy and the Iranian Army Navy reported the interception of an American MQ-1 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), the destruction of an enemy unmanned surface vessel (USV), and incidents involving three oil tankers accused of disregarding Iranian navigation regulations and safety warnings.

The announcements underscore Iran’s continued emphasis on enforcing its maritime security arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz and preventing unauthorized movements through designated shipping routes.

### Three oil tankers involved in incidents

In a statement issued on Friday, the IRGC Navy announced that two oil tankers attempting to pass through unauthorized routes in the eastern and western sections of the Strait of Hormuz had encountered incidents and were stopped in the southern waters of the strategic waterway.

According to the statement, both vessels had switched off their navigation and positioning systems and attempted to leave the strait through unauthorized routes with the support of the US military.

The IRGC Navy said the tankers had ignored repeated radio warnings, entered areas designated as unsafe, and subsequently encountered incidents before being halted.

The force attributed the incidents and fires aboard the vessels to ‘hostile actions by the US military,’ as well as the tankers’ disregard for Iranian regulations governing navigation through the strait.

In a separate announcement, the IRGC Navy reported that a supertanker had exploded after striking a naval mine while attempting to navigate an unauthorized route through the waterway.

The vessel, which was carrying more than two million barrels of oil, was left burning near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz, according to the statement.

The IRGC Navy described the supertanker as the third oil tanker to have suffered an explosion and caught fire on Friday after attempting to use unauthorized routes.

The announcements did not identify the vessels or disclose their flags, ownership, or the precise circumstances of the incident.

### Iranian Navy destroys unmanned surface vessel

Separately, the Iranian Army Navy announced that its forces had destroyed an enemy unmanned surface vessel operating in the eastern Strait of Hormuz in the early hours of Friday.

According to the Navy’s public relations office, the remotely operated vessel was struck and destroyed while moving and conducting operations within the area monitored by Iranian naval forces.

The Navy also reported that two enemy oil tankers had sustained damage and caught

fire after striking naval mines while navigating restricted and unsafe waters east of the Strait of Hormuz with their tracking systems switched off.

It said the vessels had disregarded previously issued warnings and maritime regulations, adding that their owners would bear full responsibility for the consequences of unauthorized navigation and failure to observe safety instructions.

The Navy warned that any hostile movement, infiltration or provocative action in areas monitored by Iran’s armed forces would be met with a firm and proportionate response.

### IRGC downs American MQ-1 drone

In a separate development announced on Thursday, the IRGC reported that its Aerospace Division had intercepted and destroyed an American MQ-1 unmanned aerial vehicle over the eastern Strait of Hormuz.

According to a statement published on the IRGC’s official website, the drone was brought down by an advanced air defense system operating within Iran’s integrated air defense network.

The IRGC described the aircraft as the 14th advanced MQ-1 drone intercepted and destroyed.

The aerial drone incident is distinct from the Iranian Army Navy’s announcement concerning the destruction of an unmanned surface vessel. The two statements refer to different platforms and separate military operations.

### Iran emphasizes control over maritime traffic

Iran has repeatedly warned commercial vessels against using navigation routes that have not been authorized by its maritime authorities, emphasizing that compliance with designated corridors and safety instructions is essential to preventing incidents in the Strait of Hormuz.

Since the US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran began on February 28, 2026, Tehran has introduced new arrangements governing maritime traffic through the strait, citing security considerations and the need to protect its territorial waters and national interests.

The Strait of Hormuz, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the wider Indian Ocean, is one of the world’s most strategically important maritime passages. A substantial share of internationally traded crude oil and petroleum products passes through this waterway, making maritime security and uninterrupted commercial navigation there a matter of international economic importance.

Iran maintains that safe passage through the strait requires vessels to observe the regulations established by the coastal authorities and refrain from unauthorized movements, particularly amid heightened regional tensions.

The latest announcements by the IRGC Navy and the Iranian Army Navy reinforce Tehran’s warning that vessels operating in the area must comply with its maritime security instructions and that unauthorized navigation in designated restricted zones carries serious risks.

## Trump’s bluff meets Iran’s resolve : Limits of American power

From Page 1 ► It has learned to live with adversity, and it has developed its own ways of responding to pressure. One may disagree with Iran’s government, its policies or its political system, but to dismiss its capacity to think, plan and respond would be a serious mistake.

This is where Trump seems to have got it wrong. He is accustomed to dealing with politics as though it were a business negotiation in which the other party must eventually accept his terms. But international politics does not work like a real estate deal. Countries have their own histories, their own interests and their own understanding of what they can and cannot concede. Iran is not going to abandon its strategic interests simply because the American President demands it.

### The gap between Trump’s threats and reality

For months, the world has watched the familiar performance. Trump makes a dramat-

ic announcement, the threat of military action hangs over the region, and then everyone waits to see what happens next. His supporters may interpret this as strength. But there is a differ-

Iran does not need to match America weapon for weapon to make a conflict costly. It can use its regional relationships, asymmetric capabilities and geographical position to complicate American calculations.

ence between strength and the ability to keep making threats without securing a political outcome. At some stage, the threats themselves become a problem. If you repeatedly promise decisive action and the other side refuses to bend, you must either escalate or find a way out. Neither op-

tion necessarily makes you look strong.

Iran understands this dilemma. It does not have to respond to every American statement with an equally dramatic announcement. It can wait, calculate and choose its moment. It can also make the costs of escalation sufficiently high to force Washington to think twice. The point is not that Iran is invulnerable or that it can dictate every outcome. It is that the United States cannot assume that its military superiority automatically translates into political victory.

History has repeatedly demonstrated this distinction. A powerful military can destroy targets, damage infrastructure and inflict enormous suffering. But can it compel a country to accept the political future designed for it by a foreign power? That is a different question altogether. The United States has learned this lesson in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, often at an enormous cost. Yet American presidents

## Iran, Turkey’s capacities pave way for expanding bilateral co-op: Iran’s minister

TEHRAN- The Minister of Transport and Urban Development emphasized the necessity of expanding bilateral cooperation between Iran and Turkey in the political, economic, and transport/communications fields and said: Expanding economic and transport/communications relations between Iran and Turkey, in addition to securing mutual interests, can make an effective contribution to strengthening cooperation, prosperity, and sustainable development in the region.

According to an IRNA report from the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, at a ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey, said: National days are an opportunity to honor the history and identity of nations and to respect their efforts to build their own future; this occasion is also a valuable opportunity to reflect on the importance of friendship and cooperation among countries and the role that nations can play in shaping a world enjoying peace, stability, and development.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development, noting that Iran and Turkey, as two neighbors with a long history, have enjoyed deep cultural, civilizational, and human ties, added: The relations between the two nations have been formed beyond geographical borders on the basis of historical interactions, social relations, and rich cultural and religious heritage, and have continued and strengthened over time.

She stressed: These valuable ties are a lasting asset for strengthening friendship and expanding mutual cooperation between the two countries in today’s world.

Sadegh stated: Economic and trade cooperation between the two countries is one of the important pillars of these relations; Iran and Turkey, possessing diverse and complementary economic capacities, have considerable opportunities to expand relations and benefit from mutual capabilities.

Emphasizing that the geographical position of Iran and Turkey has given special status to transport and communications cooperation between the two countries, she said: The development of these connections can play a constructive and key role in linking the economies and markets of the region and strengthen the fraternal relations of the two countries in all fields.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development stressed: We believe that expanding economic and communications relations between Iran and Turkey, in addition to securing mutual interests, can make an effective contribution to strengthening cooperation, prosperity, and sustainable development in the region.

She added: The future of these relations, relying on existing capacities and the joint will of the two countries, creates a valuable opportunity for the growth and flourishing of the two nations.

Sadegh stated: The recent bitter developments and crises in the region have once again revealed the importance of peace, stability, and the shared responsibility of countries in maintaining security and calm; the experience of these developments shows that security and development are interconnected in nature, and achieving sustainable peace requires respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, adherence to the principles of international law, and prioritizing dialogue and peaceful solutions.

Iran and Turkey should strengthen trade ties by identifying competitive Iranian export products, assessing market demand and verifying potential buyers, Iran’s commercial attaché in Turkey said at a seminar on bilateral trade opportunities and challenges. on October 25.

Kamran Davari Niko, Iran’s commercial attaché in Istanbul, made the remarks at a seminar hosted by the Qazvin Chamber of Commerce and attended by its board members and business representatives, according to the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO).

Davari Niko said none of Turkey’s border crossings with Iran had been closed, expressing hope that trade between the two countries would continue. He stressed the need to monitor developments, identify suit-



able routes for maintaining trade flows and make better use of existing capacities to expand economic cooperation.

He also highlighted direct engagement and bilateral consultations as important tools for strengthening commercial relations, referring to a meeting between Qazvin Chamber of Commerce board members and Turkish counterparts in Istanbul.

