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The politics of anti-Semitism: Europe's historical record and Iran's Jewish community

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN — An accusation can be a powerful political weapon. Few carry the moral and emotional weight of anti-Semitism. Originally intended to identify and confront hostility towards Jewish people, the term has increasingly become part of the political vocabulary used to discredit adversaries, silence critics and delegitimize positions across different political arenas and geographical boundaries. ▸ Page **3**

Israeli elections: The genocide wins

By Xavier Villar

Preliminary results of Israel's general election show Benjamin Netanyahu, the veteran prime minister, ahead of his rival Gadi Eisenkot, former chief of staff of the armed forces, but still short of a majority of parliamentary seats.

With 85% of the vote counted, Netanyahu's Likud and its allies on the far right and the ultra-Orthodox parties are on course to win 53 of the 120 seats in the Knesset (parliament). Eisenkot's Yashar party and three other non-Arab parties in his bloc would take 48; the remaining seats, to complete the 120, would go to Arab parties aligned with neither bloc.

Both leaders have declared they will attempt to form a coalition government. ▸ Page **3**

The Gaza ceasefire that keeps killing

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – A year after a ceasefire promised to end the genocidal war, Gaza is enduring a peace that exists in name only.

The ceasefire has not stopped Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) from committing more war crimes in the Strip. Reports on Monday said the regime's military waged fresh attacks killing more Palestinians.

On Sunday alone, IOF strikes killed eight Palestinians, five of them police officers in what Gaza's Interior Ministry said was a "horrific massacre" in the al-Mawasi area west of Khan Younis. Local residents said the attack landed near a makeshift school, causing widespread panic among children.

In a separate strike in Gaza City's al-Rimal neighborhood, three Palestinians, including a child, were killed when an IOF drone targeted a gathering of civilians on al-Thawra Street. Six others were wounded, some critically. ▸ Page **5**

Canada, a Washington ally, is proving that US is not the center of the world

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Canada is taking concrete steps to diversify its international relations as Canadian officials, particularly Prime Minister Mark Carney, have come to realize that the United States, especially under Donald Trump, is no longer a predictable or reliable partner.

Canada began distancing itself from Washington after Trump launched a trade war against Ottawa and went so far as to repeatedly describe Canada as the United States' 51st state. The remarks sent shockwaves across Canada, challenging the country's longstanding assumptions about its relationship with its southern neighbor. ▸ Page **5**



China Reaffirms Support for Iran's Sovereignty

Tehran rules out compromise on national security

Relations between Beijing and Tehran serve the fundamental interests of both nations and reflect the broader aspirations of the Global South for solidarity and cooperation

By Mahmoud Mahmoudian

TEHRAN — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday reaffirmed Beijing's support for Iran's sovereignty and security.

Wang made the remarks during a meeting with Ali Bagheri, a senior Iranian diplomat serving on Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC).

The meeting came amid intensive shuttle diplomacy aimed at preventing a resumption of hostilities between Iran and the United States following a 100-day period of neither war nor peace.

Wang stressed that dialogue and negotiations remain the only viable way to resolve the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

During the meeting in Beijing, Bagheri Kani underscored Tehran's determination to defend its national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity without compromise.

The two officials focused on the consequences of the US-Israeli military aggression against Iran, diplomatic initiatives to end the conflict, bilateral relations and prospects for establishing sustainable security in the region.

Wang emphasized that a political solution, rather than a return to military confrontation, was essential to ending the conflict.

According to China's state-run Xinhua News Agency, Wang said the war in the Middle East had continued for too long, and its consequences were spreading, making dialogue and negotiations the only way out of the crisis.

He called on all parties to act responsibly and work towards a political settlement with a rational and pragmatic approach rather than resorting to further military confrontation.

Wang also expressed China's readiness to continue cooperating with relevant parties and pursuing initiatives aimed at restoring regional peace, drawing on proposals put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping to de-escalate tensions in West Asia. ▸ Page **3**



Araghchi: Neighbours top priority of Iran's foreign policy

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that neighbouring countries were the top priority of Iran's foreign policy, adding that recent developments had further underscored the importance of these relations.

Speaking after he visited Turkmenistan, Araghchi said that, following a meeting between the presidents of the two countries on the sidelines of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit in Turkmenistan's Avaza, it had been agreed to follow up on several joint projects.

"Our relations with Turkmenistan are good, underpinned by numerous historical, cultural, familial, political and economic ties," he said. "Both countries have consistently demonstrated the political will to maintain and strengthen these relations." ▸ Page **2**

Iran's SNSC secretary and Putin discuss West Asia in phone call

TEHRAN —Major General Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation on the latest regional and international developments, with particular focus on West Asia.

The call followed recent meetings between senior officials of the two countries and formed part of ongoing high-level consultations between Tehran and Moscow. The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in the region and beyond.

During the conversation, Iranian officials expressed appreciation for Putin's and other Russian officials' clear and firm positions praising the role of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution and other national heroes, and for their support for the resilience and steadfastness of the Iranian people.

Both sides stressed the importance of continuing strategic cooperation in line with the roadmap set out by the leaders of the two countries.

Iran rejects uranium transfer abroad, says Hormuz reopening depends on US ending blockade

TEHRAN — Iran has rejected the transfer of its enriched uranium abroad and said the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz depends on the United States ending its naval blockade and meeting Tehran's demands, as Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei outlined the country's positions on nuclear issues, regional security and ongoing diplomatic efforts. ▸ Page **2**

Transferring knowledge to farms drives Iran's sustainable food security through innovation, diplomacy

TEHRAN- At a World Food Day conference in Tehran, hosted by the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO) and the Ministry of Agriculture, senior officials stressed that scientific research must be linked directly to the real needs of agricultural producers.

Gholamreza Golmohammadi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Head of AREEOC, said the transfer of knowledge to farms is the agricultural sector's priority for achieving sustainable food security.

He argued that agricultural research has moved beyond simply producing papers and implementing research projects; it is now focused on solving farmers' problems, increasing resource productivity, ▸ Page **4**

Tehran hosting International Tech Olympics with 11 countries taking part

TEHRAN – Technology experts from Iran and 11 other countries are competing in the final round of the third International Tech Olympics, which opened in Tehran on Monday and will run through November 4.

Participants from India, Turkmenistan, the Czech Republic, Pakistan, Belarus, Vietnam, Russia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria are taking part in the event either in person or virtually.

The three-day competition brings together technology professionals to showcase their skills, develop innovative solutions, and explore new possibilities in the field.

The event aims to assess scientific capabilities, identify talented individuals, strengthen problem-solving skills, promote networking among technologists, and build links between participants and industry, Borna News Agency reported. ▸ Page **7**

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

No stable security can emerge without Iran

Vatan-e-Emrooz argued that Iran's regional influence remains a decisive factor in shaping security developments across West Asia. According to the analysis, any attempt to establish a lasting security framework without including major regional powers would face substantial limitations. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to move beyond being simply an influential participant in regional affairs and become one of the principal actors involved in designing future security mechanisms. Supporters of this approach argue that Iran's strategic location, political influence, and regional presence make it an unavoidable component of any effective security arrangement. However, turning this vision into a sustainable framework requires more than political ambition. Practical agreements between regional governments, effective management of bilateral disputes, confidence-building measures, and clearly defined mechanisms for cooperation would all be necessary.

Ham-Mihan: Negotiations have reached a deadlock

Ham-Mihan analyzed the current impasse in negotiations between Iran and the United States. The core dispute is no longer centered on the final content of a potential agreement. Instead, disagreements focus on the first steps of the process, the structure of nuclear negotiations, and the timing of concessions before, during, or after any formal agreement. The analysis argued that both sides increasingly appear to be seeking political advantage rather than compromise. Such an approach creates significant risks and reduces the possibility of diplomatic progress. At the same time, domestic political considerations have restricted the flexibility of officials in both countries. Despite these challenges, the newspaper pointed to ongoing diplomatic efforts and mediation initiatives, particularly those associated with Qatar, as possible avenues for reducing tensions. If both parties show greater flexibility and adjust their positions, opportunities for progress may still exist. Nevertheless, failure to reach common ground could increase the likelihood of confrontation. It also said that while diplomatic discussions continue, military planning remains part of broader strategic calculations.

