

America's next battlefield innovation: preparing the graves before the war

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN - America's military supremacy apparently comes with a new logistical priority: making sure there are enough graves when the bombs stop falling. As Washington continues to promise victory in its next great confrontation, the US Army is busy rehearsing how to bury the casualties. One wonders whether Americans were ever told this was part of the plan. ► [Page 3](#)

Can the US wage a swift military operation against Iran?

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN - Israeli media are still trying to determine whether Trump favored Netanyahu ahead of the Knesset elections or sought to contain him.

That question has sharpened when Trump publicly endorsed Netanyahu just nine days before the vote, prompting pundits to ask why the U.S. president intervened at such a delicate moment, and whether the backing was genuine.

By then, voters had already made their choice of candidate, raising further questions about why the president weighed in when he did. ► [Page 5](#)

Washington's shrinking room for maneuver in West Asia

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON - The current situation is too complex to be summarized in a few brief points, as what is unfolding goes far beyond a direct military confrontation between the United States and Israel on one side, and Iran and its allies on the other.

We are witnessing shifts in the balance of power, the instruments of pressure, the future of the American presence in West Asia, and the nature of the regional order that may emerge once the war on Iran comes to an end.

When referring to the Axis of Resistance at this stage, the focus is primarily on the forces actively engaged in the confrontation, foremost among them the Islamic Republic of Iran, alongside Yemen. Judging by the course of the war, the performance of these forces has exceeded expectations, and the axis is now in a position to secure additional gains. Such gains do not necessarily depend on achieving a swift military victory, but rather on managing the confrontation in a way that exhausts the enemy's options and progressively narrows its room for maneuver. ► [Page 5](#)

'Opportunities for joint agricultural cooperation with Africa available'

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezjelreh, addressed the First National Meeting on Iran-Africa Agricultural Cooperation, stressing that opportunities for joint agricultural cooperation with Africa are available and must be converted into concrete, operational, and lasting economic ties.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors, economic counselors, honorary consuls, officials from executive bodies, economic associations, entrepreneurs, investors, and more than 200 economic actors. The minister said this broad participation provided a valuable opportunity to translate the political will for expanding Iran-Africa relations into specific projects and durable economic partnerships. ► [Page 5](#)



Immediate, Effective, With No Geographical Limitation

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, Commander-in-Chief, in meeting with senior military commanders, lays out Iran's strategy for response to enemy's possible next attack

Araghchi: Iran has no plans for talks with US until its conditions are met

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Iran has no plans to hold talks with the United States under the current circumstances, stressing that Tehran will consider direct or indirect negotiations only after Washington accepts its conditions.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Araghchi discussed the latest diplomatic efforts, a message conveyed by US Vice President JD Vance, proposals put forward by regional mediators, Iran's conditions regarding the Strait of Hormuz, and the country's military preparedness amid the possibility of renewed confrontation. ► [Page 2](#)

International artists and intellectuals call for protection of Iranian civilians

TEHRAN — A group of artists, writers, academics and cultural figures from various countries has called for the protection of Iranian civilians and unrestricted access to humanitarian assistance, stressing that ordinary people must not bear the cost of political and military objectives.

In a collective opinion article published by the French newspaper Le Monde on October 27, the signatories expressed deep concern over the consequences of the war in Iran, which resumed in September, and its growing impact on civilian populations.

"Whatever our political views, we believe that civilians must not be the ones to bear the heaviest burden of war," the statement said. ► [Page 2](#)

Iranian army warns US against renewed military adventurism, says war could spread across region

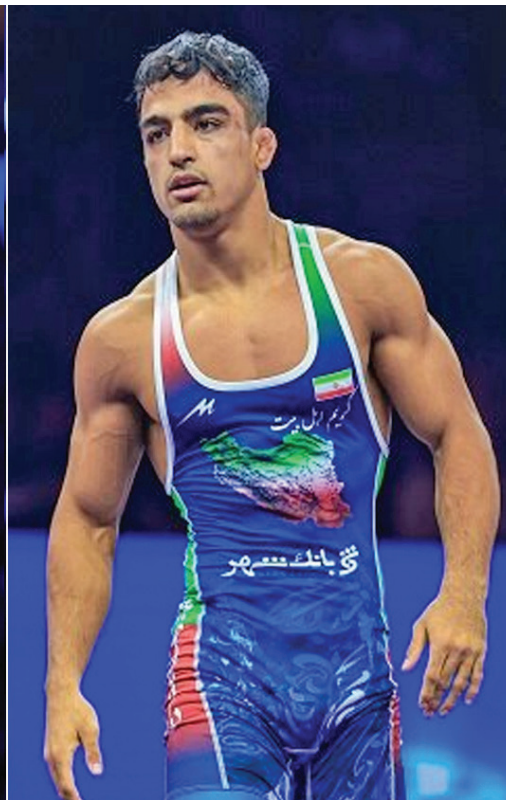
TEHRAN — Iranian Army Spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia has warned the United States against launching another military adventure in the region, stressing that any renewed aggression would expand the geographical scope of war and its consequences would not remain under Washington's control. ► [Page 3](#)

ICOMOS continues evaluation of Masuleh's UNESCO World Heritage nomination

TEHRAN - The evaluation of Masuleh and its cultural landscape for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List is continuing, with an international expert from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) conducting field assessments and attending specialist meetings on the Iranian town's architectural, archaeological, ecological and socio-economic heritage.

The ongoing assessment in Gilan province, northern Iran, examines different aspects of Masuleh and its surrounding landscape, including its physical fabric, ecological characteristics, local livelihoods, social structures and management practices, according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

The program includes field inspections and discussions with university professors, researchers and heritage specialists, focusing on safeguarding the town's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) while ensuring its long-term conservation and sustainable development. ► [Page 6](#)



Zare, Javan win golds at 2026 World Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN — Iranian freestyle wrestlers Ahmad Javan and Amirhossein Zare won two gold medals at the 2026 World Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan on Saturday.

Javan defeated Russian Zaur Uguev 9-2 in the men's freestyle 61kg final.

On his way to the final, Javan defeated Indian wrestler Nikhi 10-9 in the Round of 16 before beating Marcus Blaze from the U.S. 3-2 and Kazakhstan's Assyl Aitakyn 3-1.

In the men's 125kg freestyle competition, heavyweight Zare dominated Russia's Abdulla Kurbanov 11-0 in the final to secure the title. ► [Page 6](#)

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Regional agreement and threat of a joint response

Donya-e-Eqtasad discussed the unexpected visit of Khalid bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's defense minister, to Tehran. As concerns grow over a possible renewal of war between Iran and the United States, Saudi Arabia is trying to influence Tehran's calculations through a mix of economic incentives, political proposals, and security warnings. Riyadh's message was that if Iran accepts certain concessions that could facilitate an agreement with Washington, Saudi Arabia and other regional states would be willing to discuss a broader regional security arrangement with Tehran. At the same time, Saudi officials reportedly warned that if Iran rejects this path and attacks against Arab Persian Gulf countries resume, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan would be prepared to respond within the framework of the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement. The importance of the message lies less in any direct military threat and more in Riyadh's attempt to combine incentives with deterrence. In this view, Tehran faces a choice between greater participation in regional security structures and the possibility of stronger pressure from neighboring countries.

Jam-e-Jam: Cost of the illusion of victory

Jam-e-Jam analyzed what it described as Trump's strategic deadlock and continued rhetoric. Trump still relies on telling fake stories to support his political position and divert attention from setbacks. However, evidence suggests that military and political leaders in the United States, Europe, and the region have concluded that any new conflict could have very different dimensions and unpredictable consequences. The paper notes that Iranian officials have warned that a future response would not necessarily be limited to military targets and could extend to critical infrastructure, communication cables, and data networks. It also points to calls for diplomacy, including proposals for regional meetings and European interest in renewed negotiations with Iran. These developments indicate a growing recognition that threats and displays of power may reflect concern rather than strength. The future political and security order of the region cannot be shaped without considering Iran's role and influence.

Arman-e-Melli: Oman's warning to US and Israel

Arman-e-Melli focused on energy concerns related to the Strait of Hormuz. The newspaper wrote that many recent efforts by Arab countries regarding negotiations between Iran and the United States are closely connected to energy security and regional stability. Iranian officials have repeatedly stated that tensions surrounding the strait emerged as a consequence of attacks against Iran. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi previously warned that any military escalation encouraged by Israel could

have serious consequences for international energy markets and remain a major concern for both energy exporters and consumers. Some observers believe that Netanyahu could seek greater regional pressure following domestic political developments, possibly with support from Washington. Against this backdrop, Badr Al Busaidi, Oman's foreign minister, publicly warned against any new military adventure in the region and urged the United States and Israel to avoid further escalation. The article concludes by questioning whether such warnings and diplomatic efforts by regional states can help reduce tensions and prevent another crisis.

Hamshahri: Iran damaged Trump's popularity

Hamshahri examined significant decline in Trump's popularity both inside the United States and internationally. The conflict involving Iran has been one of the major factors contributing to a worsening perception of America over recent months. Public confidence in both the United States and its president has weakened noticeably. Increasing criticism of Washington's policies, dissatisfaction with unilateral decision-making, and continued interventionist approaches are presented as evidence of a widening gap between America's claims of global leadership and the way its actions are perceived. According to the newspaper, this decline reflects a broader loss of credibility for the image the United States has long promoted, namely that of a defender of freedom, democracy, and international order.

Ettelaat: US elections and their impact on war with Iran

Ettelaat discussed the possible impact of tensions with Iran on American politics and the midterm elections which will be held on Nov. 3. The newspaper argued that one major difference between these elections and many previous contests is the direct influence of the conflict on the domestic political environment. The first effect identified is increased economic pressure on voters. The second is growing public debate about the necessity and objectives of military intervention. Many Americans remain skeptical about becoming involved in another prolonged conflict in the Middle East. A third consequence, according to the paper, is the more challenging political position facing Trump. If Democrats gain stronger representation in Congress, pressure on the administration to explain the costs, objectives, and long-term strategy of the conflict could increase. Nevertheless, the article notes that the president retains significant authority in foreign affairs. Therefore, even changes in congressional control would not automatically lead to the end of tensions or an immediate shift in Washington's policy toward Iran.

Canada's support for UAE claim to Iranian islands violates UN Charter, Tehran says

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei has condemned Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's support for the United Arab Emirates' claim to three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, describing Ottawa's position as a blatant contradiction and a violation of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

This is the second statement by the Foreign Ministry spokesperson condemning Canada's move to interfere in Iran's internal affairs.

On October 29, Baqaei also issued a statement condemning Ottawa's interference, albeit in different terms.

In a post on X early Saturday, Baqaei rejected Canada's backing of the UAE's unfounded claim to the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb.

"The UAE was established in 1971. Yet, despite the overwhelming historical record, geographical facts, and documented evidence concerning Abu Musa and the Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, it lays claim to these IRANIAN islands whose history of being part of IRAN stretches back many millennia before the establishment of the federation it-

self," he wrote.

Baqaei said Canada, more than most countries, should understand the importance of respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity, given its own historical experience.

He cited the US invasion of Canada during the War of 1812, the Montreal Annexation Manifesto of 1849, and, more recently, US President Donald Trump's remarks about making Canada the "51st state" of the United States.

Against that backdrop, the Iranian spokesman questioned the consistency of Ottawa's position, asking whether respect for territorial integrity and historical and legal facts was a fundamental principle for Canada or one it upheld only when its own sovereignty was at stake.