The seminar examined Iranian goods with export potential in the Turkish market, as well as opportunities for imports from Turkey. Participants emphasized the importance of assessing market needs, evaluating products’ competitive advantages, calculating production costs and determining profitability before entering new business sectors.

Other topics included estimating operating costs, assessing mutual benefits, checking the commercial credibility of trading partners and understanding formal and customary contractual practices. Participants also discussed required regulations and permits, tariffs, transportation costs and payment methods as part of efforts to reduce trade risks.

Earlier in June, the representative of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Ibrahim Dogan Salman stated that in 2025, the trade between Iran and Turkey surpassed \$5.6 billion.

During a meeting with members of the Board of Directors of the Yazd Chamber of Commerce, Doghan Salman added that the preferential trade agreement implemented between the two countries in 2015 has provided a solid foundation for the development of these cooperations.

Referring to the history of economic and cultural relations between Iran and Turkey, he said: “There are deep-rooted cooperations between the two countries, and we are interested in strengthening these relations more than ever.”

Dogan Salman, stating that “we are not on two sides of the Silk Road, but rather walk side by side on this road,” added: “Iran and Turkey have always been neighbors throughout history and have known and understood each other. What binds the two nations together is a shared history, culture, and civilization.”

The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce representative, referring to the value of trade between the two countries, stated: “In 2025, the trade between Iran and Turkey exceeded \$5.6 billion. Furthermore, the preferential trade agreement implemented between the two countries in 2015 has provided a solid foundation for the development of these cooperations.”

He cited the active presence of entrepreneurs from both countries as the most tangible sign of this bond and said: “Currently, 7,288 companies with Iranian investment are operating in Turkey, and at the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce alone, the number of companies of Iranian origin has reached 2,040.”

Dogan Salman also referred to the people-to-people ties between the two countries and added: “In 2025, more than three million Iranians visited Turkey, and this statistic shows that Iran and Turkey are not merely each other’s markets, but are also true partners.”

The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce representative emphasized: “To strengthen the bond between the chambers of commerce on both sides, we are prepared to hold joint meetings, bilateral talks, and specialized exhibitions.”

## Construction of new renewable power plants with 6,000 MW capacity on agenda

TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Energy and Head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) announced the Ministry of Energy’s new plans to build 6,000 megawatts of new renewable power plants in the country and said: Alongside this process, creating a value chain and localizing the required equipment will also be pursued more vigorously.

According to an IRNA report citing SATBA, Mohsen Tarztalab, explaining the organization’s latest measures in the field of developing new energy, described attracting non-governmental investment and strengthening the domestic supply chain as the two main wings for realizing the major goals of this sector, and outlined the details of SATBA’s new plans in three areas.

Referring to planning for the construction of 10,000 megawatts of household solar power plants in the country, he announced the publication of a call for participation by non-governmental sector investors in the construction of small-scale distributed solar power plants.

Tarztalab stated: The financial model of these projects has been designed based on a combination



of sources, including at least 40 percent investor equity, a maximum of 50 percent from National Development Fund resources, and at least 10 percent participation by electricity subscribers.

The Head of SATBA said: Investors who have a higher share in financing the project will be given priority in review, and the supply of equipment, installation, operation, and sale of generated electricity (with guaranteed repayment of principal and interest from the Green Energy Exchange) will be the responsibility of the investor.

Tarztalab, referring to the implementation of the national program for developing solar power systems and the production

chain, noted: In order to enhance technological capabilities and reduce dependence on abroad, SATBA has long placed the localization of equipment and the establishment of production lines for equipment needed by solar power plants on its agenda, and now that the Iranian market has good attractiveness for investors, this matter is being pursued more seriously.

In this regard, he announced a call to identify and support capable applicants for the construction, development, and upgrading of solar panel production lines and reminded: Accordingly, entities meeting technical and financial requirements will benefit from SATBA’s facilities and legal

support.

The Deputy Minister of Energy further announced the beginning of the maturity and payment of installments of National Development Fund facilities by investors and said: As projects progress, investors are obliged to settle the principal and interest of the allocated resources in accordance with the specified mechanisms.

He emphasized: After the end of the repayment period, ownership of solar power plants and other renewable power plants will be transferred to the investors.

Tarztalab continued: The National Development Fund’s participation in the construction of renewable power plants is the first successful example of national investment that, ultimately, in addition to building power plants and solar electricity generation facilities, has led to empowering the private sector and the return of spent resources to the National Development Fund.

The Deputy Minister of Energy added: This successful example can be expanded to other areas needed by the country while also preserving the resources of the National Development Fund.

## Iran, Belarus discuss establishing joint power plant repair center

TEHRAN- Iran’s deputy energy minister announced plans to establish a joint Iran-Belarus power plant repair center and stated that Iran is ready to export MAPNA-built gas turbines and wind equipment to Tatarstan.

According to Mehr News Agency, Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, during a trip to Belarus and a meeting with the country’s energy officials, proposed the establishment of a joint power plant repair center.

Referring to negotiations held with the managers of the Belarusian national electricity company, he said: “It has been agreed that the legal and technical dimensions of this memorandum of understanding be reviewed and finalized within one month so that it can reach the signing stage.”

Rajabi Mashhadi announced the formation of a joint technical team to exchange experiences and follow up on smart grid and monitoring center projects as other axes of negotiations with the Belarusian side, and added: “Knowledge exchange in the field of repair and maintenance of 750-kilovolt transmission lines and similar levels was also discussed.”

The Deputy for Electricity and Energy of the Minister of Energy also, in a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Tatarstan, announced Iran’s readiness to export MAPNA-built gas turbines and wind equipment through the private sector cooperating with the Ministry of Energy.

According to him, the proposal to provide technical and repair services by the Iran Power Plant Repairs Company to Tatarstan power plants was also raised. Also, given the region’s experience in reducing transmission and distribution network losses, agreement was reached on transferring its experiences to Iran’s electricity industry.

In another part of this trip, Rajabi Mashhadi visited Belarus’s energy exhibition and specialized meetings. In this event, topics such as growth in electricity demand, limitations of fossil fuel resources, development of renewable energies, consumption management, and smartening of electricity networks were examined.

He also visited the equipment and systems of the Belarusian Meteorological Organization in the field of forecasting electricity generation from solar and wind power plants and models for forecasting precipitation and water resources.

In describing this visit, the Deputy for Electricity and Energy of the Minister of Energy said: “The infrastructure and equipment of the Belarusian Meteorological Organization are mainly based on Russian technologies and related radars, and Iran’s flood forecasting and meteorological monitoring systems enjoy higher maturity, accuracy, and operational capability.”

A cooperation memorandum of understanding was signed between Abbas Aliabadi,

Iran’s Minister of Energy, and the Belarusian Minister of Energy, on October 27, aimed at establishing cooperation between the parties in the energy sector for mutual benefit.

As reported, 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.

## Tehran hosting international industry exhibition

TEHRAN- The 26th Tehran International Industry Exhibition opened on October 28 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, with the participation of 157 domestic companies, including 30 knowledge-based companies, and the presence of representatives of foreign brands from Germany, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

In this edition, machinery and production lines, industrial and workshop equipment, tools, and technical and engineering services are on display to visitors and economic actors, providing an opportunity to become acquainted with manufacturers’ capabilities, products, and industrial technologies.

Among the notable points of this exhibition are the independent presence of Chinese companies and the participation of other countries, including Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, mainly through their representatives; this presence can provide a basis for greater familiarity with the products and capacities of international companies and for examining opportunities for trade cooperation.

The participation of 30 knowledge-based companies alongside other domestic companies has also created an opportunity to introduce technological products and innovative achievements in the industry sector.

This edition of the exhibition has been organized in an area of about 25,000 square meters to introduce Iran’s industrial capacities and continue the country’s economic and trade activities.

The 26th Tehran International Industry Exhibition was inaugurated with the presence of Kasra Nouri, CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran International Exhibitions Company; Seyyed Javad Hosseini-Kia, representative of the people of Sonqor in the Parliament and member of the Industries and Mines Committee; and a group of officials, industrialists, and industry actors.

The 26th Tehran International Industry Exhibition continues its activities until October 31 with the aim of introducing production capacities, developing the market for industrial products, and strengthening communication among manufacturers,

technology companies, suppliers, and economic actors.

### Redefining position of industry in Iran’s foreign trade map

On the occasion of the opening of the 26th International Industry Exhibition, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade and Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran wrote in a message: Industrial exhibitions are considered a valuable capacity for turning the country’s production capacity into new trade opportunities, expanding the presence of Iranian firms in regional and international markets, and redefining Iran’s foreign trade map.

Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, recalling that industry is one of the fundamental pillars of economic growth, increasing productivity, and developing the country’s foreign trade and plays an effective role in creating added value, employment, technology development, and enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy, noted: In conditions where the development of non-oil exports and sustainable presence in international

markets are among the requirements for realizing the country’s economic goals, strengthening industrial capacities and utilizing the production capabilities of domestic firms is a strategic necessity.

He described specialized industry exhibitions as more than a venue for introducing products and equipment, but as a platform for linking manufacturers, raw material suppliers, machinery builders, knowledge-based companies, investors, and domestic and foreign trade actors, and added: By providing the ground for the exchange of knowledge and experience, introducing technological achievements, identifying market needs, developing industrial cooperation, and forming trade contracts and joint investments, these events can help strengthen links among different circles of production and trade. From this perspective, industrial exhibitions are considered a valuable capacity for turning the country’s production capacity into new trade opportunities and expanding the presence of Iranian firms in regional and international markets.

# Hezbollah chief declares US-brokered framework agreement ‘effectively nonexistent’

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a speech on October 28 that the resistance will keep its weapons for as long as Israel occupies Lebanese land.

There is “no room for discussion” on disarmament while the occupation and aggression continue, he said, declaring the U.S.-brokered framework agreement signed in June “effectively nonexistent.”

Addressing the “sacrificing and honorable” people of Lebanon, Sheikh Qassem placed the resistance on legal ground. It acts, he said, under a legitimate right that the Taif Agreement and the constitution protect.

His demand was concrete: an Israeli pullout under the November 27, 2024 ceasefire and UN Security Council Resolution 1701, with the Lebanese army deployed south of the Litani River.

Israel has delivered neither. After the November ceasefire, it kept troops at five positions it deems strategic and went on striking Lebanon almost daily.

Sheikh Qassem sees a pattern older than any of this. He said the resistance exists because of an occupation backed by the world’s tyrants, America first among them.

Israel’s wars, launched on flimsy pretexts, serve the “Greater Israel” agenda, he said, adding accords such as Madrid and Oslo were stops on the way to the next war.

Without American and Western backing, Israel could neither hold its gains nor expand, and the same backing sustains the genocide in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel quit south Lebanon in 2000 under fire, with no agreement to sign.



## A framework with no withdrawal date

Sheikh Qassem said the June 26 text of the framework agreement has no legitimacy because it contradicts the constitution, Taif, the president’s inaugural speech and the government’s own policy statement.

It gives the enemy what is not his, surrenders sources of Lebanon’s strength and feeds on strife, he lamented.

The terms help his case. A “phased” Israeli withdrawal is tied to Hezbollah’s verified disarmament, and no date is set. The resistance is supposed to disarm first, and Israel is supposed to leave when it decides it is satisfied.

Four months on, President Joseph Aoun told a visiting German minister Thursday that a ceasefire, Israeli withdrawal, border demarcation and the release of prisoners had still not materialized, a week after trilateral talks at CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa.

War Minister Israel Katz said on October 14 that Israeli forces remain in “security zones” in Lebanon and Syria.

Sheikh Qassem wants an end to American tutelage over parts of the Lebanese state. “Tutelage

is like occupation,” he said, adding, “Both violate sovereignty.”

Lebanon’s Health Ministry counts 4,389 people killed and 12,424 wounded between March 2 and October 12.

A so-called ceasefire took effect on April 17 and has not stopped the drones. On October 12, Israeli aircraft hit Kfar Tibnit and Tallousah while artillery shelled Beit Lif, Majdal Zoun and Yater.

Even Aoun has said Israel has demolished homes, bulldozed lands and kept farmers out of their fields.

## Iran, America and Israel’s election

Sheikh Qassem said Hezbollah follows the diplomatic moves between Iran and the U.S. closely.

The Iran-U.S. memorandum in June earned its keep as soon as it was announced, he said, by lowering Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

Iran has placed an end to that aggression and an Israeli withdrawal at the top of its priorities, “a great sacrifice we appreciate” from “the icon of the free people of the world,” the Hezbollah chief said.

On Washington, Sheikh Qassem said “tyrannical America” is

in no better shape. Iran buried the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, his family and many commanders, yet frustrated the American and Israeli aim of toppling the government and disintegrating the country, the resistance leader pointed out.

He credited the Iranian people and the leadership of Ayatollah Sayyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

The U.S., by contrast, is mired in erratic decisions and a severe economic crisis, has lost its global standing and is preparing to leave the region, Naim Qassem noted.

Israel’s election earned no kinder review. Results from the October 27 vote left Netanyahu’s bloc with 53 seats, eight short of a majority, which Sheikh Qassem called “one of the expressions of defeat.”

“We do not concern ourselves with who governs the usurping Israeli entity,” he said. “But it must know it cannot continue its occupation, and it must leave our land.”

## Unity, with conditions

At home, Sheikh Qassem renewed Hezbollah’s “promise and commitment” pledge to provide shelter, repairs and reconstruction, and to press the state to do its part with help from friendly countries.

He affirmed the bond with the Amal Movement and allied forces, support for the army, rejection of sedition and readiness for dialogue within the constitution. He attached a condition: “actions from others” that prove they mean it.

“The cost of resistance is heavy,” he said, “but surrender and concession leave nothing.” He closed with the Quranic verse: “Allah will surely support those who support Him.”

## Trump’s falling popularity hangs over a midterm vote shaped by Iran war, inflation



By staff writer

TEHRAN — Donald Trump is not on the ballot, yet the election is about little else. On November 3, roughly 210 million registered voters will decide all 435 House seats, 35 Senate seats and 36 governorships.

Their verdict on the war on Iran, inflation and the campaign his party has run will determine how much power Trump keeps for the last two years of his term.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on October 26 put Trump’s approval at 32 percent, one point above the record low set a week earlier. Registered voters preferred Democrats on the congressional ballot, 47 percent to 36 percent. Counting undecided voters who lean toward a party, the gap is 50 to 41.

History offers Republicans little comfort. Since 1946, the president’s party has lost an average of 26.5 House seats in midterms. No president has entered midterm election so unpopular since Harry Truman, and Trump sits nearly 10 points below where he stood in 2018, when Republicans still held onto several Senate seats in friendly territory.

Democrats need a net gain of three seats for the House. The Senate is a steeper climb. Republicans hold 53 seats, Democrats and their two independent allies hold 47, and a 50-50 split would still favor Republicans because Vice President JD Vance breaks ties. Democrats need four seats, and many of the contests lie in states Trump won comfortably two years ago.

## The price problem

Prices are the one issue Trump promised to fix. In 2024 he vowed to “rapidly bring down costs.” Since then, they have outrun wages, and households feel it in gasoline, groceries, insurance premiums, rent, mortgages and credit-card balances.

The White House answers with “growth” figures. Output rose at a 3.4 percent annual rate over the summer, and consumer spending climbed 3.8 percent in the third quarter. Voters are unmoved.

National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett has called worries about affordability a “myth,” and Trump has called the issue a “hoax.” At a rally in Lubbock, he insisted prices had fallen while signs in the crowd demanded “LOWER PRICES.”

Gasoline costs more than \$1 a gallon above its level on the day Trump returned to office, according to AAA. Tariffs, tax cuts that pushed the federal debt past \$40 trillion, and cuts to food and health benefits have added to the strain.

The war on Iran added more. The blockade and attacks around the Strait of Hormuz lifted oil prices and, with them, the cost of farming, trucking, heating and shipping. About 73 percent of Americans say they are extremely or very concerned about fuel prices driven by the war.

## The Iran war quagmire

Nearly two-thirds of Americans oppose U.S. involvement in the war on Iran, and the aggressive campaign has split both parties. The fighting has hardened into an open-ended confrontation with no political settlement in sight.

At least 21 U.S. service members have died and more than 800 have been wounded. Iranian missiles and drones have damaged American bases, including Al Udeid in Qatar. Even so, the Pentagon blocked Senator Chris Murphy

from visiting the base on a fact-finding trip.

“War” Secretary Pete Hegseth, who helped lead the campaign, has run the department with secrecy, purges of senior officers and open hostility toward Congress.

Democrats are preparing to answer in kind. Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries has promised to “run Pete Hegseth out of town” if his party wins the House.

A Politico poll found 63 percent of Democratic midterm voters support impeaching him, and Republican Representative Thomas Massie has already filed eight articles accusing Hegseth of plotting an illegal war and obstructing oversight.

Conviction in the Senate is unlikely. Hearings would still put the legal and human cost of a war Trump never asked Congress to authorize on the public record.

## Campaigning on fear

Candidates who cannot run on prices or the war have found another subject. In Michigan, Trump and his allies have turned the Senate race against Democrat Abdul El-Sayed into a sustained attack on Muslims.