Shargh: Iran should benefit from relations with neighbors

In an interview with senior international affairs analyst Abbas Maleki, Shargh examined how Iran could manage economic pressure if military conflict is avoided. The newspaper described the current stage of relations between Tehran and Washington as one of the most sensitive and complex periods in recent years, with uncertainty continuing to influence economic and political calculations. Iran possesses several important advantages that could help reduce the effects of external pressure. The country shares borders with numerous neighbors and maintains multiple routes for regional connectivity. Access to the Caspian Sea provides economic opportunities and a valuable transportation corridor. In addition, railway links and other transportation networks connect Iran to surrounding countries and facilitate trade and economic cooperation. The analyst also referred to Afghanistan, emphasizing the importance of maintaining constructive regional relationships. Neighboring countries should be viewed not only through a security lens but also as economic partners capable of contributing to stability and growth. Strengthening regional cooperation and taking full advantage of geographic connectivity could improve economic resilience and provide alternatives during periods of external pressure.

Sazandegi: A crisis beyond Middle East

Sazandegi discussed the broader consequences of a conflict involving Iran and the United States, arguing that its impact would extend far beyond the Middle East. While such a confrontation would originate in the region, its economic, political, and security effects would be felt across the world. The report highlighted concerns regarding rising energy prices, disruptions in global markets, and increasing uncertainty within national economies. European countries, in particular, have expressed concerns about the consequences of instability affecting energy supplies and economic activity. Fears of social unrest, market volatility, and emergency preparedness measures demonstrate the international character of the crisis. Even the end of direct hostilities would not necessarily mean the end of their consequences. Economies, energy markets, and security policies could continue to experience the effects of instability long after military operations had concluded. As a result, the implications of such a conflict would likely remain a concern for governments and societies well beyond the region itself.

Javan: Immediate, effective and borderless response

Javan examined what it described as the evolving framework of Iran's defense doctrine. The principle of an "immediate, effective, and geographically unrestricted response" is intended to ensure that threats cannot avoid consequences by relying on distance or perceived security beyond Iran's borders. This doctrine reflects a shift from passive deterrence toward a more active and controlling approach. Within this framework, Iran seeks to influence both the course and the conclusion of potential confrontations. The report also referred to efforts to expand a comprehensive "target bank," broadening deterrence beyond traditional military objectives. This includes strategic interests, political influence, and other assets considered important to adversaries. The overall objective is to increase deterrence by raising the potential costs associated with hostile actions and strengthening Iran's ability to respond to a wide range of threats.

Araghchi: Neighbours top priority of Iran's foreign policy

From page 1 ▸ Describing the visit as productive, Araghchi said he had provided Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov with detailed briefings on the latest regional developments, negotiations and the readiness of Iran's armed forces. The two sides subsequently reviewed key economic projects and made important decisions on their implementation.



Araghchi held talks with Meredov in Ashgabat on Monday, November 2, 2026, focusing on ways to expand bilateral cooperation and strengthen political and economic ties between the two neighbouring countries. He arrived in the Turkmen capital at the head of a diplomatic, economic and parliamentary delegation.

Meredov, who also serves as deputy chairman of Turkmenistan's Cabinet of Ministers, highlighted the longstanding historical ties between the two countries, describing them as a solid foundation for further expanding bilateral relations.

He noted that political, commercial and cultural ties had grown steadily since Turkmenistan gained independence 35 years ago. Meredov also expressed appreciation for Iran's support for Turkmenistan in international forums.

Indirect talks with the United States

Turning to indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States, Araghchi said consultations had intensified in view of the sensitivity of the current situation. He noted that Qatar and Pakistan were playing a very active role as mediators.

"We have put forward our conditions and proposal, and everything depends on Washington's political judgement," he said. "If it opts for sincere diplomacy, we are ready to engage. But if it intends to resort to deception or military action, it will face a response more bitter and more severe than before."

Araghchi said Tehran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz were entirely clear and transparent. If those conditions were accepted, he said, the strait would be reopened and negotiations would resume. Otherwise, the current situation would continue, and Iran would not yield.

He also said consultations in Beijing by the deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council were part of ongoing strategic engagement with key partners. The discussions covered major regional developments, security issues and matters concerning peace and war.

Araghchi's one-day visit to Turkmenistan included consultations with senior officials on bilateral relations, regional and international developments, and opportunities to expand political and economic cooperation.

Iran rejects uranium transfer abroad, says Hormuz reopening depends on US ending blockade

From page 1 ▸ Speaking at his weekly press conference in Tehran on Monday, Baqaei said Iran would not agree to the removal of its enriched uranium from the country.

"No, we will not agree to it," he said in response to a question about the possibility of transferring the material abroad.

Addressing calls for Iran to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Baqaei said the question was a legitimate subject of debate, given developments over the past 15 years and Iran's repeated efforts to demonstrate the peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

He stressed, however, that Iran remained a party to the treaty and considered itself bound by its commitments. Any change in its nuclear doctrine, he said, would be considered within the framework of those obligations.

Baqaei said Iran's nuclear program had always been peaceful, arguing that persistent allegations against it had raised legitimate questions about the intentions of those making them.

He also referred to the assassination of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who had issued a religious decree prohibiting the production and use of nuclear weapons.

Responding to US President Donald Trump's threat to attack Iran's remaining nuclear facilities, Baqaei said Tehran would voice its position and document what it considers flagrant violations of human rights.

He criticized the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors for remaining silent in the face of such threats, describing the United States as the greatest threat to the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Baqaei warned that threats against Iran could encourage violations of the NPT and said other countries were watching Washington's conduct. He added that such threats would only strengthen Iran's determination to defend itself.

Hormuz reopening linked to end of blockade

Turning to the Strait of Hormuz, Baqaei said the waterway could not reopen unless the United States ended its naval blockade against Iran and met Tehran's demands.

He said Washington could not credibly speak of restoring security while maintaining the blockade and expecting Iran to make unilateral commitments.

Iran's demands, he said, were based on commitments accepted by the United States under the Islamabad understanding, which Washington subsequently violated. These include lifting sanctions imposed after the breach and releasing Iran's frozen funds and assets.

Baqaei emphasized that the demands were not preconditions for diplomacy but necessary steps to restore security and Iran's rights.

He said Iran's position was aimed at restoring security in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf and the wider region, adding that no lasting agreement could be reached while the blockade remained in place.

Diplomatic proposal remains on the table

Baqaei also addressed a recent letter from US Vice President JD Vance to Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, saying Tehran judged Washington by its actions rather than the tone of its correspondence.

He said differences in the style of diplomatic letters were normal, but stressed that the United States had repeatedly undermined diplomatic efforts over the past two years.

According to Baqaei, Washington had consistently pushed for war, disrupted diplomatic processes and sabotaged initiatives that emerged through dialogue. He cited the Islamabad memorandum of understanding, which was violated just two to three weeks after it was signed. Vance, he noted, had served as the lead US negotiator in that process.

Baqaei also referred to Trump's recent description of the diplomatic process as a waste of time, saying Washington's record required Iran to approach any new initiative with caution.

He said Iran had put forward a diplomatic proposal, exchanged views and concerns with the other side through mediators, and remained ready to continue the process. The proposal, he added, had been discussed in detail during an Iranian delegation's visit to New York and remained on the table.

Iran's seven-stage proposal has been condensed into a format that could be implemented within 'two days,' Baqaei said, describing it as a demonstration of Tehran's goodwill. He stressed that the outcome depended on Washington.

"The ball is in America's court," he said, adding that Iran's demands had been clearly communicated.

Baqaei said exchanges of messages were continuing through mediators, including Qatar. He explained that Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi's visit to Doha had been intended to facilitate communications between Tehran and the mediators.

He described the issues under discussion as highly complex, saying that US actions had added to the difficulties.