He described Canada's support for the UAE position as deeply contradictory, arguing that a country that has defended its territorial integrity for centuries should not endorse an 'unfounded territorial claim' against another nation.

Such a stance, Baqaei warned, amounted to "sawing off the very branch on which it sits."

Araghchi: Iran has no plans for talks with US until its conditions are met

From page 1 ► He said the message sent by Vance had been carefully reviewed and discussed at high-level meetings in Iran. Araghchi described the initiative to open a channel for dialogue as a positive development, but warned that Washington would be making another mistake if it sought to exploit the initiative to create divisions within Iran.

"The American side's attempt to open the door to dialogue and broader understanding is a positive step," he said, adding that if the purpose was to sow discord, it would amount to another mistake by the United States.

Araghchi rejected speculation about an imminent meeting between Iranian and American officials, saying no such meeting was currently planned and that media reports on the matter did not reflect Tehran's position.

"We see no need to meet with the Americans at present," he said, emphasizing that Iran's conditions were clear and that regional mediators were continuing their consultations on the basis of those conditions. He added that Iran would decide whether any future negotiations should be held directly or indirectly only after the United States agreed to its demands.

Mediators continue diplomatic consultations

Araghchi said regional mediators were continuing their efforts to facilitate an understanding between Tehran and Washington. He noted that Qatar and Pakistan remained involved in the consultations and



that an Iranian official had traveled to Qatar to pursue discussions.

"My aide is currently in Qatar to continue consultations," he said.

The foreign minister also referred to proposals submitted by mediators concerning Iran's nuclear program, saying Tehran was examining them as part of the second phase of the diplomatic process. Addressing Iran's relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Araghchi said a considerable distance remained before cooperation with the agency could return to normal.

He stressed that Iran remains a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and is committed to fulfilling its obligations under the treaty. Iran's position on its nuclear commitments, he indicated, should be considered separately from the current difficulties surrounding cooperation with the IAEA.

Iran sets conditions for reopening Strait of Hormuz

Araghchi also outlined Iran's po-

posal concerning the Strait of Hormuz, explaining that discussions with Qatari mediators had led to a significant reduction in the proposed implementation period.

He said the Qatari side had initially suggested a five-day period for implementing the proposal, but subsequent consultations had reduced the timeframe to two days.

The Iranian proposal includes several conditions, among them the lifting of sanctions imposed following the Islamabad memorandum, a reduction in the US military presence in the region, the restoration of oil waivers and the release of all Iranian frozen assets, including those held in Qatar.

Araghchi also emphasized that reopening the strategic waterway would require recognition of a new shipping route established by Iran in coordination with Oman, as well as the closure of other routes.

He made clear that the arrangements for maritime traffic through the strait were an essential part of

Iran's proposal and that the reopening process would have to take account of the new route and the understandings reached between Iran and Oman.

The foreign minister further stressed that Tehran sought an end to the war and the cessation of hostilities across all fronts, including Lebanon. He said efforts to end the conflict should not be confined to one front while fighting continued elsewhere in the region.

Iran prepared for all possible scenarios

Turning to the prospect of renewed military confrontation, Araghchi said Iran was not ruling out the possibility of another war and was prepared for all scenarios.

"We do not rule out any possibility regarding the outbreak of war, and we are prepared for all scenarios," he said. He explained that Iran had used the period following the previous confrontation to strengthen its military capabilities, upgrade its equipment, address vulnerabilities and test new weapons.

Araghchi stressed that the country's armed forces were at the highest level of readiness and that Iran was fully prepared to respond to any renewed military action.

He also acknowledged the impact of US economic pressure on Iran, but insisted that such pressure would not force the country to surrender or abandon its positions.

"We will continue to stand firm and resist, and we will overcome this difficult phase through our own capabilities," he said.

International artists and intellectuals call for protection of Iranian civilians

From page 1 ► The signatories urged all parties involved in the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and ensure that military and political measures do not deprive civilians of food, medicine, fuel and other essential supplies.

They also stressed that humanitarian assistance must remain accessible to those in need.

The appeal, which brings together prominent figures from the worlds of literature, cinema, philosophy, academia and the arts, explicitly distinguishes its humanitarian message from political or military endorsements.

"This appeal does not constitute support for any government, political movement or military force," the statement said, describing its purpose as the protection of human life and the dignity of ordinary people.

The signatories emphasized that the Iranian people, like all civilians affected by armed conflict, must not be made to pay the price for political and military objectives.

They called for the protection of civilians, the prevention of further suffering, and respect for the fundamental value of human life.

Among the signatories are Iranian-American historian Ervand Abrahamian, Iranian scholar Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, Nobel laureates Annie Ernaux and J. M. Coetzee, German filmmaker Fatih Akin, American author Jonathan Franzen, Indian-born American author Jhumpa Lahiri and Indian artist Anish Kapoor.

The statement also bears the signatures of Iranian journalist and writer Rozhin Hosseini, Iranian writer Karim Nikoonazar and Iranian-Ameri-



can historian Golnar Nikpour.

The collective appeal comes amid renewed hostilities between Iran and the United States, highlighting the importance of safeguarding civilian lives and ensuring that humanitarian needs remain separate from political and military considerations.

VP orders formation of five specialized committees to prepare for ECO summit in Tehran

TEHRAN — First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref has ordered the formation of five specialized committees, covering cultural, tourism, diplomatic, economic, and political affairs, to coordinate preparations for hosting the upcoming summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran at the highest possible level.

Aref issued the directive on Saturday, October 31, during a meeting on preparations for the summit, emphasizing that the gathering should serve as an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation and restore the ECO to its appropriate position among regional organizations.

He said expanding engagement and relations with neighboring and regional countries was a key strategy of the administration, particularly President Masoud Pezeshkian, adding that Iran had made considerable progress in this regard.

According to Aref, Iran's growing engagement with regional countries reflects both the president's approach to foreign relations and the performance of government institutions, as well as the readiness of regional nations to expand cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Referring to Iran's participation in regional organizations and economic groupings, the first vice president said the country had established an active and effective presence in institutions such as the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

He noted that Iran's position within these organizations had improved considerably compared with previous years, with more substantive engagement and cooperation taking shape among member states.

Aref also stressed the importance of hosting the ECO summit in Tehran, saying Iran's experience in organizing regional and international gatherings had demonstrated that the country achieved significant diplomatic successes when serving as host. Officials from participating countries, he added, had generally left such meetings with a positive impression of Iran, with the benefits of the country's hosting efforts continuing to be reflected in subsequent regional gatherings.

ECO summit an opportunity to revive regional cooperation

Addressing the organization's performance, Aref expressed concern that the ECO, initially established through the cooperation of Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye, had not fulfilled its regional potential despite expanding to 10 member states.

He said leaders of member countries also emphasized the need to broaden the organization's activities and strengthen cooperation so that the ECO could regain its appropriate standing in the region.

The first vice president pointed to

the growing bilateral relations among ECO members and their cooperation through other regional organizations, saying these developments had created favorable conditions for deeper collaboration within the ECO framework.

He emphasized that the member countries share extensive historical, cultural, and civilizational ties with Iran, providing a strong foundation for expanding regional partnerships.

Aref described the upcoming summit as an important opportunity to make up for shortcomings in the organization's performance over the past four decades and establish a clearer vision for its future.

He also noted that regional conditions had become more conducive to cooperation, with countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus and regions east of Iran showing greater readiness to expand relations with Tehran.

Five committees to coordinate summit preparations

Emphasizing the need for comprehensive and well-coordinated preparations, Aref said the summit's agenda and organizational arrangements should be developed according to clearly defined priorities.

He identified tourism, science and technology, cybersecurity and trade as important areas of cooperation among ECO member states, calling for particular attention to these sectors in the summit's planning and agenda.

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, Commander-in-Chief, in meeting with senior military commanders, lays out Iran’s strategy for response to enemy’s possible next attack

Immediate, effective, with no geographical limitation



TEHRAN — Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, the Leader and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, held a meeting with senior commanders of the Iranian Armed Forces, in which he laid out Iran's doctrine for responding to any renewed military or terrorist aggression.

During the meeting, the Commander-in-Chief emphasized that intelligent combat readiness for a powerful confrontation with enemies is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving maximum deterrence. He decreed that any level or type of threat must be met with an immediate, impactful, and geographically unrestricted response.

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei stated that should Iran's enemies resume military or terrorist attacks, it will be the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation that will determine when and under what conditions those attacks will end.

The Commander-in-Chief further underscored the need to strengthen military intelligence architecture, deepen indigenous defense capabilities in both “doctrine” and “tactics,” and enhance modernized defense and security capacities through the utilization of emerging technologies. He also highlighted the importance of strengthening spiritual foundations and the spirit of jihad, alongside unremitting efforts to meet the livelihood needs of Armed Forces personnel and provide them with the necessary support.

All US-Zionist assets within reach

In another directive, the Commander-in-Chief ordered the comprehensive updating of the military target database to ensure that all kinds of physical and non-physical assets of the US-Zionist enemy are brought within the reach of the Armed Forces.

He described nationwide support for the Armed Forces as one of the pillars of deterrence against anti-Iranian foreign powers and their domestic mercenaries. He added that the eight-month presence of a nation that has risen up in Iran's public squares is a continuation of the Eight-Year Sacred Defense, which, alongside the steadfastness of the military, police, and Basij forces, has protected, and will continue to protect, the territorial integrity of Iran and the Islamic system.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution expressed his appreciation for the intelligent steadfastness of the Resistance Front in various countries. He described the “unity of fronts” as a decisive factor with a strategic

impact on shaping the new political and security order in West Asia. He further expressed hope that this new order will increasingly lay the groundwork for unity among Muslim nations and governments and the formation of the New Islamic Civilization.

During the meeting with the Commander-in-Chief, Major General Abdollahi, Chief of the Joint Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, Major General Hatami, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and Major General Vahidi, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), presented reports on the high readiness status of the country's defenders along the Persian Gulf coast, in the operational areas of the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman, and along the country's northwestern and southeastern borders. They also briefed the Leader of the Islamic Revolution on the multi-fold increase in the production of various types of key munitions and reconnaissance, support, and combat weapons.

Expressing his satisfaction with the measures taken, the Commander-in-Chief asked the senior military commanders to convey his gratitude and profound appreciation to all military, police, and Basij forces, the personnel of these organizations, and the dedicated staff of the Ministry of Defense and their esteemed families.

NATO's admitted role and Iran's recorded protest

The doctrine of an unrestricted response comes against a documented record of direct and indirect foreign participation in the US-Israeli war against Iran launched on Feb. 28.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte has twice openly acknowledged the alliance's role in supporting the American operation, saying the United States would not have been able to carry out the operation without NATO and without Europe as a platform for projecting US power. Rutte said thousands of US military planes — up to 5,000 sorties — operated from bases in Europe during the war.

Iran reacted at the time through legal and diplomatic channels. Iran's ambassador and charge d'affaires to the United Nations, in a letter to the UN Secretary General and the Security Council, described Rutte's remarks as contrary to international law and the UN Charter. The Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that NATO and its member states, including Italy and Romania — whose roles in the illegal attacks were explicitly acknowledged by the NATO chief — must be held accountable for complicity in US-Israeli crimes

against Iran. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also called on European governments to clarify their role in the war.