Trump has mocked El-Sayed’s name, called him a “jihadist” and suggested he should pass through a metal detector before entering the Capitol. Republican nominee Mike Rogers has baselessly tied him to Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood.

The rhetoric has gone mainstream within the GOP. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. claimed “Arabs do not produce literature or science and do not win Nobel Prizes.” Senator Ted Cruz called El-Sayed a “jihadist leprechaun.”

Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud says his city receives daily threats, and Muslim advocates describe a climate worse than the weeks after September 11.

Ohio supplied a different kind of ugliness. Vivek Ramaswamy promoted an advertisement featuring the estranged birth mother of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Amy Acton, using her childhood abuse and homelessness to suggest instability.

Republican Governor Mike DeWine asked for it to come down. Trump and Vance defended it. Campaigning in the Midwest, Barack Obama called the approach “cruelty” and “indecency.”

## Billionaires bankroll

Money is meant to do the work persuasion cannot. Elon Musk has given more than \$445 million to federal political committees this cycle, the largest disclosed donation total in modern midterm history.

He put \$77 million into America PAC in the first half of October and \$158 million into the Senate Leadership Fund in September, aimed at the Senate seats Republicans must hold.

He has company. Public Citizen reports that 515 donors giving at least \$1 million have supplied \$4.2 billion to super PACs in 2026, with Musk alone responsible for about 10 percent. Trump-aligned committees and Republican congressional super PACs raised \$2.1 billion through the third quarter, against \$1.3 billion for Democratic groups.

Spending on that scale reads as an attempt to buy protection, taken out on an unpopular president, an unpopular war and a message built on scapegoats.

After November comes the fight over inheritance. Who will carry a failing GOP?

## Linking Qatar to high Arab voter turnout in Knesset elections is fundamentally misleading

TEHRAN – Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party has claimed Israel’s election was “stolen” by Palestinian citizens after their record turnout and electoral gains, even as election officials and opposition politicians dismissed the allegation as “baseless.”

In a statement on Thursday, Likud warned of an attempted “Islamization of Israel” following a Shin Bet investigation into claims of foreign interference in the vote.

Israeli politicians and media outlets aligned with the Netanyahu government have accused Qatar of funding efforts to boost turnout among Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Netanyahu’s son, Yair, went further claiming Qatar, Turkey and other Arab states had stolen the election.

Qatar rejected the accusations, calling them “ridiculous and dangerous.”

“The repeated invocation of Qatar in Israeli electoral rhetoric reveals an excessive obsession with our country among certain Israeli political and media figures,” Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari said on X, Middle East Eye reported.

“Qatar should not be used as a scapegoat for the political failures of certain Israeli politicians.”

Palestinian-led parties, running on two separate electoral slates, won 19 seats, potentially giving them a decisive role in coalition negotiations.

Both rejected the allegations, accusing Netanyahu of using the investigation to delegitimize their voters.

“We are done apologizing and defending ourselves against filthy lies and baseless accusations from right-wing figures who refuse to accept the election results,” the Joint List said.

Mansour Abbas, leader of the United Arab List (Ra’am), denied any foreign involvement and pledged full cooperation with the investigation.

“To [Netanyahu], who employs Qatari

agents in his office, we have one message in response to the campaign of incitement and delegitimization he is waging against Arab citizens: there will be nothing [found], because there is nothing,” Abbas said.

The claims were also criticized by Gadi Eisenkot, the leader of the main opposition bloc who is bidding to unseat Netanyahu as prime minister.

“It’s already clear that Likud and Netanyahu have embarked on a coordinated, organized campaign seeking to delegitimize the results of the election,” Eisenkot said.

The affair emerged on Thursday after it was reported that Noam Sohlberg, chairman of Israel’s Central Elections Committee, had written to David Zini, head of the Shin Bet domestic intelligence service.

Sohlberg requested an investigation into suspected foreign interference through funding intended to influence the election result.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](https://tehrantimes.com))

## Vote for UAE candidate for UN chief will endorse genocide

TEHRAN – A vote for Lana Nusseibeh, the UAE’s candidate for the post of UN secretary general, will mark an endorsement of genocide, mass atrocities and war, a former UN Security Council says.

Dino Mahtani, writing an article in Middle East Eye published on Oct. 29, says “evidence of the UAE’s support for genocidal forces” by RSF militia in Sudan has piled up for years, yet Abu Dhabi denies it all while “cultivating a polished international reputation.”

Rights groups also say Nusseibeh has spent the last three years denying her country’s role in the genocide in Sudan, deem-

ing her “too dangerous” to the international order.

“We cannot afford to have the UN led by somebody who is a genocide denier, and indeed somebody who heads a government that has been aiding and abetting genocide, that is basically criminally complicit in that genocide, and she’s a lead person in covering that up,” Kenneth Roth, the former executive director of Human Rights Watch, said on a joint virtual panel on Oct. 27 that called for Nusseibeh’s disqualification.

Mahtani, also a former acting director of the Africa program at the International Crisis Group, writes that Anthropic estab-

lished in September with “high confidence” that the UAE was behind an influence operation “targeting UN experts and critics of its role in Sudan.”

The following is the text of his article titled “The UAE Deals in the Darkest of Politics – its representative should be nowhere near the UN”:

A bid by the United Arab Emirates to install one of its top diplomats as secretary general of the United Nations, even as the country stands accused of supporting a genocidal paramilitary force in Sudan, has polarized opinion and left many wondering about the future of the world body’s moral authority.

## Iran names 16-man squad for 2026 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran national beach soccer team head coach Ali Naderi has named a 16-man squad for the upcoming 2026 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup, scheduled to take place in Thailand from Nov. 18 to 28.

Naderi announced the squad following the conclusion of the final stage of Iran's Premier Beach Soccer League, selecting 16 players to begin preparations for the continental tournament.

According to the Iranian Football Federation, the national team's training camp will get underway on Oct. 30 at the National Football Center in Tehran, where the players will begin their preparations ahead of the competition.

Iran have been drawn alongside Afghanistan, Vietnam and Lebanon in the group stage of the tournament.

The Iranian side will be looking to deliver a strong performance in Thailand and maintain their reputation as one of Asia's leading beach soccer nations.

Iran have enjoyed considerable success in international beach soccer in recent years, establishing themselves as a formidable force on the continental stage.

The upcoming tournament will provide another opportunity for Naderi's men to demonstrate their quality and compete for Asian honors.

The 16 players called up to the national team are:

Mohammad Dastan, Reza Dayeri, Reza Amiri, Saeed Piramoon, Ali Nazem, Davoud Shokri, Ali Mirshekari, Movahed Mohammadpour, Mohammadali Mokhtari, Mohammadali Nazarzadeh, Mohammad Masoumizadeh, Abolfazl Sharifpour, Aydin Teshnehkam, Sobhan Faleh, Mehdi Shirmohammadi, Mehdi Mirjalili

The coaching staff will assess the players during the training camp as Iran step up preparations for their opening group-stage matches.

With a blend of experienced internationals and talented players, Iran will aim to make a strong start against Afghanistan, Vietnam and Lebanon and advance to the knockout stages of the competition.

## Donyamali to attend Youth Olympic Games opening ceremony

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, has arrived in Dakar on a three-day official visit to attend the opening ceremony of the fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games and support Iranian athletes competing at the event.

Upon his arrival at Blaise Diagne International Airport, Donyamali was welcomed by Senegal's Minister of Public Service, Labour and Administrative Reform, Mamadou Lamine Dianté, along with the Iranian ambassador to Senegal and Hamid Azizi, head of Iran's delegation.

During his three-day stay, the Iranian sports minister is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games and visit competition venues to watch Iranian athletes in action.

The fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games will take place in Senegal from Oct. 31 to Nov. 13, 2026, marking the first time an Olympic sporting event has been staged on the African continent.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for Saturday at the Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Diamniado, near Dakar, bringing together young athletes and sporting delegations from around the world.

Donyamali's visit underlines Iran's commitment to supporting its young sporting talents and strengthening its presence in international youth competitions.

## Iran come sixth at FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026

TEHRAN – Iran finished in sixth place in the FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026 on Friday.

The young Persians lost to Madagascar 4-3 and came sixth in the event.

The tournament features 189 national teams divided into 32 groups, with matches played in an eight-a-side format. Each match consists of two 20-minute halves, with rolling substitutions permitted.

The FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026 takes place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from Oct. 24 to 30.

## Iran crowned champion of Jordan International Judo Tournament

TEHRAN – Iran's national judo team won the overall title at the Jordan International Judo Tournament after securing eight medals across the men's and women's events.

At the Asian Judo Cup in Jordan, Maryam Barbat won gold in the women's under-78kg category, while Elias Parhizgar claimed gold in the men's under-81kg division and Abolfazl Mahmoudi took gold in the men's under-66kg category.