The spokesperson also expressed concern over 'contradictory messages' from Washington, including threats by Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio alongside Vance's letter, which he said had a more conciliatory tone.

Such contradictions, he said, could reflect confusion within the US leadership over who makes decisions. He added that Iran would not be deceived by diplomatic rhetoric, citing Washington's past conduct and its actions shortly before the June 13, 2025 military attack.

Baqaei said the outcome of US presidential elections would not change Iran's priorities, which remain national security and vital interests. He added that Tehran focused on strengthening its domestic capabilities rather than relying on political changes in Washington.

Iran's diplomatic position, he concluded, remained centered on the restoration of security, respect for its rights and the fulfillment of commitments previously accepted by the United States.

Police chief warns enemy interests worldwide could be targeted in future war

TEHRAN — Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Radan, commander of Iranâ€™s Law Enforcement Command, has warned that any future conflict could extend beyond conventional geographical boundaries, saying that locations hosting the interests of Iranâ€™s adversaries could become targets.

In a video message, Radan said Iranâ€™s armed forces had significantly increased their preparedness since the previous war and were updating their target lists in line with instructions from the Leader.

â€œWe are confident that if the enemy makes a mistake, it will taste an even harsher defeat than before,â€ he said.

Radan also warned that countries and parties providing support to Iranâ€™s adversaries should take his remarks into account. In the event of another war, he said, geographical boundaries would no longer determine the scope of the response.



â€œWherever the enemyâ€™s interests are located, that place will, God willing, be considered a legitimate target,â€ he said.

Radan has headed Iranâ€™s Law Enforcement Command, known as FARAJA, since January 2023.

Top judge calls for expedited, thorough judicial proceedings into US crimes against Iran

TEHRAN — Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei has called for the expeditious handling of cases concerning US crimes against the Iranian nation, stressing that prompt judicial proceedings must be accompanied by meticulous examination of the evidence and the issuance of well-reasoned, legally sound judgments.

Speaking at a meeting of the Judiciary High Council on Monday, November 2, 2026, Mohseni-Ejei addressed the judicial proceedings concerning US crimes against Iran, including the assassination of the country's senior officials.

He described these actions as clear instances of state-sponsored terrorism and violations of fundamental principles of international law, emphasizing that the cases must be adjudicated without undue delay while fully observing the requirements of judicial scrutiny, due process, and legal precision.

The judiciary chief stressed that expediting proceedings should not come at the expense of a comprehensive examination of the evidence or the legal soundness of the final judgments.

In another part of his remarks, Mohseni-Ejei underscored the judiciary's responsibility to support productive businesses and legitimate economic operators, describing this as a fundamental and continuing institutional obligation.

He said the importance of such support was particularly pronounced under the current circumstances, which he described as an all-out economic war imposed on the Iranian nation by its adversaries.

November 4 symbolizes resistance, pursuit of justice: Mohseni-Ejei

Commemorating November 4, Iran's National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance and Students' Day, Mohseni-Ejei described the occasion as a symbol of the Iranian nation's resistance and steadfastness.

November 4, corresponding to Aban 13 in the Iranian calendar, commemorates three pivotal events in contemporary Iranian history: the exile of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, in 1964; the killing of protesting students by the Pahlavi regime in 1978; and the takeover of the former US embassy in Tehran in 1979. Iran observes the date as the National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance.

Mohseni-Ejei said that, under Imam Khomeini's leadership, the Iranian people had challenged American power and prestige from the early days of the Islamic Revolution, adding that what he described as successive US defeats in confronting the Iranian nation had continued ever since.

He characterized the struggle against global arrogance as an expression of the pursuit of justice, the defense of fundamental values, opposition to oppression and solidarity with the oppressed.

The judiciary chief also highlighted the significance of Students' Day, saying that during the Pahlavi era, the ruling establishment and its supporters had sought to prevent Iranian schoolchildren and university students from developing a commitment to truth-seeking and resistance to injustice.

Today, however, thanks to the Islamic Revolution, even young Iranian children are learning the principles of justice and opposition to oppression, he said.

China reaffirms support for Iran's sovereignty

Tehran rules out compromise on national security

From Page 1 ▸ The Chinese foreign minister further emphasized that, despite fluctuations in the international environment, relations between Beijing and Tehran had continued to develop steadily, serving the fundamental interests of both nations and reflecting the broader aspirations of the Global South for solidarity and cooperation.

China, he said, was prepared to work with Iran to further strengthen bilateral relations.

No concessions

Bagheri Kani briefed Wang on developments following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, Tehran's diplomatic initiatives to end the conflict and its efforts to establish lasting security in the region.

He stressed that Iran would make no concessions when it came to defending its national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Describing the US and Israeli attacks against Iran, including the assassination of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, as an unforgettable crime, the Iranian official said such actions constituted war crimes and must not be allowed to continue.

"We consider these actions to constitute war crimes, and such crimes must not be allowed to continue," he said.

Bagheri reiterated that Iran's position on defending its national interests and territorial integrity remained unchanged, emphasizing that no compromise would be made on these fundamental issues.

He also warned against the consequences of Washington's pursuit of war and hegemonic policies, arguing that a war against a civilization could not produce victory and would instead inflict serious damage on the global economy.

In remarks following the meeting, Bagheri said China had reaffirmed its full support for the Islamic Republic, adding that Tehran and Beijing shared common perspectives on diplomacy and the prospect of war in the period ahead.

Xi warns against turning Persian Gulf into arena for great-power rivalry

Earlier on Monday, Chinese President Xi Jinping, during talks with Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq in Beijing, stressed that the Middle East and the Persian Gulf should not become an arena for great-power rivalry and geopolitical confrontation.

He said China remained committed to ending the war and was prepared to contribute diplomatic initiatives and practical solutions to the region's security challenges.

Xi also emphasized China's readiness to strengthen communication and coordination with Arab countries, including members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to help restore regional peace and achieve lasting stability and security.

His remarks reaffirmed Beijing's position that regional disputes should be resolved through political and diplomatic means rather than military confrontation, with regional countries playing a central role in shaping their own security arrangements.

The Chinese president's meeting with the Omani sultan also highlighted the importance Beijing attaches to cooperation with regional countries in promoting stability across West Asia and the Persian Gulf.

China backs regional stability through political engagement

China has consistently advocated resolving disputes in West Asia through dialogue and diplomacy, seeking to promote regional stability through political engagement and cooperation among regional countries. Beijing's diplomatic efforts have included its mediation in the restoration of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March 2023, an initiative widely regarded as a significant step towards easing tensions and strengthening regional cooperation.

Under an initiative by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Beijing hosted and sponsored negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh from March 6 to 10, 2023, culminating in an agreement to resume diplomatic relations, reopen embassies and missions, and implement previously signed cooperation and security agreements. The agreement was announced in a joint trilateral statement issued by China, Iran and Saudi Arabia on March 10, 2023. Iran and Saudi Arabia also acknowledged China's role in facilitating the negotiations, while expressing appreciation for Iraq and Oman for hosting earlier rounds of dialogue in 2021 and 2022.

China's diplomatic engagement in the region has continued amid escalating tensions and the consequences of the US-Israeli military aggression against Iran.

Israeli elections: The genocide wins



By Xavier Villar

Preliminary results of Israel's general election show Benjamin Netanyahu, the veteran prime minister, ahead of his rival Gadi Eisenkot, former chief of staff of the armed forces, but still short of a majority of parliamentary seats.

With 85% of the vote counted, Netanyahu's Likud and its allies on the far right and the ultra-Orthodox parties are on course to win 53 of the 120 seats in the Knesset (parliament). Eisenkot's Yashar party and three other non-Arab parties in his bloc would take 48; the remaining seats, to complete the 120, would go to Arab parties aligned with neither bloc.

Both leaders have declared they will attempt to form a coalition government.

The president will most likely task Netanyahu, as leader of the largest party and the largest bloc, with forming a government. If he fails to muster the support of 61 members of parliament, Eisenkot could then receive the mandate.