The analytical conclusion in Tehran today is clear: there is no reason that when certain countries accompany the aggressors against Iran — by providing bases, airspace, fuel, intelligence, or political cover — they should remain immune from its military consequences. Responding to them is Iran's natural and legal right under the inherent right of self-defense. Any base or facility used to attack Iran is by definition a legitimate military target, and its geographic location does not grant it immunity.

Europe counts €100 billion cost of cheering the war

The price of that accompaniment is now being counted in Europe itself. Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Friday in Seoul:

“We now have costs exceeding €100 billion for Europe alone over the last eight months, solely because of the increase in energy prices caused by this conflict. More than €100 billion extra has been paid by businesses and consumers in Europe because energy has become more expensive as a result of this conflict. We have an economic interest in bringing this conflict to an end as quickly as possible.”

Merz added that the conflict cannot be resolved militarily and that Berlin was intensifying diplomatic efforts.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi responded on X:

“When Israel-US bombings of Iran began last year, Mr. Merz hailed them. ‘Doing Europe's dirty work’ 100bn Euro is nothing compared to the Earth-shattering blow Iran's Powerful Armed Forces will deal against those who dare harm our people. Red lines are a thing of the past.”

Merz had hailed the Israeli aggression in June 2025 as “the dirty work Israel is doing for all of us.”

Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei also wrote on X:

“Just yesterday, Europe took pride in the dirty work of the Zionist regime. Today, it's whining about billions the war with Iran is costing it. When you cheered on war crimes, did you think the fallout wouldn't hit you, too? War and terror come at a price. Now it's your turn to pay.”

Updated response plan ready for implementation

In a related development, Al-Mayadeen, citing a senior regional security official, reported that Iran's updated military response plan to potential attacks has been completed and is ready for implementation.

According to the report: “The decision to deliver a comprehensive and very extensive response is final: a response that could also include the enemy's installations, centers and political headquarters.”

Taken together- the Commander-in-Chief's order for an immediate, effective response with no geographical limitation, the completed target bank covering all physical and non-physical assets of the enemy, the documented admission of NATO-European facilitation, and the mounting economic and military costs acknowledged even in Berlin — Tehran's message is that the next folly will not be answered within the previous limits, nor only within the previous geography.

following a temporary ceasefire.

Targeting of troop accommodation

After the ceasefire collapsed on July 7, Iran's targeting strategy increasingly focused on facilities housing American troops.

On July 17, an Iranian strike on Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan killed three US service members and damaged at least 19 buildings used to accommodate military personnel.

Satellite imagery also revealed damage to smaller buildings at several other installations, suggesting a growing focus on troop accommodation and other facilities associated with the presence of American forces.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

America’s next battlefield innovation: Preparing the graves before the war

ArmyTimes News Pay & Benefits Flashpoints Pentagon & Congress



From Page 1 ► Washington has spent years assuring the world that the United States possesses the most powerful military on earth. Its aircraft carriers, stealth bombers, precision missiles and global network of bases are routinely presented as proof that no adversary could seriously challenge American power. Now, however, the US Army is rehearsing a rather less glamorous capability: digging temporary graves for large numbers of its own dead.

According to an October 26 report by Army Times, American soldiers recently took part in an exercise in North Carolina to test how quickly battlefield burial trenches could be excavated and filled while preserving remains for later identification and repatriation. The exercise, known as Phase II of Operation Dragon Covenant, brought together engineers, medical personnel, chaplains and specialists in fatality management. It was not a routine lesson in cemetery maintenance. It was preparation for a future high-intensity conflict in which the United States might be unable to retrieve its fallen.

The figures are especially difficult to ignore. Army doctrine envisages temporary interment plots consisting of five parallel trenches, each designed to accommodate 100 bodies. During the latest exercise, D6 bulldozers were used to excavate a trench for 20 remains in an average of one hour and 15 minutes. Based on the results, the Army said an appropriately equipped engineer company could dig and cover trenches for as many as 2,400 bodies in 24 hours—provided it operated nonstop.

Two thousand four hundred. In a single day. One hopes the Pentagon's public-relations department will forgive the observation that this is an unusually grim performance metric for an institution supposedly dedicated to winning wars.

The Army says air superiority in Iraq and Afghanistan allowed fallen personnel to be transported home through established channels. A future conflict against a capable adversary may look different: airfields, transport routes and evacuation networks could be contested or destroyed, making temporary burial unavoidable until the dead can be recovered.

That is a sober logistical assessment, but it exposes the gap between Washington's rhetoric of power and the realities its military is preparing to face. The question is not only whether the United States can strike thousands of miles away, but whether it can protect its forces and bring them home when the other side fights back.

American interventions have often been sold through images of technological superiority and promises of swift outcomes. Their human

costs have fallen on service members, their families and civilians in the countries where wars were fought. A large-scale conflict with a peer adversary, however, could mean sustained fighting, disrupted logistics and casualties on a scale unseen in the post-2001 American experience.

The Army Times report does not predict that 2,400 Americans will die in a day, nor does the exercise prove that such a war is imminent. The number is a planning capacity, not a casualty forecast. But planning for a contingency is itself revealing: military institutions devote resources to scenarios they consider serious enough to prepare for. And the Army is not merely discussing how to evacuate the wounded. It is testing how to bury the dead when evacuation is impossible.

Even the details are chilling. Existing guidance on the spacing between trenches proved too narrow for bulldozers to pass without disturbing them, requiring changes to doctrine. Chaplains also considered how to consecrate a site when individual services cannot be provided and the dead people's identities or faiths may be unknown. Ensuring dignity is humane; the conditions being anticipated are not.

American families should ask how their country arrived at a point where the Army is refining the geometry and operating speed of temporary mass burial sites. What political decisions could produce a war in which air superiority is no longer assured, evacuation routes are vulnerable and thousands of casualties must be managed near the battlefield? Who would explain to parents, spouses and children that the return of a loved one has been postponed because the war planners failed to anticipate the enemy's ability to strike back?

The bitter irony is that a political culture treating military force as an instrument of limitless influence can be casual about its limits. A powerful military can destroy infrastructure and project power across oceans; it cannot guarantee victory against an adversary able to impose costs or deny it freedom of action. Superior weapons do not abolish geography, logistics or human vulnerability.

Perhaps the most important message of Operation Dragon Covenant is not about bulldozers or burial procedures. It is that the Pentagon is planning for a future in which the United States may not control the skies, the routes or the pace of escalation. Before Washington contemplates another confrontation, Americans might reasonably ask their leaders a simple question: if the Army is already calculating how to bury thousands, what exactly are the politicians calculating about the cost of the war?

Iranian army warns US against renewed military adventurism, says war could spread across region

From Page 1 ► In a post on his X account on Saturday, Akraminia said the Iranian Army was closely monitoring US military movements across the region while continuously strengthening its combat readiness.

“Given the US president's notorious record of betraying diplomacy, the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, without trusting or paying attention to the enemy's actions, is relentlessly working to enhance its combat readiness,” he wrote.

The spokesman emphasized that Iran's Armed Forces were pursuing their military preparedness without allowing US movements or actions to distract them from their ongoing efforts to strengthen their defensive capabilities.

“We are carefully monitoring US movements in the region,” Akraminia added.

Warning against further escalation, the Iranian Army spokesman said that if the US president once again embarked on a military adventure in the region under the influence of threats and inducements offered by the Zionists, the consequences would extend far beyond the initial battlefield.

“If the US president once again embarks on another adventure in the region through threats and inducements offered by the Zionists, the flames of war will undoubtedly engulf a wider geographical area, and its end will not be in his hands,” he warned.

Iranian strikes damaged 274 structures at 24 US-linked military sites

TEHRAN- Iran's retaliatory missile and drone strikes have damaged at least 274 structures at 24 US-linked military installations across the Middle East, with estimated repair costs reaching as high as \$15 billion, according to a report based on satellite imagery and US officials.

The Wall Street Journal analysis documents extensive damage to American military facilities, including buildings, radar systems, missile defenses and communications infrastructure. The attacks have also forced the evacuation and relocation of US personnel, exposing vulnerabilities in Washington's regional military network.

The Pentagon has estimated the damage to American military facilities

at a minimum of \$5 billion, while a separate assessment has placed the figure as high as \$15 billion. The Center for Strategic and International Studies has estimated that rebuilding damaged buildings alone would cost more than \$4 billion, excluding the replacement of military equipment and internal systems.

The scale of the destruction underscores the impact of Iran's sustained retaliatory campaign, launched after the US-Israeli aggression against Iran began on February 28.

During the first two weeks of the war, Iranian strikes damaged at least 119 buildings at 13 US military installations, mostly in Kuwait, according to satellite imagery re-

viewed by the Journal.

Naval Support Activity Bahrain, which serves as the headquarters of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, was among the most heavily damaged facilities. The attacks forced the evacuation of most personnel stationed there.

Iranian strikes also damaged more than 15 components of critical infrastructure protecting American military installations, including radar, missile-defense, and communications systems.

The attacks inflicted casualties on US forces as well. More than 20 American service members were killed in incidents related to the war, while more than 400 were wounded before the US military suspended conflict-specific casualty reporting

Iran’s economy has capacity to overcome war pressures: economic analyst



TEHRAN- An economic analyst, emphasizing Iran’s economic capacity to overcome the pressures caused by war and to revive production and employment, stated: “Erosive bureaucracy and delays in decision-making have prevented the utilization of the country’s economic power.”

Economic resilience under wartime conditions does not depend solely on the extent of natural resources, production capacity, or foreign trade power. What ultimately determines how much an economy can withstand external pressures is the quality of decision-making, the speed of response by executive institutions, and the ability to convert potential capacities into actual performance.

In such circumstances, comparing the experience of countries that have been involved in war and sanctions provides an opportunity to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of economic policymaking. Despite foreign restrictions and war-induced damages, Iran’s economy possesses extensive production, agricultural, industrial, and geographical capacities; capacities that require coordination among responsible agencies, a reduction in administrative barriers, and timely decision-making. The fundamental question is how to utilize existing power to curb inflation, maintain production, reconstruct damaged activities, and strengthen employment, and how to prevent the slow pace of decision-making from increasing the cost of external pressures on the economy and people’s livelihoods.

Saeed Leylaz, an economic analyst, believes in an interview with IRNA’s economic correspondent that Iran’s economy cannot only overcome current obstacles and problems but also implement certain reform processes.

Iran’s economy is no less capable of war-time resilience than Russia’s

Referring to Russia’s experience in the Ukraine war and the possibility of Iran benefiting from this country’s experience in the current situation, Laylaz stated: “Replicating Russia’s experience in Iran’s economy to prevent inflation and maintain the level of domestic production is feasible; in some instances and in some areas, we can even perform better than Russia.”

He continued: “Most or all of the problems facing Iran’s economy have no connection to the war; these problems existed before the war and are not even limited to sanctions, because we faced them before the sanctions as well. Sanctions and war make all these issues and problems more severe, but as our past experiences have shown, we have been able to overcome these problems.

Referring to the economic blockade and its excessive pressure on the body of the economy, the economic analyst stated: “I accept that the current economic blockade is the greatest pressure ever exerted on the country’s economy in Iran’s history. We have never experienced a higher pressure or blockade than this. I accept this and by no means underestimate it. But the reality is that Iran, apart from its southern water borders, has about 35 other crossings and borders with neighboring countries. As the Prime Minister of Iraq correctly pointed out, many of these countries need Iran for their imports and exports, and in some cases, this dependency can even be greater than Iran’s need for them.”