Raheel Moradi won silver in the women's over-78kg category, while Mahshid Safari secured silver in the women's under-63kg division.

Amirhossein Shahidi won bronze in the men's under-100kg category, Amirabbas Movahed claimed bronze in the men's over-100kg division, and Samira Khak khah took bronze in the women's under-57kg category.

## Masoud Ebrahimi appointed interim head coach of Mes Shahr Babak

TEHRAN – Mes Shahr Babak have appointed Masoud Ebrahimi as interim head coach following the departure of Ghasem Shahba, as the newly promoted side look to turn around their disappointing start to the Iran Persian Gulf Pro League season.

The club parted ways with Shahba after 10 rounds of the campaign, despite the coach having guided Mes Shahr Babak to a historic promotion to Iran's top flight last season.

Under Shahba's leadership, the club secured its first-ever appearance in the Persian Gulf Pro League, marking a major milestone in its history. However, a difficult start to life in the top division prompted the club's management to make a change.

Mojtaba Hosseini had reportedly emerged as a leading candidate to take charge of the team, but negotiations over the appointment of a permanent replacement have reached an impasse.

With no agreement yet reached on a new head coach, Mes Shahr Babak officials have decided to hand Ebrahimi temporary responsibility for the first team.

Ebrahimi will lead the side in this week's crucial league encounter against Paykan, a match that could prove important in the club's battle to move away from the relegation zone.

Mes Shahr Babak currently sit at the bottom of the Persian Gulf Pro League standings with just five points from their opening 10 matches.

The club's immediate priority will be to improve results and regain confidence as it attempts to preserve its top-flight status in its debut season.

Meanwhile, the search for a permanent head coach is expected to continue, with the club yet to announce who will take charge for the remainder of the campaign.

# Qalamkari: The centuries-old art of printing stories on fabric in Isfahan

TEHRAN – In the historic Iranian city of Isfahan, where centuries of artistic ingenuity have shaped one of the country's richest cultural landscapes, an age-old craft continues to bring colour, patterns and stories to life on fabric. Known as Qalamkari, this traditional textile art combines hand-carved wooden stamps, carefully prepared dyes and intricate Persian designs to produce decorative fabrics that are both functional and artistic.

Rooted in Iran's long tradition of craftsmanship, Qalamkari became particularly prominent in Isfahan, especially during the Qajar era, when its printed textiles developed into some of the city's best-known artistic products. Beyond their decorative appeal, some of these fabrics served as visual narratives, portraying episodes from Persian epics, historical events and religious traditions.

Isfahan, nicknamed Nesf-e Jahan, meaning "Half the World", was the capital of Persia during the Safavid era and a major crossroads of international trade, diplomacy and artistic exchange. Under the Safavid monarch Shah Abbas I, the city experienced a remarkable cultural and architectural flourishing, helping establish its reputation as one of the most important centers of Persian art and craftsmanship. Today, it remains one of Iran's leading tourist destinations and a prominent hub of traditional handicrafts.

**An art shaped by wood, color and fabric**

Qalamkari, also known as Kalamkari in some transliterations, is a traditional method of decorating textiles through printing with hand-carved wooden blocks. Artisans use these stamps to transfer elaborate patterns onto fabric, often combining several colors and motifs to create richly detailed compositions.

The designs draw inspiration from a broad range of Iranian artistic traditions, including Persian carpets, architectural ornamentation and the elaborate tilework of historic mosques. Floral and botanical patterns, animals, arabesques, geometric arrangements, hunting scenes and Persian calligraphy are among the recurring motifs.

Flowers, cypress trees and other elements of nature feature prominently, often evoking the visual richness of traditional Persian gardens. The resulting compositions reflect a distinctive aesthetic in which symmetry, repetition and a harmonious combination of colors play central roles.

Cotton is among the most widely used materials for Qalamkari because of its ability to absorb dyes. Silk, canvas and fustian have also been used, depending on the intended purpose and desired finish.

The traditional production pro-



cess requires considerable precision. First, an artisan prepares the design and selects the appropriate wooden stamps, each carved with a particular section of the intended pattern. The raised surfaces of the blocks are coated with dye and pressed onto the fabric to transfer the design.

Producing multicolored patterns requires several stamps, each corresponding to a different color or part of the composition. Their placement must be carefully coordinated so that the separate elements align correctly. Even a slight misalignment can disrupt the overall design.

The craft therefore involves much more than simply pressing a wooden block onto cloth. Knowledge of dyes, fabric preparation, pressure, spacing and the precise registration of patterns is essential. In some examples, hand painting is also combined with block printing to achieve more elaborate effects.

**A craft with a long history**

The precise origins of Qalamkari in Iran remain uncertain, and no definitive historical reference establishes when the craft first emerged. However, according to the renowned art historian Arthur Upham Pope, the art was already practiced in Iran during the Ghaznavid period.

It subsequently developed through different historical periods, reaching particular prominence under the Safavids. The reign of Shah Abbas I was especially significant for Isfahan's artistic and commercial development, as the city became an important center for the production and exchange of Persian handicrafts.

Although Qalamkari flourished under the Safavids, it was during the Qajar period that Isfahan's printed textiles became especially well known. Their popularity extended beyond decorative applications, with different fabrics serving as garments, tablecloths, curtains and large wall hangings.

Some pieces featured repeating floral and geometric patterns, while others incorporated elaborate figurative compositions. In the latter, the fabric became a surface for storytelling, bringing together characters, landscapes and historical or religious episodes.

**When fabric became a storytelling medium**

One particularly interesting aspect of Iranian Qalamkari is its ability to communicate narratives through images.

A number of historical examples preserved in international museum collections demonstrate that these textiles were not always intended merely as household decorations. Some depicted scenes from Persian heroic literature, while others illustrated religious beliefs and historical events.

The Weltmuseum Wien (Vienna's World Museum), for instance, houses several examples of Iranian printed and painted textiles attributed to Isfahan and dating from the 19th century.

One of them is a cotton wall hanging from the mid-19th century, during the Qajar period, measuring 176 centimeters in height and 116 centimeters in width. Originally part of the collection of Austria's Museum of Trade, the piece features a variety of traditional Iranian motifs, including scenes inspired by Persian epic stories, floral compositions, cypress trees emerging from vases and animal figures.

Another notable example, titled The Day of Judgment, is a late-19th-century cotton wall hanging attributed to Isfahan. Combining printing and hand painting, it depicts scenes associated with the Day of Resurrection from a Shiite religious perspective, including references to the Battle of Karbala and the fate of its martyrs and opponents.

The museum also preserves another late-Qajar textile, catalogued as a pictorial Qalamkari, which incorporates verses at-

tributed to the Persian poet Omar Khayyam. Its message reflects on the passage of time and the importance of appreciating life's fleeting moments.

Together, these works illustrate the remarkable range of subjects that Iranian textile artisans could accommodate within a single piece of fabric. They also demonstrate how Qalamkari could preserve aspects of Persian literary, historical and religious culture through visual storytelling.

**Challenges, decline and revival**

Like many traditional Iranian crafts, Qalamkari experienced significant challenges as economic conditions and international markets changed.

During the 19th century, the arrival of cheaper and, in some cases, higher-quality textiles from Britain and Russia made competition increasingly difficult for Isfahan's producers. According to Encyclopaedia Iranica, the quality and price of locally produced Qalamkari fabrics were not always competitive with imported alternatives.

To maintain production, some manufacturers began importing unfinished white textiles and printing their designs in Iran before selling the finished products. Although this helped sustain the industry for a time, it could not fully address its underlying difficulties.

**Keeping a living heritage alive**

Today, Qalamkari continues to be produced in Isfahan, where generations of artisans have worked to preserve the techniques and knowledge associated with the craft.

Its products include tablecloths, curtains, decorative wall hangings and other household textiles. While traditional floral, geometric and figurative designs remain popular, contemporary producers have also adapted their products to changing tastes and practical uses.

In 2023, Isfahan's Qalamkari received international recognition from the World Crafts Council, reflecting the craft's cultural significance and the city's continuing contribution to traditional textile production.

Isfahan is widely regarded as one of the crown jewels of Iran's handicraft industry, with artisans working to safeguard skills passed down from one generation to the next. Qalamkari represents an important part of this heritage, bringing together textile production, wood carving, color-making and visual design in a single artistic tradition.

For visitors to Isfahan, discovering Qalamkari offers an opportunity to look beyond the city's celebrated mosques, palaces, bridges and historic squares and explore another dimension of its cultural identity.

## Sassanid-era ossuary inscription discovered near Naqsh-e Rostam



TEHRAN – A newly identified Sassanid-era inscription has been discovered during recent archaeological surveys around Naqsh-e Rostam in Fars province, southern Iran, marking the "fifth ossuary-related inscription" documented in the latest investigations of the area.