Eisenkot cannot dislodge Netanyahu's far-right and religious coalition without resorting to the Arab parties. In Israel's history, an Arab party has supported a governing coalition only once: Ra'am's backing of the Bennett government in 2021. Ra'am is expected to win barely four seats this time. The Joint List, however, which has traditionally remained in opposition, could win as many as 12.

This means that, to form a government, Eisenkot would need the support of the Joint List. For now, however, two of his allies, Lieberman and Bennett, firmly oppose any alliance with the Arab parties.

If neither Netanyahu nor Eisenkot can assemble a majority, Israel could return to the polls. This scenario would not necessarily amount to a defeat for Netanyahu. On the contrary, it could give him the opportunity to buy time, rebuild his right-wing coalition and reshape the political agenda. In such a context, a major security crisis could eclipse every other issue, rally society and displace questions about the government's record.

This is where Iran comes into play. Netanyahu could seek to exploit the raising of an 'external threat' to force some of his adversaries to cooperate with him.

In this vein, several Iranian media outlets, such as the newspaper Khorasan, have suggested that Netanyahu's departure from government would benefit Iran — not because his successor would necessarily adopt a friendly stance, but because the removal of one of the principal architects of the confrontation with Iran, responsible for ordering the assassination of senior leaders, would reduce the political and diplomatic capacity accumulated at the apex of that confrontation.

However, this analysis fails to account for the fact that the political divisions between the two camps are not deep enough to speak of a 'fundamental change in Tel Aviv's approach to Tehran' after the elections. Every political option in Israel, whether currents characterised as right-wing, liberal or centrist, regards Iran — specifically its nuclear dimension — as its principal threat.

In other words, what separates them are differences one might call ontic: different ways of confronting the 'Iranian threat', but no disagreement over its existence or the need to combat it, which does not change under any of them. In an interview given before the election, Eisenkot said that regime change in Iran should not be set as a direct objective of war. 'It is wrong to make regime change a military objective,' he declared.

Instead, he argued for focusing efforts on Iran's military and regional capabilities: 'The right thing is to destroy the Iranian nuclear programme, its missile programme and its subordinate forces.' Eisenkot added: 'And I know how to do it.'

If Eisenkot succeeds in building a durable coalition, the transformation is most likely to occur in the style of governance rather than in any substantial redefinition of foreign policy. He can be expected to prioritise accountability for the events of 7 October, the recovery of trust in institutions, a more circumscribed and selective management of crises, and the reduction of internal tensions. On issues such as Gaza, Iran and security, however, the differences with Netanyahu are likely to prove shallower at the level of political objectives than in the style of governance and the structure of decision-making processes. On Gaza, above all, the continuity is stark: neither bloc questions the war or its objectives.

What kind of differences, then, separate the two camps? The concrete ones — those of policy and decision, which might be called ontic — are the visible ones. Yet it is the ontological dimension, politics in the strong sense, that articulates these differences into a coherent whole: a deeper continuity in the logic and structure of power underlying the superficial changes.

The same applies to the racist policy of both men and, in general, to all Israeli political parties and to society as a whole. If there is one thing Israeli society can agree on, it is the genocide.

The politics of anti-Semitism: Europe's historical record and Iran's Jewish community

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN — An accusation can be a powerful political weapon. Few carry the moral and emotional weight of anti-Semitism. Originally intended to identify and confront hostility towards Jewish people, the term has increasingly become part of the political vocabulary used to discredit adversaries, silence critics and delegitimize positions across different political arenas and geographical boundaries.

The problem arises when a legitimate struggle against discrimination is transformed into an instrument of political convenience. In recent years, accusations of anti-Semitism have increasingly accompanied criticism of Israel, opposition to its military policies and challenges to the political interests of its Western allies. In some cases, the distinction between hostility towards Jews and opposition to the policies of a government has been deliberately blurred.

Iran has found itself at the center of this debate.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei has challenged the premise behind accusations that anti-Semitism is embedded in Iranian society, arguing that the phenomenon is essentially European and has no connection to Iran's religion, beliefs, culture or civilization.

"Anti-Semitism is essentially a European phenomenon," he has said on Monday, describing the accusations against Iran as a stereotype repeatedly circulated and reinforced by international media.

To understand the historical dimension of his argument, it is worth looking at Europe's own record.

Europe's long history of persecution

For centuries, Jewish communities across Europe faced systematic exclusion, discriminatory legislation, forced conversions, expulsions and violent attacks. These were not isolated incidents but recurring features of the political and religious landscape of medieval and early modern Europe.

In 1290, England's King Edward I ordered the expulsion of the country's entire Jewish population. The decision followed years of discriminatory legislation, restrictions on economic activity, heavy taxation and persecution. Jewish property was confiscated, and thousands were forced into exile.

Sixteen years later, in 1306, King Philip IV ordered the expulsion of Jews from France, with their property seized by the Crown. In Spain, the Alhambra Decree of 1492 gave Jews the choice of conversion to Christianity or departure. Portugal followed in 1496–97, forcing its Jewish population into conversion or exile.

The violence was not limited to royal decrees. In 1242, thousands of Jewish religious manuscripts, including copies of the Talmud, were publicly burned in Paris. During the Black Death in the fourteenth century, Jewish communities were accused of poisoning wells, prompting massacres and expulsions in several European territories.

These episodes form part of Europe's documented historical record. They reveal a long and deeply troubling relationship between European political and religious authorities and their Jewish populations.

Baghaei argues that Europe should examine this history, as well as its contemporary record, before directing accusations of anti-Semitism at other countries. He points to reports of attacks on Jewish cemeteries, synagogues requiring protection by barbed wire and Jewish institutions removing identifying signs to protect themselves from potential attacks.

"Why is Iran being accused?" he asks. "They are trying to project their own problems onto others."

A Jewish community with deep roots in Iran

Iran's relationship with its Jewish population has a history stretching back more than 2,700 years. Jewish communities were established in Persian territories during antiquity, and their presence continued through successive dynasties, political transformations and religious changes.

Following Cyrus the Great's conquest of Babylon in 539 BCE, many Jews remained within the Persian Empire rather than returning to Jerusalem. Over subsequent centuries, Jewish communities developed across Iranian cities, including Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Hamadan and Yazd.



Their historical presence is still visible in synagogues, cemeteries, religious shrines and other sites scattered throughout the country.

The Islamic Republic's Constitution formally recognizes Judaism as a religious minority. Article 13 guarantees recognized religious minorities the right to perform their religious ceremonies and conduct personal affairs according to their religious laws. Article 64 reserves one seat in the Islamic Consultative Assembly for the Jewish community.

According to the Tehran Jewish Committee, Iran's Jewish population was estimated at approximately 25-30,000. The community maintains religious institutions and continues to observe its traditions.

Baghaei draws particular attention to the number of Jewish places of worship in the country. In Yazd alone, he says, there are thirteen or fourteen synagogues, while the total number across Iran is approximately one hundred. He also points to the tombs of Jewish prophets and prominent religious figures that have remained part of Iran's historical and religious landscape.

"One only needs to look at the figures," he argues. These are not merely historical monuments; they are evidence of a Jewish presence that has remained part of Iranian society for centuries.

Judaism is not Israel, and Israel is not all Jews

Perhaps the most important distinction in the spokesman's argument concerns the tendency to conflate Jewish identity with the Israeli state and the ideology of Zionism.

Judaism is a religion, Jewish identity encompasses religious, cultural and ethnic dimensions, Israeli identity is a made-up, and Zionism is a political/idealogical movement. These categories overlap for some people, but they are not interchangeable.

The Israeli government cannot claim to speak for every Jew in the world, just as the actions of that government cannot reasonably be attributed to Jewish communities simply because they could share a religious or cultural identity.

This distinction becomes particularly important during periods of military confrontation. Iran is engaged in a direct conflict with Israel, a rogue state whose political leadership frequently invokes its claimed responsibility to represent Jewish interests worldwide. Yet, as Baghaei argues, opposition to the Israeli government's policies and military actions should not be interpreted as hostility towards Judaism.