He pointed to Turkey and Turkmenistan as two of Iran’s neighbors and said: “Perhaps only the Republic of Azerbaijan, given the small size of its economy, could somewhat block our imports and exports; that too in a situation where such a thing has not happened so far. Even if such a restriction is created, nothing decisive will happen, because we have an independent maritime border with Russia. The reality is that Iran’s economy, neither in terms of diversity, nor in terms of stability, nor in terms of dependence on oil revenues, is by any means

weaker than Russia’s economy.”

Leylaz further referred to the nature of the Ukraine war and compared it with Iran’s conditions, stating: “The war Russia is facing is not just Russia’s war; it is the war of the entire NATO and the Western bloc against this country. Similarly, the war we refer to as America’s war against Iran has, in my opinion, involved more than 70 countries worldwide.”

The analyst stated: “In the first week of the war, I said that almost all of Europe was behind America’s war with Iran. Ultimately, we all realized that this assessment was correct. Therefore, just as we are enduring the greatest pressure in Iran’s history, we must note that this is not merely economic pressure, but the continuation of an oppressive war.”

He added: “We have not yet fully equipped all our equipment and facilities to confront this situation. This is a reality. When such pressure is exerted on a country, all responsible agencies must act in accordance with the existing conditions; but I do not see any sign of such a change in the performance of many of the country’s administrative and executive sectors.”

Declining liquidity growth and return of production; signs of Iran’s economic capacity

The economic analyst, recalling that the country’s economic growth was positive in Tir (July) but might become negative again in Mordad and Shahrivar (August–September), added: “The pace of the decline in Iran’s economic growth rate is slowing down, meaning that we are returning to the game in the industrial and agricultural sectors.”

Referring to the Central Bank’s performance in recent months, Laylaz responded: “The liquidity growth rate reached 0.3 percent in Shahrivar (September); we can continue this trend; so why haven’t we continuously done so? This is exactly one of our demands. I believe that even a 0.01 percent reduction can be important in controlling liquidity growth. In my opinion, under normal conditions, a liquidity growth rate of around 2 percent could be appropriate; of course, economic conditions and inflation control requirements must also be considered.”

He clarified: “We must be able to overcome the imbalance of banks. This requires a serious and revolutionary action, but no decisive event has occurred in this field so far. We can also reduce many imbalances in various sectors.”

He stated: “Now we can also move more rapidly toward reviving government revenues and return these revenues to the people in the form of subsidies. In this way, we can both improve the economic situation and help the country’s political and social stability.”

Agricultural growth and reconstruction of war damages; Iran’s economy is returning

Leylaz said: “In the three months ending in Tir (July) this year, Iran’s agricultural sector growth was about 6 percent. This growth has occurred after years of stagnation and, in my opinion, is a significant development. Evidence shows that the decline in production in the industrial sector is also being compensated, and activities are gradually returning to normal conditions. This trend is happening in a situation where all the consequences of past events have not yet been compensated.”

The economic analyst, stating that we have compensated for a large part of the physical damages, continued: “Do you remember when I spoke about this in the early days of the war, how much I was criticized and some told me I was underestimating the damages? But now, except in the gas sector, where about 100 to 130 million cubic meters of its capacity was involved, and to some extent in the steel sector, which includes a limited part, as well as in the petrochemical industry, a large part of other damages has been reconstructed.”

‘Opportunities for joint agricultural cooperation with Africa available’

TEHRAN- Iran’s Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezjeljeh, addressed the First National Meeting on Iran-Africa Agricultural Cooperation, stressing that opportunities for joint agricultural cooperation with Africa are available and must be converted into concrete, operational, and lasting economic ties.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors, economic counselors, honorary consuls, officials from executive bodies, economic associations, entrepreneurs, investors, and more than 200 economic actors. The minister said this broad participation provided a valuable opportunity to translate the political will for expanding Iran-Africa relations into specific projects and durable economic partnerships.

Nouri Ghezjeljeh thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Secretariat of the Iran-Africa Cooperation Summit, and the Ministry of Agriculture for organizing the event. He said Iran’s approach to international cooperation is based on mutual respect, avoidance of unilateralism, opposition to aggression and political pressure, and recognition of the right of all nations to peace, development, and sustainable access to food. He stressed that food and people’s livelihoods must not become tools of political pressure, and that achieving food security requires cooperation, trust, and constructive interaction among countries. This, he said, should be a foundational principle for developing agricultural relations between Iran and African countries.

The minister outlined a clear message: Iran-Africa agricultural cooperation must move from introducing capacities to defining projects; from memoranda of understanding to executive contracts; and from sporadic exchanges to sustainable partnerships in production, technology, and trade. He emphasized that Iran does not view Africa merely as a market for selling goods or as a source for supplying needed products. Rather, Iran regards African countries as important partners for investment, joint production, and creating mutual economic benefits.

Nouri Ghezjeljeh linked agriculture to food security, knowledge, and economic development. He argued that food security is not simply about increasing production, but about ensuring people’s sustainable access to sufficient, healthy, high-quality, and reasonably priced food. He described water and soil, seeds and inputs, production knowledge and technology, storage, transportation, and trade as interconnected links in



a single chain. Weakening any link, he warned, can undermine efforts to increase production. He also pointed to complementary capacities between Iran and African countries. Iran has strengths in irrigation and water and soil management, greenhouse production, agricultural machinery, seeds, livestock and poultry breeding, vaccines and veterinary products, fisheries, processing industries, and specialized training. African countries, according to their climatic and economic conditions, have considerable capacities in crop production, tropical products, animal husbandry, fisheries, and expanding markets. Linking these capabilities can increase productivity, create jobs, and raise value added on both sides.

The minister further identified removing executive obstacles and strengthening communication among responsible institutions as a fourth priority. He said economic actors need clear procedures, reliable transportation, practical payment mechanisms, insurance and investment coverage, and predictable regulations to enter sustainable cooperation. On tariffs and trade facilitation, he called for examining the capacity of bilateral agreements and regional mechanisms with the participation of relevant bodies. He also stressed continuous follow-up: the problems of each project must be clearly identified and recorded, a responsible body must be designated, and progress must be assessed within clear time frames.

Nouri Ghezjeljeh emphasized that the government should act as a facilitator while the private sector should be the driver of economic cooperation. Embassies and economic counselors, he said, can play an effective role in identifying credible opportunities, introducing reliable partners, explaining market regulations, facilitating communication among enterprises, and following up on executive obstacles. In con-

trast, the private sector must play a central role in defining projects and assessing them commercially and operationally. Within the Ministry of Agriculture, the Office of International Affairs, together with specialized organizations, deputies, and private-sector associations, is responsible for the secretariat of six joint Iran-Africa cooperation commissions and more than 10 joint agricultural committees with African countries. He said the goal is not to create new and numerous mechanisms, but to use existing capacities effectively, clarify responsibilities, and prevent negotiations from stalling at the stage of administrative correspondence.

The minister asked economic actors to present proposals in the form of specific and executive plans. Each plan, he said, should clearly determine the subject of cooperation, the proposed partner, the target market, required capital, legal requirements, timetable, and evaluation indicators. He urged avoiding scattered programs and suggested starting with a few limited, well-considered, and implementable projects rather than a long list of aspirations. For each project, a clear contact point on both sides, a time schedule, and a follow-up mechanism should be designated so that successful cooperation can be expanded after initial results are evaluated.

Nouri Ghezjeljeh announced that the Fourth Iran-Africa Cooperation Summit will be held next month, and that the FIDC event will take place in Senegal. He expressed hope that Iran’s private sector and agricultural economic actors will participate effectively in these programs. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks cooperation based on trust, respect, and mutual interests. In agriculture, these principles should lead to more sustainable production, more balanced trade, more job opportunities, knowledge transfer, and more reliable access by people to healthy

and sufficient food. He stressed that success should not be measured by the number of meetings or documents signed, but by implemented contracts, projects that produce results, value added created, and benefits that ultimately reach producers and the people. The meeting, he said, should be the starting point for practical cooperation—a stage in which knowledge becomes production, production reaches markets, and friendly relations become lasting economic ties.

On political and security developments, the minister said that when Iran was attacked by Israel and the United States, some abroad welcomed it and others expected further developments. What occurred instead, he said, was Iran’s resistance, the country’s steadfastness, the people’s courage, and the continuation of government services. Addressing ambassadors, he said that despite wartime conditions, government services in various areas, including food security and the supply of public necessities, continued, and needed goods were supplied abundantly, so that wartime conditions were not felt in meeting basic needs. He criticized US actions internationally, saying the world is heavily affected by US warmongering and that the energy and food sectors face major challenges and crises. According to official statistics in some countries, food prices have risen by up to 23 percent, and poor and vulnerable groups suffer most. He said Iran and other countries have been affected by these consequences and expressed hope that the United States would take a rational path and return to the Islamabad Memorandum to pave the way for ending the war as quickly as possible, given its pressure on economies, nutrition, and global food security, especially in poor countries.

Finally, Nouri Ghezjeljeh urged participants to engage actively in the specialized panels on the sidelines of the meeting, saying these panels can move cooperation from speeches and negotiations to the operational stage. He expressed hope that, with the companionship of ambassadors, the efforts of economic actors, the support of responsible institutions, and equal participation of African countries, the ground would be prepared for sustainable agricultural cooperation. He said the hoped-for results include increased food security, economic prosperity, development of shared opportunities, and stronger lasting friendship between the Iranian nation and African countries.

South Pars phase 11 development continues with drilling of 13th well on platform B

TEHRAN- The CEO of Petropars Group announced the continuation of drilling operations for the 13th well on Platform B of South Pars Phase 11 and stated: After the completion and commissioning of 12 wells at this location, drilling of the 13th well has also been placed on Petropars’ agenda beyond its contractual commitments, and it is currently at the stage of drilling the 16-inch hole.

According to an IRNA report from Petropars, Hamidreza Saghafi, referring to the continuation of development operations at Phase 11 of the South Pars shared field, said: Drilling of the 13th completion well on Platform B has begun with the aim of maintaining

production and helping to compensate for the country’s gas shortage.

He added: Its first two holes, 32-inch and 24-inch, were drilled to depths of 186 and 933 meters, respectively, over 15 days. Currently, drilling of the 16-inch hole continues at a depth of 1,010 meters.

The CEO of Petropars Group, referring to the completion of operations for the 12th well on this platform, explained: This well was drilled to a depth of more than 4,400 meters and at an angle of 65 degrees, and its perforation operations in the reservoir layers K1, K2, K3, and K4 were carried out in two stages

(TCP). Given the sensitivity of the operation, petrophysical data from neighboring wells were also used to increase accuracy in carrying out the perforation.

Saghafi continued: After perforation, more than 190,000 gallons of 32% hydrochloric acid (HCl), along with relevant additives, were injected into the well in 20 stages. This operation was carried out at the first suitable opportunity given the weather conditions, and to distribute the acid uniformly across the entire perforated interval, especially the terminal sections of the well, the use of an acid diverting agent (VDA) suited to the temperature and pressure conditions was designed.

Reconstruction of residential units damaged in war to be finished in 1 month

TEHRAN- The head of the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation, Manouchehr Khajeh Dalouei, said reconstruction of residential units damaged in the 12-day imposed war has been completed, while repairs and rebuilding of units damaged in the 40-day war have passed 92 percent physical progress and should finish within one month.