Archaeologist and historian Abolhassan Atabaki announced the discovery, saying the three-line inscription dates to the late Sassanid period (224–651 CE) and was found in an area known as Darreh-ye Barre'i, also referred to as the Shahzadeh Esmail Rock, approximately 500 meters north of Naqsh-e Rostam, Jamaran news agency reported on Thursday.

Atabaki said the inscription is among five ossuary inscriptions identified during recent surveys around the ancient archaeological complex. Two of the five inscriptions were found in the Darreh-ye Barre'i area.

In that regard, historian and researcher Najmeh Ebrahimi said six Pahlavi inscriptions associated with ossuaries at the site had previously been identified and documented.

Photographic records of several of these inscriptions are preserved in the archives of the Smithsonian Institution, including images taken by German archaeologist Ernst Herzfeld, who documented archaeological remains in the area, the report said.

Although some of the previously recorded inscriptions have been examined in earlier studies, damage to the stones and the erosion of their inscriptions have made parts of the texts difficult to decipher, Ebrahimi said.

She added that recent investigations had led to the identification of two additional inscriptions in the area, both of which have suffered considerable damage. The inscription reported in the latest discovery is one of the newly documented examples.

Naqsh-e Rostam, situated near Persepolis in Fars province, is one of Iran's most significant archaeological sites, preserving monuments from different periods of ancient Iranian history.

# Environmental rangers honored for protecting natural heritage



TEHRAN – A ceremony was held on Thursday to mark National Environmental Ranger Day and honor the dedication, sacrifices, and vital role of environmental rangers in protecting the country's environment and natural resources.

President Masoud Pezeshkian and Head of the Department of Environment (DOE) Shina Ansari addressed the event.

Emphasizing the need to reform environmental management approaches, Pezeshkian said protecting natural resources requires balancing available resources with consumption, preventing environmental degradation, strengthening continuous monitoring, revising regulations, and encouraging public participation. He added that the government is responsible for safeguarding the country's natural assets and preventing their destruction.

The president described environmental rangers as being on the front lines of protecting the country's natural heritage, stressing that they should receive greater attention and support in recognition of their responsibilities, challenging working conditions, and services.

Pezeshkian also warned that wars, misguided actions, and destructive decisions are damaging the planet and threatening human life. He described environmental protection as an intergenerational responsibility, emphasizing that education is the first step toward preserving natural resources for future generations. He cautioned that once the Earth's natural resources are destroyed, restoring them to their original condition is far from easy.

Criticizing the benefits some developed countries derive from environmental degradation in developing nations, he said the consequences of such practices

are increasingly threatening the planet.

For her part, Ansari said more than 13 protected areas across the country had been damaged during recent wars, with ranger stations, equipment, vehicles, and wildlife also suffering losses.

She noted that, alongside their conservation duties, environmental rangers had worked during the wartime period in coordination with military and provincial authorities to defend the country's territorial integrity and continue protecting its natural assets.

Ansari also paid tribute to 154 environmental rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty over the years, adding that 374 others had been injured or sustained disabilities while carrying out conservation missions.

In September, Pezeshkian described environmental protection as a key pillar of the country's national and social security, stressing that the preservation of natural resources must be addressed within this framework.

Speaking at a meeting with environmental experts, Pezeshkian said the government was prepared to create the necessary conditions for using the plans, ideas and initiatives put forward by environmental activists and specialists.

He added that the government would support scientific and practical solutions for addressing the country's real environmental challenges, IRNA reported.

Pezeshkian emphasized that tackling environmental problems requires close cooperation among the government, universities, the private sector, civil society organizations and the public.

"This shared capacity must be used to move toward sustainable governance, balanced develop-



ment and the protection of the country's resources for future generations," he said.

The president also identified education and public awareness as key elements in reforming consumption patterns and protecting the environment.

"If we invest in properly educating the next generation, we are in fact investing in the future of the country," Pezeshkian said.

He warned that without educating children and teenagers from an early age about environmental protection, efficient use of water and electricity, energy management and social responsibility toward natural resources, future generations could repeat patterns of environmental degradation, even if significant resources are spent on environmental protection today.

Pezeshkian stressed that environmental awareness should begin at school, saying that teaching students how to use water, electricity, gas, and other natural resources responsibly should be incorporated into the educational and developmental process.

The Department of Environment has taken different steps to promote public participation in environmental protection.

Encouraging eco-friendly students, teaching environmental awareness courses in universities, developing a plan titled "skilled ranger soldier", and preparing guidelines for environmental protection are among the most important measures.

Over the past Iranian year, which ended on March 21, DOE mainly focused on enhancing formal and informal environmental education, developing public participation, utilizing the potential of new technologies, and promoting the culture of environmental protection, IRNA reported.

In the education sector, the

DOE designed a 'national environmental curriculum', and the first scientific-educational event based on a book titled 'Humans and the Environment' was held for teachers and eleventh-grade students at the national level. During the event, the provincial and national winners were honored.

A national plan for environmental helpers has also been implemented. About 20 percent of the elementary students are health ambassadors. Some 25 percent of them will join the national plan over five years. Currently, there are 11,000 environmental helpers at schools across the country. The plan has also empowered 7,258 elementary school principals and 6,051 elementary school health care providers so far.

Another initiative of the DOE is to offer environmental courses in all universities in the country. It was previously implemented on a pilot basis in 10 selected universities. In addition, the Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) major for the MA degree has been revised.

The DOE has developed two other plans. The first, titled 'skilled ranger soldier', aims to employ students in environmental protection stations, and the second one intends to train and empower local communities with the participation of environmental protection students.

In an effort to strengthen the participation of local communities in conserving nature, the DOE has approved seven natural areas to be protected by the public.

The initiative showcases national determination to conserve the country's environment and also opens a new prospect for people's contribution and the development of participatory governance in protecting the country's biodiversity.

## Iranian, Greek universities seek to beef up scientific ties

TEHRAN – A delegation from Greek universities has visited Shahid Beheshti University to explore ways to expand academic ties between the two countries.

The delegation visited the university on Wednesday and attended a scientific roundtable at the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, where Shahid Beheshti University Chancellor Mahmoud-Reza Aqamiri and Greek academic officials emphasized the importance of strengthening scientific, research, and educational cooperation.

During the meeting, the two sides explored areas for collaboration, including exchanges of professors and researchers, sharing expertise, conducting joint research and educational projects, and attracting students.

Underscoring the need to address human and legal dimensions of the war against Iran, the Greek delegation called for the expansion of scientific, interdisciplinary, and international cooperation to strengthen social justice and confront shared challenges.

Iranian academic officials, for their part,

emphasized the historical interactions between the two nations and stressed the need to address challenges, such as financial constraints, difficulties with travel, bank transactions, visa-related issues, and administrative obstacles, prior to developing joint scientific efforts.

Also, they suggested holding online meetings, publishing joint articles, promoting library cooperation, and implementing ongoing research projects as practical measures for the enhancement of academic ties between the two countries.

According to Aqamiri, Shahid Beheshti University would follow up on the implementation of the reached agreements and lay the basis for sustainable scientific interactions between the two sides.

### Iran ranks first in key scientific output among Islamic countries

Iran ranks first among Islamic nations in key fields of scientific output such as quantum science, cognitive sciences, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and advanced materials, the head of the Presidential Affairs Office at the Islamic World Science Citation

Center (ISC) announced in August.

The country is in close competition with Turkey and Saudi Arabia in these fields, IRNA quoted Saeed Bakhtiari as saying.

He made the remarks in a press briefing on August 17, noting that the development of science in these fields has also been emphasized in national development plans.

Based on the reputable Web of Science database, Iran ranks first among Islamic countries in scientific output in some of these fields, while placing second or third in others. Overall, however, Iran holds the top position, he said.

Bakhtiari noted that in advanced materials—a multidisciplinary field spanning physics, chemistry, mechanics and materials science—Iran ranks second among Islamic countries and ninth worldwide.

He added that Iran ranks third in artificial intelligence, behind Saudi Arabia and Turkey, while in quantum science it ranks second, after Saudi Arabia.

The ISC official further said that Iran holds the top position among Islamic countries in scientific output in cognitive sciences and



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Straight Truth

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## Iran attends World Young Scientist Summit 2026

TEHRAN – The head of the National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences has represented Iran at the World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS) 2026.

The event took place on October 24 and 25 in Wenzhou, China, ISNA reported.

Attending the WYSS Deep-Sea Resources and Environment Forum, Ali Mahdinia delivered a talk on 'Deep-Sea Natural Resources Survey in the Oman Sea: Experiences and Evidence', presenting Iran's scientific findings and research experiences in studying natural resources in the deep waters of the Sea of Oman. The official also elaborated on the country's research capacities in marine science.