"Despite the fact that we are engaged in an all-out war with a regime that falsely claims to represent the Jewish people, how many instances of attacks on Jewish holy sites have we witnessed?" he asks.

He maintains that the Iranian public is sufficiently aware of this distinction not to associate the actions of the Israeli government with Jewish people or their faith.

"The Iranian people are far too enlightened and civilized to attribute the actions of a genocidal regime to the followers of Judaism," he says.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IRGC to expand Janfada military training centres to at least 12

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) plans to expand its Jan-Fadayan (Self-Sacrificers) military training programme, increasing the number of centres to at least 12 in its first phase, Tehran Garrison Commander Hassan Hassanzadeh said. He added that the first brigade had completed its initial training and participated in exercises involving 313,000 people. The brigade is now undergoing further training and is expected to take part in another exercise soon, according to Hassanzadeh.



Iran's export to Turkey rises 59% in H1



TEHRAN- Director General of the West Asia and Africa Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, while describing Iran's trade trend with some West Asian countries as positive, announced a 59 percent growth in Iran's exports to Turkey in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 21), compared with the same period last year.

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, Abdolamir Rabihavi, referring to the impact of regional conditions and recent developments on the country's foreign trade, said: "Despite the conditions prevailing in the West Asia region, Iran's trade trend with some countries in this area, including Turkey, has remained positive, and this trend is evident in the export statistics for the first half of the current year."

He said regarding the trade trend between Iran and Turkey: "In the first six months of 1405, compared with the same period in 1404, Iran's exports to Turkey experienced a 59 percent growth, rising from $2 billion and $756 million to $4 billion and $373 million."

He further referred to developments in trade routes and the country's borders and stated: "In recent months, despite some problems on the southern water routes of the country, part of the restrictions on land routes have been removed, and the possibility of greater use of the capacity of land borders has been provided."

Rabihavi expressed hope that if the positive trend of exports to regional countries continues in the second half of the year, Iran will see further growth in trade with countries in this area.

Tehran Chamber to send trade delegation to China's CIIE to expand Iran-China trade

TEHRAN- Concurrent with the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE), to be held in Shanghai from November 5 to 10, the Tehran Chamber of Commerce will send a trade delegation consisting of traders and businessmen and capable Iranian companies to China.

The move aims to develop trade relations with China, facilitate Iranian firms' access to the Chinese market, and make use of the event's capacities.

The exhibition's areas of focus include medical equipment, medicine and health and hygiene products; commercial, financial, logistics and cultural tourism services; smart industries; information and communication technology; artificial intelligence and advanced materials; consumer goods, home appliances, cosmetics and health products; fashion and lifestyle; agricultural products and the food industry; automobiles, parts and smart transportation; and innovative technologies and businesses.

The China International Import Expo (CIIE) was launched in 2018 and is held annually in Shanghai. It is widely described as the world's first national-level import-themed expo and is hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce and the Shanghai municipal government. CIIE combines country exhibitions, enterprise and business exhibitions, high-level forums and matchmaking events. It is designed to help foreign companies enter the Chinese market, showcase goods and services, and connect with buyers and partners. The ninth edition in 2025 will again bring together exhibitors, traders and officials from around the world.

Iran-Brazil $10-billion trade targeted

TEHRAN- The Deputy for International Affairs of the Federation of Transport and Logistics, referring to the target of $10 billion in trade between Iran and Brazil, said: "In recent years, the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries has been on an upward trend, and Brazil's economic capacities, especially in supplying basic goods and agricultural products, have provided a suitable basis for expanding trade cooperation."

According to an IRNA report, Abazar Barari said on Monday at a meeting on Iran-Brazil trade cooperation: "We need to examine the challenges and remove obstacles in order to develop sustainable relations between the two countries."

Stating that one of the fundamental challenges after the war has been the issue of supplying goods and continuity of the supply chain, he added: "The issue of logistics has today become one of the important challenges of global trade, and this issue has become more important in Iran-Brazil trade due to geographical distance and the high volume of trade cargoes."

Referring to the dependence of a significant part of the two countries' exchanges on bulky and basic goods, including sugar, corn, and grains, Barari noted: "Maritime transport of such goods using large ships is not comparable to land transport in economic and operational terms, and replacing sea routes with road transport imposes considerable costs and complexities on trade."

Explaining the change in Iran-Brazil maritime transport routes, he said: "Due to the imposed war, traditional shipping routes have faced restrictions, and in the current situation, part of the exchanges is carried out through alternative routes and using intermediary ports, including the Turkey route. However, passing through alternative routes also comes with security, time, and economic considerations."

The Deputy for International Affairs of the Federation of Transport and Logistics, referring to the significant increase in transport costs, stressed: "The cost of transporting a 40-foot container, which was previously estimated at about $3,000, has now reached at least $8,000. Also, the cost of land transport of cargoes through alternative routes has increased significantly."

He said: "Other ports of the country have important capacity for developing trade routes and reducing dependence on limited maritime routes."

Referring to the need to review the country's infrastructure and logistics planning, Barari stated: "Even if the wartime conditions end, a rapid return to normal conditions on maritime routes and the removal of possible restrictions will require time. Therefore, planning must begin now to develop alternative capacities, especially Chabahar Port."

Transferring knowledge to farms drives Iran's sustainable food security through innovation, diplomacy



TEHRAN- At a World Food Day conference in Tehran, hosted by the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO) and the Ministry of Agriculture, senior officials stressed that scientific research must be linked directly to the real needs of agricultural producers.

Gholamreza Golmohammadi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Head of AREEOC, said the transfer of knowledge to farms is the agricultural sector's priority for achieving sustainable food security.

He argued that agricultural research has moved beyond simply producing papers and implementing research projects; it is now focused on solving farmers' problems, increasing resource productivity, and ensuring a stable supply of food for the population.

Golmohammadi noted that climate change, the water crisis, resource limitations, and rising production costs have created serious challenges for global food security. In such conditions, innovation is essential to maintain production and increase agricultural resilience. Referring to a FAO report on the state of food security in 2026, he said about 645 million people worldwide have faced difficulty accessing sufficient food. This shows that despite scientific progress and increased production capacity, access to food remains a major global issue.

He pointed to this year's World Food Day theme, "Innovation today, nutrition tomorrow," and stressed that innovation should not be limited to complex technologies. It also includes introducing drought-resistant varieties, improving irrigation methods, scientifically managing plant nutrition, reducing pest and disease damage, and improving post-harvest storage. Innovation can play an effective role in food security only when it solves producers' problems, lowers production costs, and simultaneously increases yields and improves the quality of agricultural products.

Golmohammadi said the future of food production depends on knowledge and technology development. Given limited water resources and growing environmental stresses, research activities must be directed more than ever toward answering the real needs of the agricultural sector. The success of agricultural research should not be measured only by the number of papers, research projects, or technologies produced. Instead, it must be shown how much each scientific achievement has contributed to reducing water consumption, increasing crop yields, protecting basic resources, and producing safe food for consumers.

He noted that the current Iranian year 1405 has been designated as the "Year of Education and Extension" in the organization. The aim is to create the conditions for transferring knowledge and technology produced by AREEOC, universities, and scientific and research centers to farmers and beneficiaries. He emphasized the connection among research, education, and extension, saying these three areas complement one another and the organization's missions cannot be fulfilled without effective links among them. Researchers must first identify production problems and challenges, then provide scientific solutions that allow farmers to use research findings in practice. Golmohammadi said AREEOC has moved away from research solely for publication or academic promotion and has focused its programs on problem-oriented research, solving agricultural challenges, and increasing the impact of knowledge in production.

Impact on production as the criterion: smart cropping and digital forecasting

Golmohammadi highlighted the capacity of modern technologies for managing agricultural production. He said the use of digital technologies, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence is a priority for AREEOC, and important steps have been taken in this field over the past two years. A Center for Monitoring the Agricultural Production Pattern was established in the Iranian year 1404 to draft, implement, and monitor cropping patterns using smart methods. In this framework, the fifth version of the cropping pattern for field crops was issued this year. The first production pattern versions for parts of fisheries, greenhouse cultivation, and medicinal plants have also been issued. Drafting and issuing production patterns for wood plantations and livestock production based on land-use planning are on the agenda.