In the 12-day war, the foundation oversaw reconstruction of 3,300 residential units nationwide, completed in Azar (November)

last year. For the 40-day war, more than 140,000 assessments were conducted across 407 cities and villages, with repair and reconstruction beginning immediately alongside the assessments.

A total of 101,000 residential and commercial units in cities under the foundation’s responsibility were damaged by enemy military aggression. Of these, 1,400 required complete rebuilding; the rest received Type 1, 2, or 3 repairs depending on the damage. As of this week, repairs on

93,000 of the 101,000 units have been completed, and the foundation hopes to finish all 40-day war repair and reconstruction work within the next month, with an exact timetable to be announced.

Of the 1,400 units needing full reconstruction, work is underway on 700, with applicants entering construction after receiving permits and debris removal carried out by the foundation. Some applicants previously had two-story homes and now seek

permits for four-story buildings; others have requested relocation, though such cases are few. About 20 fully rebuilt units were handed over last week. The original target for completing the project was the end of 1406, but completion is expected earlier.

In Tehran, statistics show 3,500 buildings were damaged, though property use and value differ from other areas; Tehran Municipality is the responsible authority.

Can the U.S. wage a swift military operation against Iran?

From page 1 ► Israeli pundits argue that had Trump been serious, he would have endorsed Netanyahu months before the election and reinforced that support with a trip to Tel Aviv. Netanyahu invited Trump to Israel in May 2026. However, the U.S. president declined in an unusual snub that underscored a growing rift between the two leaders over the illegal war on Iran.

A prevailing point of view supports the argument that Trump's public support for Netanyahu was a trade-off, even a bribe, in return for not dragging the United States into renewed military confrontation with Iran before the Israeli elections.

The information was nearly conclusive that Netanyahu wanted to do this and drag the U.S. into another illegal war with Iran, even though the calculations did not favor winning it. The evidence cited for this conclusion is a striking statement by the Israeli chief of staff, who said the regime's army will not take any military action without compelling reasons, a lack of which would then be exploited politically in the elections or used to disrupt them.

The remark was widely seen as aimed squarely at Netanyahu who sought to wage war before the October 27 Knesset elections.

The bigger question being raised by Hebrew media is this: If Trump is prepared to launch a military operation within a matter of days, as he repeatedly claims, and bring the (illegal) war to a decisive end, why was such an operation not launched before the Knesset elections, if Washington is so confident that



it can wage a short, decisive war?

If it had been waged and won, the Netanyahu-led camp could have gone into the elections victorious. Instead of 53 seats, it could have won a majority of 63 or 73.

The same logic applies to Republicans heading into the midterms: a short, conclusive military operation against Iran would have put them in a far stronger position to expand their majority in both chambers of Congress. If quick military action would end the disastrous and illegal eight-month war and help the Republicans raise slogans of victory? Why are they instead risking losing the midterms?

The conclusion has been that the U.S. lacks the confidence to wage a quick military aggression against Iran because the option itself is weak. It would only turn the spotlight on yet another endless war in West Asia. The administration is aware that Iran will retaliate, that U.S. and Israeli interests in the region will suffer greater destruction, that energy prices will climb much higher, and that military stockpiles will once again run low.

All these factors are something the White House sought to avoid.

If the Trump administration is not confident it can mount a short, decisive military operation to end the illegal war against Iran, then why does it keep talking about waging one? Experts say the rhetoric is a desperate attempt to rally voters ahead of the midterms.

If the aim is to intimidate the region, and the Islamic Republic in particular, then the threats have had the opposite effect. Tehran is more prepared than ever to deliver a crushing retaliatory response.

Trump himself has announced that he will not wage any aggression against Iran before the midterm elections, an implicit acknowledgment that the war has damaged his Republican Party's electoral prospects. In recent weeks, global fears of a large-scale war erupting in West Asia have intensified, following eight months in which Washington failed to force Iran into submission.

In essence, there is no short-term military solution for the United States. Again, if there were, Washington would have

waged it before the Israeli and U.S. elections. That does not mean Trump and Netanyahu are not reckless enough to wage more aggression if they feel desperate and trapped.

Yet a broad consensus appears to have emerged among officials and analysts that any such course would only bring further disaster for the U.S.-Zionist alliance, and that the regional war would be anything but short-lived.

Trump is no stranger to selling the illusion of a quick, decisive victory. He has been making such threats for many months now, and perhaps for one primary reason: to promote the idea that any progress in the negotiations Iran is holding with regional mediators came as a direct result of his fiery statements. It is a familiar tactic, one that allows him to claim credit for diplomacy while continuing to project strength.

This is an attempt, analysts argue, to preserve his image before the American public and retain a measure of trust among some Arab officials. Iran's neighbors have witnessed firsthand the consequences of tying their security to Washington.

Many in the region and the international community are pushing back against renewed aggression, knowing it would be catastrophic for inflation back home. They also recognize that the Islamic Republic will not surrender, which sharply raises the prospect of a long-term regional war.

In the end, the only thing a short, decisive war goal would guarantee is a long, indecisive disaster.

Protests, fueled by high cost of living, hit streets in France and Germany



Major cities in France and Germany were the scenes of protests on Saturday. Protesters in Paris began marching from Porte de Bagnole.

The French Interior Ministry said about 15,000 people were taking part in demonstrations across the country.

The protests were unfolding "without any notable incidents", the ministry added at the time.

Police had made 27 arrests by 2pm local time, AFP reported.

Demonstrations were largely peaceful through the afternoon, though police fired tear gas in Lyon, France's third-largest city, and Toulouse in the southwest, while tension also broke out at the end of the march in Marseille, Reuters reported.

Also, thousands of young Germans took to the streets nationwide in the latest protests in Europe led by youths angry at political elites they say are ignoring their concerns.

In Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne and dozens of other cities, demonstrators turned out for the protests organized by the group "GenZ regelt!" (GenZ has got this).

They have been inspired by similar movements across Europe, including in France and Italy. Thousands of police were deployed nationwide and some shops boarded up their windows, with authorities fear-

ful violence could break out.

There were reports of fireworks at some protests and several arrests, although the demonstrations appeared mostly peaceful by the early evening.

Demonstrators waved signs that read: "Time for resistance", and "Merz must go", in reference to conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

Germany was in contact with officials in France and Italy amid fears that radicals from overseas could seek to join the German protests.

"We're taking to the streets for a life that everyone can afford," said Veronika Dinter, a spokeswoman for the "GenZ regelt!" movement.

"Hardly anyone still believes in a better future if everything just continues as it is."

The movement's complaints range from the high cost of living to poorly maintained schools, government spending cuts and, more broadly, what it sees as politicians making decisions with apparently little regard for the younger generation.

They are also unhappy with sharply increased military spending and a new voluntary service model aimed at boosting troop numbers, fearing it is a step towards bringing back conscription.

But the numbers of protesters appeared below those hoped for by organizers.

Washington's shrinking room for maneuver in West Asia

From page 1 ► A battle can also be won on points; it does not necessarily require a single decisive blow to bring everything to an end. Whenever the enemy opens a new front of pressure or takes measures aimed at besieging Iran and forcing it to retreat, the axis finds an opportunity to activate another instrument of pressure, one that has either not been used before or has yet to be deployed to its full potential.

The axis is thus opening new fronts of pressure and changing the rules of confrontation. The significance of this approach lies in the fact that the enemy is no longer facing a fixed set of instruments whose capabilities and limits it already understands. Instead, it is confronting a range of capabilities that can be activated in response to developments on the battlefield.

This highlights the strategic importance

of the Strait of Hormuz, which represents a powerful lever of pressure linked to energy supplies, trade, and the global economy. Alongside it is the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which could also affect maritime traffic and international trade routes if the instruments of pressure associated with it were activated.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Who are the Palestinian citizens of Israel?

A minority in their homeland, Palestinians in Israel have long faced discrimination and state violence. Now, they could play a pivotal role in shaping Israel's politics

A minority in their homeland, Palestinian citizens of Israel have faced decades of discrimination, marginalisation and violence.

They are descendants of Palestinians who survived the Nakba and remained within the de facto borders of Israel after its establishment in 1948.

Today, they number around two million, making up roughly a fifth of Israel's population.

Although they hold Israeli citizenship, they continue to face discrimination and state repression.

Deep-rooted inequalities persist in housing, land rights, education and public services, while they struggle with high levels of violent crime and inadequate police protection.

They have also faced deadly police violence and arrests during protests in solidarity with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite these challenges, Palestinian citizens have organised politically and contested elections in their struggle for equal civil and political rights.

So who are Palestinian citizens of Israel? What challenges do they face, and how much influence could they wield over the country's political future?

Minority in their homeland
Palestinian Arabs made up the ma-

jority of the population of historic Palestine before 1947. The territory now comprises Israel, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Between 1947 and 1948, Zionist militias, and later Israeli forces, carried out the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians to make way for the creation of Israel. Palestinians call this the Nakba, or catastrophe.

In a premeditated military campaign, Zionist forces killed thousands of Palestinians, destroyed hundreds of villages and forcibly expelled 80 percent of the Palestinian population from their homeland.

The violence was formally ended in 1949, with Israel signing armistice agreements with neighbouring Arab states, whose forces had entered the war to stop the takeover of Palestine.

Israel had captured 78 percent of historic Palestine. Around 150,000 Palestinians remained within the territory that became Israel.

Some survived because Israeli forces had not yet reached their areas, while others resisted attempts to expel them.

Nearly a quarter of those who remained were internally displaced.

They were barred from returning to their homes, many of which were in villages that had been destroyed.

Overnight, Palestinians who remained found themselves a minority in their own homeland.

Today, they make up around 20 percent of Israel's population of approximately 10 million.



They live mainly in Palestinian-majority towns and cities across the Galilee in the north, the Triangle region in central Israel and the Naqab desert in the south.

Around 80 percent are Muslim, 10 percent Christian and 10 percent Druze.

The Israeli state and much of Israeli society commonly refer to them as "Israeli Arabs" or "Arab citizens of Israel".

Many, however, identify as "Palestinian citizens of Israel", "Palestinians of 1948" or "Palestinians inside Israel".

These terms affirm their Palestinian identity alongside their status as Israeli citizens.

Military rule and resistance

Although Palestinian citizens were granted Israeli citizenship after 1948, early Israeli governments viewed

them with suspicion and subjected them to state violence.

From 1948 to 1966, they lived under a military regime imposed exclusively on them, while Jewish citizens were governed by civilian law.

During this period, they faced movement restrictions, curfews, state repression and limits on their political activity.

One of the darkest episodes was the Kafr Qasim massacre.

On 29 October 1956, Israeli forces abruptly brought forward a curfew in the Palestinian village of Kafr Qasim. Hundreds of residents working outside the village were unaware of the change.

Soldiers had been given orders to shoot those who violated the curfew.

As workers returned home, troops stopped them at the village entrance and shot them at close range.

Within hours, 49 Palestinian citizens had been killed, including women and children.

Military rule finally ended in 1966.

In the years that followed, Palestinian citizens increasingly reconnected with the wider Palestinian population, particularly after Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

One of the most significant protests came on 30 March 1976, in response to Israeli plans to confiscate Palestinian land in the Galilee.

Israeli police violently suppressed the demonstrations, killing six Palestinian citizens and injuring hundreds.