The forum was held under the theme "Marching to the Deep and Distant Sea — Marine Resources Empowering the Blue Economy Future", bringing together young scientific and technological talents in the deep-sea field from more than 20 countries and regions to exchange views on key topics such as green development of deep-sea resources and ecological synergy.

Nearly 800 representatives, including scientists, educators, and entrepreneurs from more than 60 countries and regions, attended the World Association of Young Scientists.

With the theme "Gathering Talents Worldwide to Create a Better Future," the summit's annual agenda was "Global Youth Action in the AI Era: Building a Sustainable Future." It aimed to draw on the insights of young people around the world, deepen international sci-tech cooperation, and jointly address questions about young people, science, the world and the future.

This year's summit placed greater emphasis on the growth needs of young scientists, with young talents under the age of 45 accounting for 88 percent of participants.

It aimed to build a cluster of international journals, bring together young scientific talent, facilitate a batch of international collaborative projects and advance the application and commercialization of scientific and technological achievements.

### Iran deepens scientific ties with China through new ocean research pact

In November 2025, Iran's National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Science signed a cooperation agreement with the Second Institute of Oceanography of China's Ministry of Natural Resources, aiming to expand joint research in deep-sea studies under the framework of Iran's BRICS membership.

According to Mahdinia, the memorandum was designed to strengthen scientific and technological collaboration between the two sides as part of Iran's active participation in the BRICS "Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology."

He said the agreement included joint deep-sea research projects, scientific and technological events, exchange of professors, researchers and students, shared ac-

cess to research facilities, and the exchange of scientific data, books and journals.

"The agreement builds on Iran's integration into the expanded BRICS group, whose members include Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Indonesia, Bolivia and Nigeria," he added.

### Iranian scholars dispatched to Chinese scientific centers via TYSP

The Iran-China Talented Young Scientist Program (TYSP) has so far facilitated the dispatch of 71 Iranian scholars to the top Chinese scientific center to conduct research, laying the groundwork for expanding scientific and research cooperation between the two countries.

The TYSP is an international mobility scheme funded by the Chinese government aimed at cultivating future leading scientists, together with other countries.

According to the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, the two countries started the young scientists exchange program in 2017, IRNA reported.

The program, which includes scholarships and financial support from Chinese universities, as well as educational and research institutes, came to a halt following the Covid-19 pandemic. The program restarted in October 2024.

The new edition of the Iran-China TYSP, announced in January 2025, opened up 53 opportunities for young scientists from the two countries.

The majority of Iranian applicants are associate professors or those with higher degrees, and the rest are selected among faculty members and researchers.

TYSP offers sponsorship for talented young scientists from other countries to work in China on a full-time basis for 6 or 12 months together with China's team; the Ministry of Science and Technology of China has allocated 12,500 yuan per month to support the implementation of research activities of the young talented scientists in China.

Iranian scholars are primarily working with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Tongji University, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and China Agricultural University.

Agricultural sciences and plant protection, earth sciences and natural hazard management, physics and optics, mathematics and computer science, materials science and engineering, energy, and bioinformatics are among the most important scientific fields in the TYSP program.

TYSP promotes cross-border exchanges of excellent young scientists, scholars, and researchers. The program also enhances cooperation among research institutes, universities, and enterprises.

When the program is over, participant will receive a TYSP Certificate based on their performance evaluation.

materials. Numerous prestigious Iranian universities and institutions are included in international rankings. These accomplishments underscore the country's scientific capabilities, IRIB quoted Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf as saying, addressing the 7th Turkey Educational Technologies Summit (known as TETZ 2026), held in Istanbul from June 26 to 28.

Iran serves as a great opportunity to invest in higher education and modern technologies. The country has one of the largest higher education systems in the region, with more than three million students and over seventy thousand faculty members and researchers.

Highlighting that the rapid development of emerging technologies, including AI, is fundamentally transforming human relationships and higher education systems around the world at an unprecedented pace, Simaei-Sarraf said that effective use of smart technologies requires the establishment of a system based on algorithmic transparency, educational justice, accountability, protection of learners' rights, and responsible data governance.



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## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*The greeting is rewarded the worth of seventy good deeds, sixty-nine of which are rewarded to the initiator and one to the reciprocator [of the greeting].*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:29 Dawn: 5:01 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:26 (tomorrow)

## First exhibition addressing comic art held in Gaza



Participants in the “Light in the Shadow” exhibition for comic art in Gaza unanimously agreed on the ability of this innovative art to highlight the Palestinian narrative and embody the complex crises experienced by the Strip, confirming that the continuation of creativity near destroyed centers proves the vitality of the Palestinian cultural scene and defeats attempts to erase it.

The General Union of Cultural Centers, with the support of the Abdul Mohsen Qattan Foundation, held the fifth showing of the “Light in the Shadow” exhibition for a group of emerging artists whose paintings embodied comic art for the first time in the Gaza Strip in Palestine, in the Journalists’ Solidarity Tent at the Rashad Al-Shawa Center, Jinha Agency reported.

Artist Rufaida Sahloul, organizer of the “Light in the Shadow” exhibition, explained that this event presents comic art — illustrated stories that combine drawing and text in an organized manner — for the first time in Gaza, noting that previous attempts in this field, which dates back to the 1960s, were limited to individual efforts.

She said that the exhibition comes as a result of a series of specialized training workshops in comic arts and “video art,” and witnesses the participation of 16 male and female artists from emerging talents. She noted that this showing represents an innovative platform that allows expression with simple artistic tools about prominent humanitarian, national, and social issues, with the aim of highlighting the Palestinian narrative through visual arts, and embodying the precise details captured by the artist’s eye.

She confirmed that comic art needs exorbitant tools and costs and modern and broad methods, but she tried to simplify all of that according to what the besieged Strip allows. She noted that the choice of location for the exhibition has great significance as it is near the Rashad Al-Shawa Cultural Center, which was destroyed by Israeli forces, to send a message to the world that the Palestinian cultural scene is still alive and that Palestinian youth are capable of creativity despite all attempts at erasure.

For her part, artist Basma Awad noted that her participation in the “Light in the Shadow” exhibition represents her first experience in comic art. Despite possessing a rich record of paintings that embodied

the resilience and sacrifices of Palestinian women using acrylic and charcoal, she sees her current experience as completely different, as it enabled her to raise issues in a simplified and direct style that dispenses with explanation, without having to interpret her intentions to the recipient, as the texts accompanying the drawings made the painting speak for itself.

She explains that comic art differs from other visual arts, as it requires a longer time to crystallize and arrange the idea, while an artist can begin drawing a traditional painting before its idea has fully matured. “The difficulty of this art lies in the intertwining problems that the Strip suffers from. Everyone who saw her painting interacted with it greatly and expressed strong admiration for it, which made her expect an increase in demand for learning comics and adopting it as a tool to convey the voice of Gazan society in the coming days.”

For her part, artist Reem Al-Yazji says that she participated in the exhibition with a painting titled “An Eye That Sees What You Do Not See,” which depicts the youth category in the Strip who lived through the war and the fear, destruction, and lack of resources that followed, yet still insist on offering the best, changing the bleak image, and rebuilding the city covered in gray and destruction everywhere.

Reem Al-Yazji turned to comic art because visual scenes give the viewer a chronological sequence that transports them to the beginning of the problem and its details, while a visual painting may require the artist to explain it to the audience. She added that she faced several difficulties in finding the idea, especially since her painting was originally a visual painting, but the support she received from her family and friends made her work on the idea and transform it into comics.

For her part, artist Marwa Shabt says that she participated in the exhibition with two works: the first “Inside Me Is Light” and the second “It Was Just a Game,” to convey the idea of a kite turning into a dangerous threat that brings down Israel, expressing the anger of children who were prevented from importing toys from abroad, so they replaced them with nylon bags and made a simple toy that flies in the air. But that joy was soon killed and turned into a means of death for anyone who opposes the decision, along with his entire surrounding square.

# 19th International Resistance Film Festival kicks off

TEHRAN – The opening ceremony of the 19th International Resistance Film Festival was held on Thursday in Isfahan.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Jalal Ghaffari Ghadir, the secretary of the 19th festival, stated: “In its first 11 editions, the Resistance Film Festival was known as the Sacred Defense Festival. Starting from the 12th edition, two developments occurred: first, the addition of the international section, and second, the semantic evolution and upgrade of ‘Sacred Defense Cinema’ to ‘Resistance Cinema.’”

“Let us not forget that the Resistance Film Festival emerged from the heart of war and the Sacred Defense. An important feature of this current edition is that it is being held amidst active conflict, and the developments we have witnessed in the two recent wars have made its significance even more distinct,” ILNA reported him as saying.