He also referred to the development of remote sensing systems, saying these systems make it possible to accurately estimate cultivated areas and forecast agricultural production about two months before harvest. They can be effective tools for production planning and managing the needs of the agricultural sector. These remarks reinforced the broader message that research and technology must be judged by their practical impact on production, resource use, and farmers' livelihoods, not by abstract academic outputs alone.

The FAO Representative in Iran, Farrukh Toirov, also addressed the conference and argued that increasing agricultural production alone does not guarantee food security. It leads to food security only when all households have sustainable access to healthy, nutritious, and affordable food. He said innovation must turn scientific knowledge and practical experience into solutions that improve people's livelihoods, strengthen food systems, and protect natural resources for future generations.

Referring to the theme "Innovation today, nutrition tomorrow," the FAO representative said the world has made considerable progress in agriculture, but the main challenge remains turning those gains into sustainable food security and creating conditions for all people to access sufficient and healthy food. Citing FAO data, he said global cereal production reached about 3.1 billion tons in 2024, a 27 percent increase compared with 2010. However, higher production alone cannot guarantee sustainable household access to healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.

Toirov stressed that food security is broader than agricultural production. It includes four main dimensions: food availability, access to food, nutritional utilization, and stability. Achieving food security requires simultaneous attention to these dimensions, public participation, and long-term protection of natural resources. He referred to challenges such as water shortages, climate change, soil degradation, and limited arable land, saying these problems require innovative solutions adapted to local climatic conditions and capacities. He also said traditional agricultural knowledge and practices are valuable community assets; the experience of past generations in managing difficult environmental conditions can, together with new science and technologies, provide effective solutions for today's challenges.

The FAO representative said innovation should help increase resource productivity and strengthen producers' resilience. Improving soil health, precise irrigation scheduling, water resource accounting, developing early warning systems, and using satellite data and weather forecasts are among measures that can improve agricultural productivity and protect ecosystems. He referred to joint FAO–Iran cooperation on water resource management, including work in the Lake Urmia basin to identify and pilot innovative methods that combine subsurface irrigation systems with smart agricultural technologies. Remote sensing, precise forecasts, and digital information systems are being considered to increase water productivity in agriculture while supporting the sustainable restoration of the Lake Urmia basin.

He also mentioned other joint programs, including integrated pest management for date palms, conservation of endangered native livestock breeds, development of climate-adapted and nutrient-rich agricultural products, and sustainable water resource management. These efforts aim to increase productivity and resilience in the agricultural sector. He stressed the importance of cooperation among scientific and executive institutions in transferring knowledge to producers. The Ministry of Agriculture, AREEOC, universities, and research institutes play an important role in linking scientific research with extension services and must help farmers access solutions that are appropriate to local conditions, economically effective, and practical. He also emphasized the need to support communities affected by crises and to rebuild livelihoods and strengthen local communities' capacity to cope with emergencies as key factors in achieving sustainable food security.

FAO and Iran: production, innovation, and sustainable access

The FAO representative's remarks underlined that food security cannot be reduced to a simple production target. Even with record or rising output, food systems may fail if households cannot access affordable, nutritious food, if supply chains are unstable, or if natural resources are degraded. The four dimensions of food security—availability, access, utilization, and stability—require coordinated policies across production, trade, social protection, water management, and climate adaptation.

In this context, innovation is understood broadly. It includes not only advanced digital tools but also improved agronomic practices, better water accounting, early warning systems, climate-adapted crops, and stronger extension services. The FAO–Iran cooperation examples show how international technical collaboration can connect remote sensing and smart irrigation with local restoration goals, especially in the environmentally sensitive Lake Urmia basin. Other programs on date palm pest management, native livestock conservation, and nutrient-rich climate-adapted crops reflect a similar logic: combining scientific expertise with local conditions and long-term sustainability.

The FAO representative also emphasized that traditional knowledge is not an obstacle to innovation but a resource. Farmers' experience and intergenerational knowledge of local environments can complement modern science. This approach is particularly relevant for Iran, where diverse climates, water scarcity, and environmental stresses require locally tailored solutions rather than one-size-fits-all technologies. The overall message was that innovation must be judged by whether it improves livelihoods, strengthens food systems, and protects natural resources for future generations.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

شرکت معدنی و صنعتی گل گهر (سهامی عام)
Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1405/21

Gol Gohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby Gol Gohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export **70.000** metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:67 ave.) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaee Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Gol Gohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 10. Nov .2026 to Gol Gohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road).

Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 10. Nov .2026 at the office of the Seller.

Analysis %	
%Fe Ave	67.00
%FeO	Min 24 Max 28
%P Max	0.04
%S Ave	1.0
%SiO2 Max	3.0
%Al2O3 Max	0.7
%CaO Max	0.9
%MgO Max	2.5
%Moisture Max	8.0
Blaine (cm2/gr) Ave	1300
Size ave	80%<0.15 mm

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

The Gaza ceasefire that keeps killing

From page 1 ▶ Those eight deaths bring the toll since the ceasefire took effect on October 11, 2025, to at least 1,580 Palestinians killed and at least 5,711 wounded, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

The cumulative toll since October 2023 now stands at 74,594 killed and 175,834 wounded. The IOF has killed 75 police officers since the truce began, men tasked with maintaining what little civil order remains in a territory where 90 percent of civilian infrastructure has been destroyed.

The IOF bombs are not unusual. They are the daily reality of a ceasefire that exists on paper but not on the ground.

"Green light to accelerate famine"

Even as the IOF bombs fall, the humanitarian system that keeps Gaza alive is being dismantled from within. The World Food Program (WFP) stated that funding shortages have forced it to cut food assistance by roughly one-third, reducing its monthly beneficiaries from 1.6 million to 1.1 million people.

That leaves half a million vulnerable Palestinians, the poorest and the most marginalized, without critical food aid as winter approaches.

The cuts go beyond numbers. Families who previously received two food parcels now receive one, and a smaller bag of wheat flour.

Hot meals provided by community kitchens have been slashed from 250,000 to 150,000 per day, and families in hard-to-reach areas now receive a hot meal only every other day.

WFP acting executive director Carl Skau said the cuts were driven by depleted funding, not by a decline in need, and that some people in Gaza are now eating only once a day.



Palestinian officials have described the decision as a "green light to accelerate famine" and a "systematic engineering of hunger." Gaza's Ministry of Social Development says incoming supplies meet only 30 percent of minimum humanitarian needs. With 1.4 million people, 67 percent of the population, still facing acute food insecurity, the funding cuts risk reversing what fragile gains had been made.

Around 200,000 people remain in emergency conditions where immediate food assistance is needed to prevent deaths from hunger. Malnutrition also remains severe: around 3,000 children aged 6–59 months are admitted for treatment each month, including more than 360 with severe acute malnutrition in September alone.

Winter is coming with nowhere to shelter

The third blow is seasonal, and it is already arriving. The United Nations warns that 950,000 displaced Palestinians are living in sites at medium-to-high risk of flooding, including more than 400,000 at high risk. Available supplies can only partially cover the winter shelter needs of 18 percent of the 294,250 families requiring assistance.

UNRWA's acting chief, Christian Saunders, put it bluntly: "Because the infrastructure has been destroyed, that water will accumulate around where people are living and people will be sleeping in water and it gets cold. We cannot allow these conditions to remain."

More than 90 percent of Gaza's population is living in tents, under plastic tarpaulins, or in half-destroyed houses. Two-thirds of the population is living in tents and makeshift shelters made of materials that deteriorate after only a few months.

The winter crisis is compounded by IOF restrictions on shelter materials. The occupying regime allows just 15 trucks carrying items they designate as "dual-use" including tents and tarpaulins, to enter Gaza from Jordan each week, and these can only be offloaded at the IOF-controlled Karem Abu Salem, the only crossing for aid, one day per week.