The events became known as Land Day, commemorated annually on 30 March as a symbol of the struggle for Palestinian land and rights.

During the Second Palestinian Intifada, which began in 2000, Palestinian citizens of Israel staged mass protests against Israel's occupation and in solidarity with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Police responded with deadly force, killing 13 Palestinian demonstrators and arresting hundreds more.

Discrimination and crime

Beyond state violence, Palestinian citizens have faced decades of discriminatory laws and policies under successive Israeli governments.

According to Adalah, a Haifa-based legal centre defending Palestinian rights, more than 65 Israeli laws enacted since 1948 explicitly or implicitly discriminate against Palestinians

in Israel and the occupied territories.

These laws cover areas including land ownership, housing, public funding and family reunification.

One of the earliest examples was the Absentees' Property Law, passed in 1950.

It classified Palestinians who had left, fled or been expelled from their homes during the 1948 Nakba as "absentees". Their land, homes and other property were placed under state control, including assets belonging to some Palestinians who later became Israeli citizens.

In 2003, Israel passed a law restricting family reunification between Israeli citizens and spouses from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A 2011 law empowered admissions committees in certain agricultural and community towns to assess applicants seeking to live there. Critics say the law enables discrimination against Palestinian citizens by allowing committees to reject candidates deemed incompatible with a community's "Zionist-Jewish character".

One of the most controversial measures came in 2018, when the Knesset passed the Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People.

The law reserves the right to national self-determination in Israel exclusively for the Jewish people. It also downgrades Arabic from an official language to one with a "special status" and declares Jewish settlement a national value that the state should promote.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Zare, Javan win
golds at 2026
World Wrestling
Championships

From Page 1 ▶ Zare had also produced a series of commanding performances on his way to the final. He defeated India's Jaspooran Singh 11-0 in the Round of 16, followed by a 10-0 victory over Jamaica's Aaron Johnson in the quarterfinals. Zare then defeated American Wyatt Hendrickson 10-0 in the semifinals.

Rahman Amouzad in 65kg and Hassan Yazdani in 97kg have previously won two bronze medals for Iran in the event.

The 2026 World Wrestling Championships is running in Astana from Oct. 24 to Nov. 1.

Hassan Yazdani
makes wrestling
history

TEHRAN - Eleven years. Four different weight classes. Eleven World and Olympic medals. As he approaches his 32nd birthday, Hassan Yazdani has achieved a milestone that stands alone in the history of international wrestling.

By claiming bronze at the 2026 World Wrestling Championships in Astana, Yazdani completed an extraordinary record, becoming the first wrestler in history to win World or Olympic medals across four different weight categories.

From 70kg in Las Vegas to 97kg in Astana, the Iranian wrestling superstar has carved out a remarkable legacy, adding another historic chapter to an already glittering career.

Yazdani made his debut at 97kg at the 2026 World Championships. Although he suffered a defeat against Arash Yoshida, he bounced back to secure the bronze medal.

While the color of this medal may not match the Olympic gold he won in Rio or his multiple World Championship titles, its historical significance is undeniable.

The bronze was the 11th World and Olympic medal of Yazdani's career, completing his remarkable achievement across four weight classes: 70kg, 74kg, 86kg and 97kg.

It is a testament to his longevity, adaptability and ability to compete at the highest level across different stages of his career.

Hassan Yazdani's World and Olympic Medal Record

2015 World Championships – Las Vegas: Silver, 70kg

2016 Olympic Games – Rio: Gold, 74kg

2017 World Championships – Paris: Gold, 86kg

2018 World Championships – Budapest: Bronze, 86kg

2019 World Championships – Nur-Sultan: Gold, 86kg

2020 Olympic Games – Tokyo: Silver, 86kg

2021 World Championships – Oslo: Gold, 86kg

2022 World Championships – Belgrade: Silver, 86kg

2023 World Championships – Belgrade: Silver, 86kg

2024 Olympic Games – Paris: Silver, 86kg

2026 World Championships – Astana: Bronze, 97kg

Eleven medals across eleven years. From his first World Championship silver in Las Vegas to his historic bronze in Astana, Yazdani has experienced the very best of international wrestling.

An Olympic champion, a four-time world champion and now a history-maker across four different weight categories, Hassan Yazdani continues to push the boundaries of what is possible in the sport.

A true legend of Iranian wrestling — and a name firmly etched in the history of the sport.

Iran and Senegal
agree to develop
sports and youth
cooperation MoU

TEHRAN - The sports and youth ministers of Iran and Senegal have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation and work towards drafting a memorandum of understanding (MoU) covering sports and youth affairs following a meeting in Dakar.

Iranian Minister of Sports and Youth Ahmad Donyamali met with Senegalese Minister of Youth and Sports Khady Diene Gaye on Friday to discuss opportunities for expanding cooperation between the two countries.

During the meeting, Donyamali congratulated Senegal on hosting the Youth Olympic Games, describing the event as a major honor for the country and the African continent.

Highlighting Iran's capabilities and potential in sports and youth development, Donyamali proposed that representatives from both countries hold virtual meetings to lay the groundwork for a joint cooperation agreement, with particular emphasis on education and training.

He suggested that the memorandum be finalized and signed during the Senegalese minister's planned visit to Iran.

Gaye welcomed the proposal and confirmed that preliminary discussions on the agreement had already begun in coordination with the Iranian Embassy and Senegal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She also thanked Iran for sending a delegation to the Youth Olympic Games and wished the Iranian athletes success in their competitions.

Accepting Donyamali's official invitation to visit Iran, Gaye expressed hope that the Games would contribute to promoting peace, friendship and stronger ties among nations.

Iranian Ambassador to Senegal Hassan Asgari also attended the meeting and wished the host nation success in delivering a successful edition of the Youth Olympic Games.

The proposed agreement is expected to provide a framework for closer cooperation between Iran and Senegal, particularly in sports development, education and youth-related programs.

Pakistan, Iran sign
MoU to strengthen
football
cooperation

TEHRAN - The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) and Iran Football Federation (FFIRI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral football cooperation, opening new opportunities for players, coaches and technical personnel in both neighbouring countries.

The agreement was signed by PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani and FFIRI President Mehdi Taj, building on the longstanding friendship and close ties between Pakistan and Iran.

The partnership aims to promote football development through knowledge-sharing, player and coaching exchanges, training camps, coaching education and competitive fixtures.

Iran's experience in youth football and futsal is expected to provide valuable learning opportunities for Pakistan's emerging players and football professionals.

The agreement also reflects a shared commitment to developing the next generation of football talent by creating pathways for young players to improve their skills, gain international exposure and learn from established coaching and technical systems.

For Pakistan, closer cooperation with Iran could support broader efforts to strengthen grassroots football, improve coaching standards and expand opportunities for youth development. Exchanges between the two federations may also help build stronger professional links and encourage greater collaboration in the sport.

ICOMOS continues evaluation of Masuleh's
UNESCO World Heritage nomination

TEHRAN - The evaluation of Masuleh and its cultural landscape for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List is continuing, with an international expert from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) conducting field assessments and attending specialist meetings on the Iranian town's architectural, archaeological, ecological and socio-economic heritage.

The ongoing assessment in Gilan province, northern Iran, examines different aspects of Masuleh and its surrounding landscape, including its physical fabric, ecological characteristics, local livelihoods, social structures and management practices, according to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

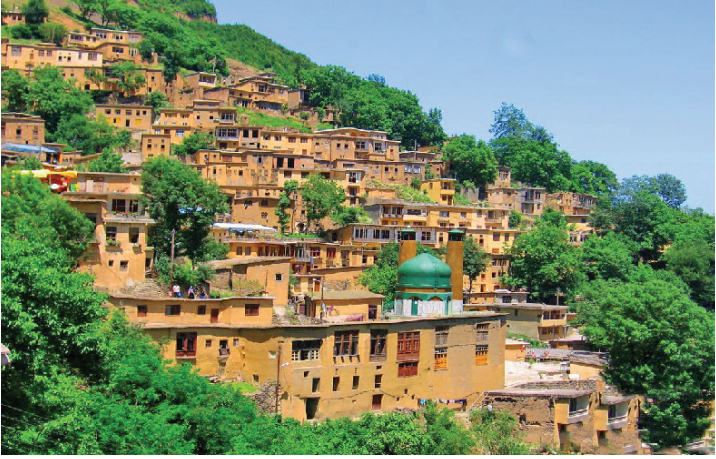
The program includes field inspections and discussions with university professors, researchers and heritage specialists, focusing on safeguarding the town's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) while ensuring its long-term conservation and sustainable development.

As part of the assessment, the ICOMOS expert visited the archaeology and anthropology museum of Rasht, where historical collections from across Gilan province, including archaeological discoveries from Old Masuleh, were presented.

Among the notable objects displayed were the Rashi silver-gilt goblet and the Toleh gold goblet from Talesh. The artefacts offer evidence of the region's ancient history and sophisticated metal-working traditions.

Specialist sessions also examined archaeological excavations and experimental archaeology, particularly research into historical iron-production technologies. Researchers presented findings from a project involving the reconstruction and experimental operation of ancient iron smelting furnaces, shedding light on Masuleh's industrial history.

Last year, an interdisciplinary research team successfully



reconstructed a medieval iron smelting and casting complex at the Old Masuleh archaeological site, demonstrating the technological capabilities of communities that once inhabited the area.

Led by Farzad Asadi, a faculty member at Islamic Azad University, the project involved the experimental reconstruction of a four-stage furnace system documented through approximately two decades of archaeological research.

The experiment went beyond reconstructing the physical structure. Researchers examined its operational characteristics, including airflow, thermal efficiency and the production process from sponge iron to cast iron.

The reconstructed complex featured preheated air channels, permanent stone structures and a dedicated casting installation, distinguishing it from simpler, temporary bloomery furnaces. Laboratory analysis of the resulting slag and iron also indicated high material purity and considerable control over the production process.

Mostafa Pourali, director of the Masuleh World Heritage nomination dossier, has said the second, more detailed reconstruction phase had revealed technological connections with broader Iranian-type furnaces.

The findings point to Old Masuleh's potential role as a permanent iron-production centre and a place of technological exchange

along historical trade routes connecting Iran with the Caucasus and Central Asia. The research is expected to be published internationally.

Beyond its archaeological significance, the furnace reconstruction has added an industrial dimension to the understanding of Masuleh's cultural landscape, demonstrating that the settlement's historical importance extends beyond its distinctive architecture and natural setting.

Other discussions during the ICOMOS assessment addressed sustainable destination management and community-based conservation. Participants examined approaches to managing the historic settlement through the active involvement of residents, while protecting its stepped residential fabric and maintaining the relationship between people, the mountainous environment and traditional livelihoods.

Ecological research and archaeobotanical studies also featured in the program. These interdisciplinary investigations aim to improve scientific documentation of the area's historical environmental conditions and the relationship between past communities and their natural surroundings.

The sessions further addressed the physical conservation of Masuleh, including construction regulations, the use of traditional building materials, appropriate restoration techniques and the management of changes in a vul-

nerable mountain settlement.

According to Iran's nomination dossier, Masuleh is believed to be between 800 and 1,000 years old. Its numerous cemeteries, both within and outside the settlement, are among the archaeological indications of its historical depth.

The town is particularly distinguished by its multi-storey, terraced urban layout, which follows the slope of the surrounding mountain. Its architecture is closely integrated with the natural landscape, while the arrangement of buildings allows the roofs of lower houses to function as pedestrian spaces and courtyards for those above.