“Understanding resistance cinema stems from understanding the concept of resistance. Before any nation fights, it decides not to be defeated. This is the beginning of resistance. The task of resistance cinema is to reconstruct that very conviction which must be believed and trusted before the bullet and the rifle. The job of resistance cinema is not merely to record memories, but to generate belief,” Ghaffari added.



“A heroic nation loves to see the image of its resistance and might reflected in the mirror of resistance cinema. If cinema speaks solely of defeat, we will fail even if we possess elite military forces. Of course, resistance cinema must distance itself from slogan-driven approaches and, alongside depicting the suffering of war, speak of joy and hope,” he noted.

“In this 19th edition, we have witnessed several special developments. The first indicator is the broad participation of countries from around the world. More than 109 countries submitted works to this festival, and the presence of over 1,900 international works demonstrates the global capacity of resistance cinema. The Resistance Film Festival takes pride in this distinct semantic identity,”

the secretary underlined.

During the opening ceremony of the 19th Resistance Film Festival, top works in several sections were honored.

The 19th International Resistance Film Festival is held under the auspices of the Revolution and Sacred Defense Cinema Society.

Resistance Cinema seeks to preserve human dignity by portraying the sacrifices of peoples, defending truth, and standing against oppression and domination, while bringing stories that have been less heard or seen to audiences around the world.

With nearly four decades of history, the Resistance International Film Festival is an artistic and cinematic platform dedicated to promoting a spirit of resistance, awareness, and solidarity among

the free peoples of the world.

The festival aims to discover new talents, strengthen the movement of Resistance Cinema, and foster connections among filmmakers and artists from around the world.

The 19th edition of the festival, with an international outlook, focuses on concepts including resistance, freedom, justice, human dignity, peace, hope, and progress. It seeks to present a contemporary, diverse, and vibrant perspective on Resistance Cinema and the human stories associated with it.

In this edition, resistance is not understood solely as resistance on the battlefield or in times of war. Rather, it is viewed as a broader concept encompassing human resistance against oppression, occupation, discrimination, violence, domination, and oblivion; a resistance to preserve truth, identity, freedom, human dignity, and hope for the future.

Beyond being a film festival, the event is a cultural endeavor aimed at fostering dialogue among nations and filmmakers around the world and taking a step toward the realization of justice, freedom, peace, and human dignity.

The screening of festival films began on Friday at Mellat Cineplex in Tehran and will run until November 4.

## Reading of Bahram Beyzaie’s ‘Arash’ to be held in Tehran

TEHRAN- A staged reading of “Arash,” a play by acclaimed Iranian playwright and filmmaker Bahram Beyzaie, will be held at Neauphle-le-Château Theater Hall in Tehran on Saturday, October 31.

Directed by Morteza Sabahi and produced by Davoud Namvar, the event is organized by the Qalamro theater group and will feature a cast of actors accompanied by a live music ensemble, Mehr reported.

The production draws on Beyzaie’s work, which takes its title from Arash, a legendary archer in Iranian mythology whose sacrifice is associated with the defense of the homeland and the determination of its people.

The staged reading cast includes Mohammad Hossein Navai, Kasra Farahnak, Soheil Semyari, Nastaran Zeynali, Kimia Akbari, Aida Berenji, Maryam Kamali, Shiva Bahrapour, Saba Jafari, Sogand Dadar, and Amir Farazi.

The musical ensemble will be led by Ehsan Samani-Manesh, who will also perform percussion and other musical instruments. Kamancheh player Mehrpad Zahmatkesh will join the group, providing live musical accompaniment to the reading.

Arash, known in Persian mythology as Arash-e Kamangir, is one of the most celebrated heroic figures in Iranian cultural tradition. His story has been preserved in different forms in Persian literature and mythology and has come to symbolize self-sacrifice, courage

and devotion to the homeland.

According to the best-known version of the legend, Iran and Turan have been engaged in a devastating war. After years of conflict, the two sides agree to settle their dispute by determining a new boundary. The agreement requires an Iranian archer to shoot an arrow, with the point where the arrow lands becoming the border between the two lands.

Arash is chosen for the task.

The legend presents the challenge as far more than an ordinary feat of archery. Arash is required to put all his strength into a single shot, knowing that the act will cost him his life. He climbs to a high mountain and prepares to release the arrow. In one of the most famous images associated with the legend, Arash’s entire strength and vitality are said to enter the arrow as he shoots it toward the horizon.

The arrow travels an extraordinary distance before finally landing, establishing the border and bringing an end to the conflict. Arash, however, dies after completing his mission, having sacrificed himself for the survival and territorial integrity of his homeland.

This element of sacrifice lies at the heart of the legend. Arash does not fight for personal glory or wealth. His heroism comes from accepting a responsibility that requires him to give everything he has for the sake of others.

The story has consequently acquired a symbolic significance far beyond the act of shoot-

ing an arrow. Arash has become an embodiment of the idea that the fate of a nation can sometimes depend on the courage and sacrifice of an individual. His story also connects personal choice with collective responsibility, making the ancient legend relevant to later generations.

Arash’s story has been particularly influential in Persian poetry and modern Iranian literature. Writers and poets have repeatedly returned to the character, interpreting his sacrifice in different historical and political contexts. The image of the arrow traveling across the land has also become a powerful metaphor for hope, determination and the possibility of shaping the future through individual action.

Unlike some mythological heroes whose stories revolve around conquest, Arash’s defining act is one of giving. He wins not by defeating an enemy in combat, but by making the ultimate personal sacrifice to bring an end to war and protect his people.

Beyzaie, who is widely recognized for drawing on Iranian mythology, history and folklore in his dramatic works, has frequently reinterpreted traditional narratives to examine questions of identity, collective memory and the relationship between the past and the present. His writing combines elements of ancient Iranian traditions with modern theatrical language, giving familiar legends new dramatic and intellectual dimensions.

## Special dubbed version of ‘East of Eden’ went on screen in Tehran

TEHRAN- A special version of Elia Kazan’s classic drama “East of Eden,” featuring an Iranian dub from the golden age of film dubbing in the country, was screened at Tehran’s Arasbaran Cultural Center on Wednesday.

The screening was followed by an analytical discussion with Amir Qaderi, editor-in-chief of the Iranian film website Cafe Cinema, offering audiences an opportunity to revisit the 1955 American film and discuss its themes, performances and place in cinema history.

Based on the novel of the same name by American author John Steinbeck, “East of Eden” is one of the best-known works associated with actor James Dean. The film, directed by Kazan and released in 1955, explores family conflict, sibling rivalry and the struggle for parental acceptance against the backdrop of California’s Salinas Valley in the early 20th century.

The program at Arasbaran Cultural Center is part of an initiative to present notable works of world

cinema to Iranian audiences. Its emphasis on a high-quality Persian-dubbed version also highlights the country’s longstanding tradition of film dubbing, which has played an important role in introducing international cinema to generations of moviegoers.

“East of Eden” follows Cal Trask, a troubled young man who struggles to win the affection and approval of his father, Adam. Cal feels that his father favors his brother Aron, whose more conventional behavior makes him appear to be the preferred son. The brothers’ contrasting personalities and their competition for their father’s love drive much of the drama.

As the story unfolds, Cal attempts to prove his worth and gain recognition, but his efforts are complicated by family secrets and the emotional distance between him and his father. His relationship with Aron becomes increasingly strained, while the brothers’ encounters with Abra, Aron’s girlfriend, add another dimension to their rivalry.

The film draws on biblical themes, particularly the story of Cain and Abel, to examine jealousy, moral responsibility and the possibility of choosing a different path from the one expected of an individual. Through Cal’s struggle, the narrative raises questions about whether people are defined by their family circumstances and past experiences or can exercise control over their own choices.

Kazan’s adaptation does not simply reproduce the novel’s family saga. Instead, it concentrates on a portion of Steinbeck’s story, bringing the emotional conflict between Cal and Adam to the forefront. This focus allows the film to explore the need for parental recognition and the lasting effects of rejection on a young person’s sense of identity.

The film’s historical significance is also reflected in its awards. It received the Best Dramatic Film award at the 1955 Cannes Film Festival and won the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture – Drama in 1956. At the Academy Awards ceremony that

year, Jo Van Fleet won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Kate, Cal and Aron’s mother. The film also received nominations for Best Actor for Dean, Best Director for Kazan and Best Writing (Screenplay) for Paul Osborn.

Dean’s performance as Cal became a defining moment in his brief career. His emotionally intense portrayal of a young man seeking acceptance helped establish his lasting image as one of the most memorable actors of 1950s Hollywood. “East of Eden” was his first major film role, and his performance brought a distinctive sense of vulnerability and rebellion to the character.

Kazan, meanwhile, was known for directing films that examined personal struggles alongside wider social issues. His approach to performance and character psychology made him one of the influential filmmakers of American cinema, with works such as “A Streetcar Named Desire” and “On the Waterfront” also earning significant critical recognition.