A minimum of 500 truckloads of shelter items are waiting to enter; at the current pace, it would take more than seven months to bring them in. "Palestinians in Gaza cannot be expected to survive another winter in worn and torn tents that were never designed to withstand these conditions," said NRC Secretary General Jan Egeland.

"This is not an unavoidable natural disaster, it is a manmade humanitarian crisis because life-saving shelter aid is blocked by the occupying power."

The funding emergency makes everything worse. UNRWA is facing a $100 million cash-flow deficit for 2026 and has warned that without immediate funding, it will have to cut staff and reduce core services.

The agency provides services to about 1.7 million people through more than 10,000 employees and 80 shelters, and provides about 70,000 medical consultations weekly. "If you cut the money, then we have to cut the number of people working for UNRWA," Saunders said, "and that means a reduction in the quality and the breadth of our services."

For Gaza's displaced, the deadliest season may not be war but winter arriving with empty food lines and flooded tents.

The political vacuum

Behind the immediate crises lies a stalled political process. The Trump administration's "peace plan" has stalled as expected, and the core dispute over the IOF withdrawal remains unresolved.

The ceasefire that was supposed to end the genocidal war has instead produced a prolonged limbo in which strikes continue, aid shrinks, and the population is left to survive on less and less.

The aid cuts are not happening in a vacuum. They are happening because of pressure imposed by the Israeli regime against organizations like UNRWA and the ongoing IOF blockade.

Saunders warned that the situation is "becoming normalized." For the 500,000 people who just lost their food assistance or the 950,000 facing floodwaters, normalized is not an abstract word. It is the knowledge that no one is coming to stop the preventative catastrophe that winter will cause.

397 attacks on West Bankers in Oct, highest monthly total in 20 years: UN



Israeli settlers set fire to Palestinian-owned vehicles in the Ein Yabrud town near Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine on October 04, 2026. [Issam Rimawi – Anadolu Agency]

Israeli settler attacks in the occupied West Bank reached an unprecedented level in October, with the number of incidents causing injuries or property damage exceeding all monthly totals recorded since the United Nations began monitoring them in 2006.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in its latest report on the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory that it documented 397 settler attacks between 1 and 26 October. This is the highest monthly figure recorded since monitoring began, despite the count not covering the final five days of the month.

OCHA said 62 attacks took place between 20 and 26 October, targeting 49 Palestinian communities across the West Bank. Of these, 38 were linked to the olive harvest season, highlighting the growing targeting of farmers, their land and their livelihoods.

The report also documented 57 Palestinians, including nine children, injured during the same week in attacks by settlers and Israeli forces in various parts of the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

It said 23 Palestinians were injured in settler attacks, while 34 others were injured by Israeli forces' gunfire and assaults.

Algeria launches second operation to clear French nuclear test sites

Algeria's Defense Ministry announced on Sunday the launch of a second operation to remove radioactive waste from former French nuclear test sites in the Sahara Desert, as Paris continues to refuse to hand over maps showing where the waste was buried or take responsibility for clearing it.

The ministry said in a statement that the operation had begun on Sunday at the Beryl E2 test tunnel site in the In Ekker area of Tamanrasset province, in the country's far south, Middle East Monitor reported.

The work is being carried out under the supervision of the Defense Ministry and in coordination with the National Agency for the Rehabilitation of Former French Nuclear Test and Explosion Sites in southern Algeria, the statement said.

It added that the operation is being conducted using Algerian expertise and resources, in line with applicable national and international standards.

The ministry accused France of evading its responsibilities and refusing to hand over records and maps showing the locations where nuclear waste was buried, saying the issue continued to hinder development in In Eker, in Tamanrasset province, and Reggane, in Adrar province in the country's south-west.

It said Algerian specialists are working to clear the nuclear waste left behind by French colonial rule in southern Algeria and rehabilitate the affected sites.

The operation, for which the state has allocated financial and human resources, includes identifying radioactive areas, collecting nuclear waste and storing it in specially designed concrete containers, while adhering to safety procedures and international standards.

Violent protests erupt in Swiss cities of Zurich and Basel

Similar to youth-led protests in France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Albania, two demonstrations were held in Switzerland.

In Zurich, hundreds of people, some wearing Halloween masks, gathered at around 10:30 pm on Langstrasse in the city centre. Fireworks and flares were set off as the crowd made its way towards Helvetiaplatz, a few hundred metres from the main station, according to swissinfo.

The atmosphere changed as soon as the demonstrators reached the square, a Keystone-ATS journalist observed at the scene. The shelter at the local bus stop was damaged and a barricade made of rubbish bins, bicycles and other objects was set alight.

The police intervened with water cannons to disperse the demonstrators. Small groups of rioters set fire to rubbish bins in various locations, according to the municipal police. A car was also set alight and the shop windows of several shops were damaged. The police said they were repeatedly targeted with fireworks, bottles and stones. They replied using tear gas and rubber bullets. The clashes continued until around 1:30 am.

A police patrol, which had responded to a medical emergency, was attacked by a crowd, the police said. Their vehicle was damaged and the officers were forced to withdraw before they could assist a teenager who had suffered serious leg injuries following an accident.

In Basel, around 150 people gathered in the city centre at around 9pm, according to a statement from the cantonal police.

After a number of speeches, the procession crossed the Mittlere Rheinbrücke, which spans the Rhine and connects the city centre on the left bank of the river with the Kleinbasel district on the right bank, to reach the Marktplatz, in the heart of the historic centre, before heading north into the St. Johann district. There some demonstrators set fire to barricades made of rubbish bins and metal barriers, prompting the police to intervene.

As in Zurich, the Basel demonstrators drew parallels with the youth protests in France and other European countries. In recent days, unknown individuals have launched a call on social media using the slogan "GenZ regelt!" [Generation Z is in charge!], a phrase used by young demonstrators in Germany.

Canada, a Washington ally, is proving that US is not the center of the world

By staff writer

TEHRAN – Canada is taking concrete steps to diversify its international relations as Canadian officials, particularly Prime Minister Mark Carney, have come to realize that the United States, especially under Donald Trump, is no longer a predictable or reliable partner.

Canada began distancing itself from Washington after Trump launched a trade war against Ottawa and went so far as to repeatedly describe Canada as the United States' 51st state. The remarks sent shockwaves across Canada, challenging the country's longstanding assumptions about its relationship with its southern neighbor.

Carney, who succeeded Justin Trudeau as prime minister amid growing tensions with Washington, has recognized that placating Trump is not a viable strategy. Instead, he has firmly decided to look beyond the United States, undertaking diplomatic visits to India, China, Japan, South Korea, Germany and several other European countries.

These visits are part of a broader effort to diversify Canada's economic, trade and security partnerships and reduce its dependence on the United States.

Trump's repeated references to Canada as a potential 51st U.S. state have also jolted Washington's allies in Europe and beyond, raising questions about the reliability of American commitments to its friends and partners.

In an interview with the New York Times on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on September 27, Carney said Canada must strengthen its economic and strategic independence because its longstanding integration with the United States can no longer be taken for granted.

Carney acknowledged that Trump's statements about making Canada the 51st U.S. state were not merely rhetorical concerns. He disclosed that his government had examined the possibility of U.S. military action as an "extreme-risk scenario."

The prospect of existential threats against a neighboring country, longstanding friend and military ally is difficult to comprehend.

Carney also revealed that negotiations with Washington had involved proposals that could undermine Canada's economic sovereignty, language rights and cultural rights. He described these matters as red lines that Ottawa would not cross.

The Canadian prime minister, a former central banker, also argued that the global financial system's heavy dependence on the U.S. dollar was becoming increasingly unsustainable. He voiced support for a more diversified international monetary system involving multiple reserve currencies, saying such an arrangement would provide countries with greater flexibility.

Many analysts and governments have long warned that the Trump administration is weaponizing the dollar and Washington's dominant position in the global financial system.