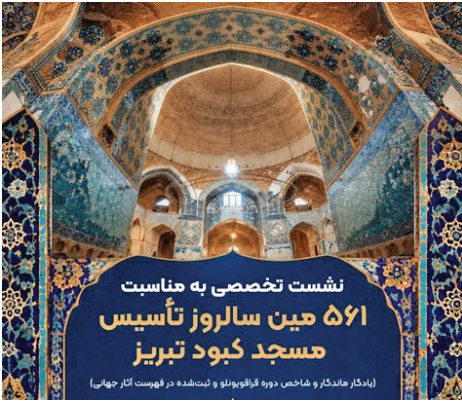
The traditional architectural arrangement also reflects the importance of craftsmanship and the visual character of the settlement. With the main facades of houses directly visible to residents and visitors, local builders and artisans paid particular attention to their appearance and architectural details.

The nomination dossier describes the combination of traditional architecture and natural scenery as a potential basis for tourism development, while recognizing tourism and the preservation of local livelihoods as closely interconnected.

The latest round of assessments highlights the need to approach Masuleh as an integrated cultural landscape rather than merely an architectural attraction. Its historic buildings, traditional industries, archaeological remains, ecological setting and living community collectively contribute to its heritage significance.

The continuing ICOMOS evaluation is an important stage in the international assessment of Iran's nomination. ICOMOS serves as an advisory body to UNESCO on cultural heritage nominations, conducting expert evaluations before the World Heritage Committee considers whether a property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Tabriz Blue Mosque to mark 561st anniversary
with focus on Qara Qoyunlu tilework



Two main subjects will be addressed: the political and administrative structure of the Qara Qoyunlu dynasty and the development of tilework during its rule.

Qarehdaghi will discuss the dynasty's system of governance and the historical circumstances surrounding the creation of monuments from that period. Nemati will examine the artistic characteristics and decorative techniques of Qara Qoyunlu tilework, with particular attention to the craftsmanship and ornamental features of surviving works.

The Blue Mosque, also known as the Jahan Shah Mosque and the Mozaffariyeh Edifice, is among Iran's notable architectural monuments dating from the 15th century. Its construction is closely associated with the reign of Jahan Shah, the Qara Qoyunlu ruler who governed much of Iran and neighboring territories during the 15th century.

The Qara Qoyunlu, also known as the Black Sheep Turkomans, were a Turkoman Muslim dynasty that ruled parts of present-day Azerbaijan, Armenia, northwestern Iran, eastern Turkey and northeastern Iraq from approximately 1374 to 1468. Their period of rule was marked by significant architectural and artistic patronage, particularly in northwestern Iran.

An inscription above the Blue Mosque's

entrance bears the date 870 AH (1465–66), providing an important historical reference for the monument. The mosque is particularly renowned for its intricate mosaic tilework, dominated by shades of blue and turquoise, which has earned it the celebrated name Turquoise of Islam.

Its architectural significance, however, extends beyond its elaborate decorative surfaces. The building's spatial arrangement and the integration of a mosque with a mausoleum make it an important example of Qara Qoyunlu architecture and provide valuable material for studying the period's religious and funerary traditions.

The monument suffered extensive damage in an earthquake in 1193 AH (1779–80), and parts of the structure were subsequently rebuilt during restoration campaigns. Consequently, an understanding of its architectural history requires consideration of its original design, surviving decorative elements and subsequent conservation interventions.

The Blue Mosque has also been highlighted in Iran's submission to UNESCO, reflecting its architectural and artistic significance. Its distinctive tilework remains one of the most remarkable expressions of decorative craftsmanship in the architectural heritage of northwestern Iran.

South Khorasan's traditional oil-fried bread
added to intangible heritage list

TEHRAN - The traditional skill of making Nan-e Roghhan-Jushi, an oil-fried bread deeply rooted in the cultural and religious traditions of South Khorasan province, has been inscribed on Iran's National Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Fariba Kahani, an official responsible for intangible heritage

registration at the provincial Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, said the bread is traditionally prepared on the 14th day of Sha'ban (the 8th lunar month) during the local religious observance known as Barat.

Families who have lost loved ones during the previous year

prepare the bread as an act of charity in memory of the deceased and distribute it among relatives, friends and neighbors.

Its preparation involves mixing flour, water, turmeric, aromatic spices such as coriander seeds, and sourdough. After resting for about 90 minutes to two hours,

small portions of dough are flattened and fried in hot oil.

Kahani said the tradition reflects religious beliefs, charitable practices and family bonds. The skill has traditionally been passed down from mothers to daughters, with women playing a central role in preserving it.

Iran proposes joint peace and friendship park with Armenia for biodiversity protection

TEHRAN - Iran has proposed establishing a joint peace and friendship park with Armenia to strengthen cross-border cooperation on biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection in the Caucasus region.

Hamid Zohrabi, deputy head of Iran's Department of Environment (DOE), met with his Armenian counterpart, Aram Meymaryan, on the sidelines of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17), held in Armenia from October 19 to 30, IRNA reported.

The proposed transboundary park would promote joint efforts to conserve biodiversity in northwestern Iran and the Caucasus region, while safeguarding critical wildlife corridors, including those used by the Persian leopard.

The two officials also discussed ways to expand environmental cooperation and address shared challenges, including the protection of the Aras River.

Meymaryan welcomed the proposal and praised the active participation of the Iranian delegation in COP17.

The officials agreed to establish a working group to follow up on the agreements reached after the conclusion of the summit.

COP17 was held in two stages: technical-level discussions followed by the ministerial segment.

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

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

Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment, also addressed the meeting, saying that environmental diplomacy can become an instrument of peace diplomacy, while the relationship between biodiversity, peace, and security should be viewed as a two-way relationship.



Ansari added the link between biodiversity and peace was not merely an ethical or political issue, but a fundamental concern in environmental governance, international law, and human security.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, she said, the main drivers of biodiversity loss are generally understood to include land-use change, habitat destruction, pollution, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, and climate change.

The Iranian delegation also held a meeting with Vivek Menon, chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC), and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in developing management and conservation programs for endangered species.

The talks particularly focused on conservation and restoration programs for the Asiatic cheetah, the great bustard, and the Persian zebra, onager, their respective habitats, as well as the reintroduction of the Persian fallow deer into its natural habitats.

The two sides also discussed enhancing technical and scientific cooperation and providing funding under sanctions.

Menon expressed hope that ongoing collaboration between IUCN officials and Iranian experts would guarantee the survival of en-

dangered species, such as the Asiatic cheetah, in Iran.

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

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

The coalition is supported by the Reverse the Red Action partnership as secretariat. The membership document was signed by Zohrabi, on October 26.

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

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

Persian language proficiency test held for 200 international students

TEHRAN - Around 200 international students took the second Persian language proficiency test on Friday at examination centers in Iran and abroad, demonstrating growing interest in learning the language.

Organized by the Organization of Student Affairs, the test was held at four centers, namely Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, Razi University in Kermanshah, Allameh Tabataba'i University in Tehran, and the University of Tehran's international campus in Baghdad, Iraq, IRNA reported.

"International students who are interested in majoring in Iranian universities are required to complete 480 hours of Persian instruction under the supervision of professional and expert instructors in preparation for the Persian language proficiency test," IRNA quoted Saeed Habiba, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs, as saying.

More than 50 Persian language teaching centers are operating in Iranian universities, he added.

The goal is to make sure international students have mastered essential skills required for studying in Iranian universities, and they are enabled to better benefit from educational materials within their respective fields of study, Habiba further noted.

The first Persian language proficiency test for international students was held on February 12 in Tehran.

On January 24, Abbas Qanbari-Baghestan, an official with the Organization of Student Affairs, said attaining a specified score in learning the Persian language will be a key requirement for foreign students to be admit-

ted to Iranian universities from the next academic year, which will start in fall 2026.

The test includes listening, speaking, and writing sections, he added.

Highlighting the importance of providing quality education for international students, the official said Persian language teaching centers play a key role in attracting foreign students and preparing them to major in universities. So, they should do their best to employ experienced professors to provide the best educational courses to help foreign students learn the Persian language.

Nearly 60,000 foreign students are currently studying in Iranian universities, compared with 35,000 students in the past Iranian academic year, which started on September 22, 2024.

Despite existing challenges, Iran has managed to attract students from 101 countries, Saeed Habiba, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs, said in October 2025.

The scientific capacity of the country's universities and their positive record in international cooperation are a valuable opportunity that must be seized to transform the presence of foreign students into a national discourse and strategic planning, the official said, adding that the students are mainly from Afghanistan, India, Iraq, and Pakistan.

Attracting 320,000 intl. students by 2028 on agenda

According to the Seventh National Development Plan (2023-2028), the country is projected to increase the number of interna-



tional students to 320,000 from currently around 60,000.

To this end, the higher education system needs to adopt some institutional and developmental approaches in organizations associated with foreign students, Mehr news agency reported.

In this regard, the parliament research center has evaluated Iran's situation in attracting international students and measures that need to be taken into account.

According to the report, the number of foreign students in the country has grown from 13,767 in Iranian year 1394 (2015 - 2016) to 68,563 in 1403 (2024 -2025). The number of educational institutions that are allowed to accept foreign students has noticeably increased from 45 to 206 over the past decade.

The report also shows that 13 acts, such as providing short-term sabbaticals, granting visas, establishing a center for foreign student graduates, and holding remedial courses, have been developed and officially accepted by the parliament as part of educational charter for foreign students; however, they have not been implemented in time.

Also major organizations and institutions of the country have no participation in planning cultural programs for foreign students.

A lack of strategic comprehensive marketing skills, and bureaucratic and time-consuming correspondence were among other recognized problems.

The parliament research center has put forward some proposals to help attract more international students. The most important one highlights adopting an approach that focuses on generating income, soft cultural power, and expanding science.

The other suggestion emphasizes the importance of boosting south-south international relations, that is developing political and economic interactions with highly populated countries like Pakistan, India, Egypt and some countries in Central Asia.

Ongoing evaluation of other countries' policies in attracting students, developing software and hardware infrastructures, stable and secure network, as well as increasing the number of scholarships are among other suggested solutions.

Baghdad seeks to beef up pharmaceutical partnerships with Tehran

TEHRAN - Iraq has called for expanded pharmaceutical cooperation and joint investment in healthcare infrastructure with Iran, highlighting opportunities to strengthen bilateral ties in the health sector.

Iraqi Health Minister Abdul-Hussein Aziz Al-Mousawi, accompanied by his deputy ministers, visited Iranian pavilions at Health Expo Iraq, held from October 28 to 31 at the Baghdad International Fair, Mehr News Agency reported.

During the visit, the Iranian delegation briefed the Iraqi officials on the participation of around 30 Iranian companies, which showcased more than 40 product brands across various sectors, including pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements, raw materials, machinery, technology transfer, medical equipment, condensed milk, cosmetics, and hygiene products.

On the sidelines of the visit, Al-Mousawi highlighted the importance of deepening collaborations with Iran, including developing joint pharmaceutical industries, establishing joint forums and specialized interaction platforms in the health sector, and expanding manufacturing infrastructure with the participation of Iranian companies.

The sixth edition of Health Expo Iraq, the country's annual international health exhibition and congress, offered Iranian health-sector manufacturers a valuable opportunity to enter the Iraqi market and expand their business in the neighboring country.

The expo featured a wide range of products and services, including medical equipment, laboratory devices, pharmaceuticals, hospital supplies, and healthcare services. The expo also hosted seminars, workshops, and panel discussions that encouraged industry professionals to share knowledge and experiences and build new business connections.

The Iranian delegation set up their pavilions to feature the products and achievements of the Iranian knowledge-based firms, establish connections between Iranian and Iraqi experts and stakeholders, hold B2B meetings, and identify the needs of the Iraqi market in the field of health.

With a population of over 46 million and the pharmaceutical market valued at 4 billion dollars, Iraq is one of the biggest health markets in West Asia. The country is planning to meet 70 percent of its pharmaceutical needs through domestic production by 2027.

Iraq seeks broader scientific ties with Iran

In October, Iraqi Ambassador to Iran Yasser Abdulzahra Al-Hajjaj stressed that scientific cooperation between the two countries

should extend beyond student recruitment to include joint research projects, exchanges of professors and researchers, and stronger technological ties.

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

He made the remarks while addressing a national festival held at the Iran University of Science and Technology on October 20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Environmental rangers: nature's ever-vigilant guardians

From patrolling mountainous terrain to confronting illegal hunters, environmental rangers work tirelessly to protect wildlife and preserve the habitats on which the survival of animal species depends.

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

Promoting environmental awareness among students, offering environmental education courses at universities, developing a plan entitled "Skilled Ranger Soldier," and preparing guidelines for environmental protection are among the key measures being pursued to strengthen conservation efforts.

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

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NOVEMBER 1, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Justice puts everything in its place, and liberality brings out things from a special direction. Justice is a statesman who gives everyone his right, and liberality is a habit belonging to one person only. Therefore, justice is worthier.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:28 Dawn: 5:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:27 (tomorrow)

What’s in Tehran art galleries



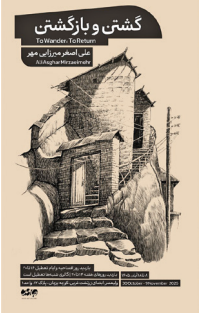
Painting

* Maad Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Maahyar Charmchi.

The exhibit named “Meat Grinder Symphony” will continue until November 20 at the gallery located at 3 Kooh Peykar St., Fallahi St., Zaferaniyeh neighborhood.

* An exhibition of paintings by Faraz Nasser Sharif is underway at Yafteh Gallery.

The exhibition named “Fragmentariness” will run until November 13 at the gallery located at 8 Taleqani Dead End, Yarmohammadi St. in the Darus Neighborhood.



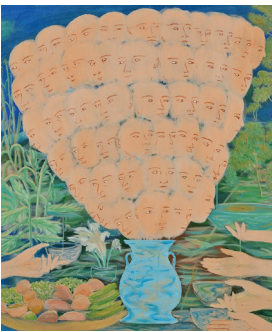
* Javid Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Ali-Asghar Mirzaimehr.

The exhibition titled “To Wander, To Return” runs until November 9 at the gallery, which can be found at 17 Zartosht St., Vali-e Asr Ave.



* Paintings by Morteza Asadi are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled “Unfinished Past,” the exhibition runs until November 6 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Paintings by Zahra Nouri are on display in an exhibition at Delgosha Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until December 4 at the gallery located at 30 Mohajer Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Paintings by Mahnaz Passikhani are on display in an exhibition at Asr Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “Momentum” will run until November 9 at the gallery located at 18 Delaviz St. off North Mirzaye Shirazi St.

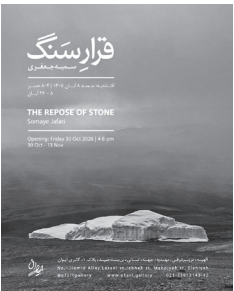


* Alidad Namazi is putting his latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until November 16 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

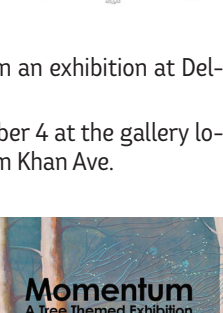
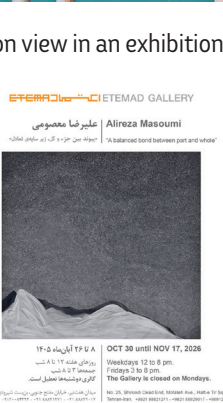
* Etemad Gallery 1 is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Alireza Masoumi.

The exhibition named “A Balanced Bond between Part and Whole” will be running until November 17 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.



* Sharif Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Samaneh Akhbarian.

The exhibit entitled “Threshold” will be running until November 9 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.



Iranian team makes IDFA 2026 trailer

TEHRAN – The official campaign trailer for the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) 2026 has been made by an Iranian team.

Following the success of the film “A Fox Under a Pink Moon” co-directed by Mehrdad Oskouei and Soraya Akhlaghi at IDFA 2025, its makers were invited to create this year’s festival campaign trailer, ISNA reported.

In the making of the trailer, the filmmakers are accompanied by editor Mohammad Babaee and composer Afshin Azizi.

“From our first conversations with the IDFA team, we shared a vision of creating something beyond a festival trailer — a piece reflecting the urgent concerns of our time: peace, women, children, and hope for a better future,” Azizi wrote in a post on social media.

“At a time when war and violence continue to affect millions of lives around the world, we wanted to create something that speaks of humanity, compassion, and hope through images, animation, music, and sound,” he added. “Collaborating with IDFA, a festival we have always considered a home for documentary filmmakers worldwide, has been a truly special experience.”

Since 2022, IDFA has invited artists from its community to develop the festival’s visual campaign, offering their personal interpretation of IDFA and exploring the relationship between art, documentary, and the world.

For the 2026 edition, this artistic dialogue continues with director Mehrdad Oskouei and co-director Soraya Akhlaghi of “A Fox Under a Pink Moon,” winner of the IDFA Award for Best Film in the International Competition of 2025. Their collaboration extends the conversation that began with the film, in which Soraya’s drawings became a way of navigating memory, displacement, and conflict.

A joint production of Iran, France, the UK, Denmark, and the US, the 76-minute documentary had its world premiere at the festival and won its first



international award.

The movie shows 16-year-old Soraya, who is already creating stunning drawings and sculptures that are as beautiful as they are dark. This strong-willed Afghan sculptor and illustrator has been trying for five years to leave Iran and join her mother in Austria.

At the heart of this year’s festival campaign is a visual transformation. The trailer brings together fragments from documentaries previously screened at IDFA: images that bear witness to destruction, migration, and the lasting impact of conflict. But these images do not remain unchanged. Soraya draws directly onto them, transforming scenes of violence and devastation through her own visual language. Her illustrations do not attempt to conceal or erase reality. Instead, they respond to it, creating space for another way of looking.

An image of destruction can

give rise to an unexpected gesture of beauty. Through drawing and animation, documentary images become canvases for imagination, connecting memory and the present, destruction and hope. This approach echoes a central idea in A Fox Under a Pink Moon: that art can reshape our relationship to the world without denying its realities. Soraya’s work acknowledges violence and suffering while insisting that beauty, tenderness and hope can exist alongside them.

The making of the campaign itself reflects the realities at its heart. It became a patchwork of international collaborations, created across borders, time zones and vastly different circumstances.

Soraya worked on the campaign from the refugee accommodation where she currently lives in Berlin, while Mehrdad coordinated the project from France. Composer Afshin Azizi created the score from the Netherlands, while editor Mo

hammad Babaee assembled the trailer from Iran. Soraya’s drawings were brought to life by Ukrainian animator Alina Milkina, working from Kyiv as the city continued to endure Russian bombardments.

The campaign is therefore not simply a work about war, displacement, and resilience – it is also shaped by these realities. Its creators bring their own experiences of migration, conflict and distance into the process. Together, they demonstrate the connections that art can create, even when physical borders make connection difficult.

Emotionally, the trailer moves through four interconnected states: war, devastation, migration, and hope. Rather than presenting them as a linear journey, the campaign allows these experiences to overlap and co-exist, reflecting the complexity of contemporary life. Documentary images become starting points for imagination. Drawings interrupt and transform them. Animation gives them movement and new meaning. The result is not an attempt to make difficult realities more palatable, but an invitation to look at them differently.

According to the IDFA website, in many ways, this reflects what IDFA strives to be. Documentary cinema confronts us with reality, while also creating a space in which images can be questioned, shared and transformed through dialogue. This year’s campaign embodies that belief. Art cannot undo violence, but it can change the way we look at it. And by changing how we look, it can help us imagine what might come next.

IDFA is a leading international documentary institute that provides a space for exchange, collaboration, and inspiration—bringing together filmmakers, artists, audiences, and professionals from around the world.

Its broad scope includes a public festival of films and new media, funding initiatives, markets, talent development, and education programs—alongside a year-round documentary hub in Amsterdam’s Vondelpark.

Major Iranian singers, orchestras take stage across country this week



Other popular performers are also taking their music to audiences in different parts of the country. Majid Razavi is scheduled to perform in Bandar Abbas and Gonbad-e Kavus, while Hamim has concerts in Gorgan. The lineup also includes performances by Omid Hajili in Tehran, Aaron Afshar on Kish Island, and Babak Jahanbakhsh in Isfahan.

The program also features a number of orchestral and classical music performances in the capital. The Mitra Youth Orchestra and Choir are scheduled to perform at Roudaki Hall on November 4 and 5.

Iran’s live music scene remains vibrant, with major singers and orchestras performing in Tehran and other cities through November 6, offering audiences a diverse range of concerts and musical programs.

Another notable event is a performance by the Alnam Orchestra, conducted by Vahid Alipour and featuring vocalist Vadood

Moazenazadeh, at Milad Tower on November 4.

On November 5, Vahdat Hall will host “New Music in Iran,” a concert featuring compositions by Alireza Mashayekhi and conducted by Arash Amini. The Damavand Orchestra, under the direction of Behzad Rahnema and featuring a solo performance by Hesam Navab Safavi, is also scheduled to perform at Rose Mall in Tehran on the same day.

The final days of the program will bring further performances to Tehran and other destinations. On November 6, instrumentalist Vahid Asadollahi is scheduled to perform at Vahdat Hall, while singer Zaki Shamsabadi will take the stage at Niavaran Cultural Center. The Navan music group will also perform on Kish Island.

The geographical spread of the concerts, from Tehran and Isfahan to Sari, Gorgan, Bandar Abbas, Zanjan and Kish Island, reflects the continued activity of Iran’s live music scene, with both established performers and orchestral ensembles presenting their latest repertoires.

According to information published on official ticket sales platforms, the performances are taking place at concert halls, cultural venues and large stadiums, with further events scheduled throughout the coming days.

certs are among the most prominent events on the current music calendar.

Vocalist Alireza Ghorbani is also performing in Sari, while pop singer Arman Garshasbi has scheduled several concerts at Espinas Palace in Tehran. Meanwhile, Reza Bahram is taking the stage at Isfahan’s City Center Hall, with multiple performances planned during the week.

The strong public reception for concerts by Shajarian, Ghorbani, Garshasbi and Bahram has led to additional performances being added to their schedules. High demand has also reportedly caused temporary disruptions to some ticketing platforms during peak sales periods, prompting audiences to turn to alternative online outlets to purchase tickets.

Among the major events, singer Homayoun Shajarian is holding a series of concerts at Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium in Isfahan, with performances scheduled throughout the week. His con-