Carney told the Times that countries were increasingly reconsidering their dependence on the dollar, partly because Washington had used its financial dominance and sanctions powers as instruments of political and economic pressure.

If Trump is prepared to treat a neighboring country and longstanding ally in this manner, one can only imagine how he might deal with other countries.

In a November 2 commentary titled "Canada-EU alliance signals a shift in portfolio diversification strategy," Wealth Professional said that a summit in Montreal had brought Carney and senior European Union officials closer together on trade, defense and critical minerals. The commentary also highlighted Carney's commitment to pursuing associate membership for Canada in the 27-member bloc by June 2027.

"Today, we move towards associate membership for Canada, and we launch a new alliance for the future that will deliver now and in the future with like-minded nations," Carney said at a closing press conference on October 30. "We're just getting started."

Through such partnerships, Carney is demonstrating that the world does not revolve around the United States and that countries have alternatives to Washington. Although some may argue that American foreign policy could return to a more predictable course after Trump's presidency, governments around the world have realized that they must change their approach and reconsider their dependence on Washington. The United States can no longer automatically count on being regarded as a reliable partner, even by its closest friends and allies.

Trump's erratic decisions and controversial statements are too numerous to list. During his first term, he withdrew from the hard-won 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which had been endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, and launched his so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. He took this unilateral step despite warnings and objections from Washington's European allies.

During his second presidency, following Joe Biden's four-year term, Trump went beyond maximum pressure and joined Israel in launching an unwarranted war against Iran.

The surprise U.S.-Israeli military aggression against Iran, which began on February 28, shocked the international community. Washington did not even consult its European allies before launching the attack. The aggression also came amid indirect negotiations between Tehran and Washington, mediated by Oman.

The war has inflicted enormous economic costs on the international community, particularly after Iran responded by closing the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic waterway through which roughly one-fifth of global oil and gas supplies passes.

From its implicit threats against Canada and its open threats to take control of Greenland, an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, a NATO and EU member, to its military aggression against Iran, Trump's conduct should serve as a wake-up call to the international community.

The message is clear: no country, however close its ties with Washington, should trust American commitments. Trump's approach to international relations, and the thinking of those who share his worldview, poses a challenge not only to America's foes but also to its traditional allies. The rest of the world must recognize this reality and prepare accordingly.

Restoration of Vank Cathedral underway ahead of UNESCO World Heritage bid

TEHRAN – Restoration work on the southern and eastern sections of Vank Cathedral in Isfahan is underway as part of efforts to prepare the historic Armenian church for a potential nomination to UNESCO's World Heritage List, a provincial heritage official has said.

Speaking to IRNA on Monday, Hadi Allahyari, technical committee chief at the Isfahan provincial department of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts, said the conservation projects were being carried out in cooperation with the Armenian Diocese Council and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts to improve the monument's preservation standards.

The eastern section had experienced structural settlement and cracks in its walls, prompting the installation of monitoring indicators in 2025 to track changes over time, Allahyari said.

Technical assessments also found that the roof structure and covering were unsuitable in terms of weight and quality, with materials dating back approximately 30 to 40 years. Following



the preparation and approval of a restoration plan by the ministry, work began under the supervision of heritage authorities.

More than 1,000 square meters of the cathedral's rooftop have been restored, while conservation work on the Bishop's Hall, the first floor and adjoining spaces is nearing completion, he added.

The project also includes the modernization of the cathedral's aging heating and cooling systems in accordance with technical plans and international standards.

Restoration of the southern section began in 2025 after years of deterioration caused partly by its proximity to an urban passageway and insufficient maintenance. Damaged plaster and mud coatings, malfunctioning gutters and deteriorated facades were among the problems addressed.

The work has included repairing windows, removing old paint, restoring damaged surfaces and conserving the valuable southern entrance using its original architectural patterns. Traditional methods and materials have been employed to preserve the building's historic character, Yari said.

He expressed hope that continued cooperation between the Armenian Diocese Council and the cultural heritage ministry would help advance the cathedral's potential World Heritage nomination.

Vank Cathedral, also known as the All Saviour's Cathedral, is a landmark of Isfahan's New Jolfa Armenian quarter. Approximately 350 years old, the church was built during the Safavid era under Shah Abbas II over a nine-year period.

Renowned for its gilded ceilings, dome decorations and historic religious paintings, the cathedral is considered one of Iran's most significant examples of Armenian religious architecture. It has served as a major center of the Armenian community in Isfahan and its religious and cultural connections with the wider Armenian world.

SPORTS

Securing 2028 Paralympic quota a valuable achievement: Shahi

TEHRAN – Iranian para-shooter Nasrin Shahi was less than impressed with Japan's hosting of the fifth Asian Para Games, but was delighted to win a bronze medal and secure a quota place for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

Shahi finished third in the SH1 women's 50m Pistol event with a score of 196.3 points, claiming the bronze medal. She competed in two events at the Games: the 10m Air Pistol and the 50m Pistol. In addition to her podium finish, she secured a place for herself at the Los Angeles Paralympics.

"This was my second appearance at the Asian Para Games, and I am satisfied with my performance. Due to flight restrictions, we had to take a very long route, and our journey to the host city took around 60 hours. Naturally, such a long and exhausting trip affects athletes' preparation, but despite all the difficulties, we managed to achieve a good result," Shahi said.

Shahi also voiced her disappointment with the organization of the Games in Nagoya, pointing out that, as had been the case at the previous edition in Hangzhou, China, the organizers had not provided an athletes' village.

"The host country did not have an athletes' village this time, and the teams were accommodated in different hotels," she said. "The shooting team was based in Toyota City, around an hour and a half away from the competition venue. This had a significant impact on our planning, rest and concentration."

She added that Japan's hosting arrangements had fallen well short of expectations.

"The organization was much weaker than we had anticipated. Athletes faced problems with food and transportation. However, I should also say that the Japanese people are very kind, patient, hardworking and disciplined. Although there were delays, they eventually addressed the problems."

Turning to the competitive standard, the Iranian shooter said the level of competition had been particularly high, with 113 athletes from 18 countries taking part.

"I competed in the 10m Air Pistol and the 50m Pistol events. Unfortunately, I missed out on a medal in the 10m Air Pistol, but I gave everything I had in the 50m event, which is much more challenging than the air pistol competition," Shahi said.

Her efforts paid off with a bronze medal and, more importantly, a quota place for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

Shahi concluded by emphasizing the significance of securing the Paralympic quota, describing it as the most important achievement of her campaign at the Asian Para Games.

Vafaei beats Selby at 2026 International Championship

TEHRAN – Hossein Vafaei knocked out Mark Selby at the 2026 International Championship on Monday.

First, the Iranian snooker player swept Stuart Carrington aside 6–0. Then came an even bigger test: Mark Selby, one of snooker's toughest competitors. Vafaei produced a commanding performance, winning 6–2 and sending a message to the field.

On Tuesday, the Iranian will face China's Si Jiahui in the next round, where another demanding challenge awaits.

The 2026 International Championship is a professional snooker tournament that is taking place from Oct. 31 to Nov. 7 at the South New City National Fitness Center (SNCNFC) in Nanjing, China.

Qualifiers took place from Sept. 17 to 19 at the Leicester Arena in Leicester, England.

Wu Yize is the defending champion, having defeated John Higgins 10–6 in the 2025 final.

2026/27 ACL Elite: Esteghlal to face Al Shamal

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team will be seeking a return to winning ways when they meet Al Shamal SC in the AFC Champions League Elite 2026/2027 on Tuesday.

Iran's Esteghlal suffered the first defeat of their campaign last week while Qatar's Al Shamal will still be riding on the confidence of their impressive win against Al Hilal SFC.

Esteghlal's perfect start was derailed by a rampant Shabab Al Ahli, with the UAE side dominating last week's tie as they cruised to a 2-0 win.

The Blues would have been disappointed with themselves as only one of their nine shots was on target and will be determined to regain the form that saw them opening their campaign with two wins.

Victory against Al Hilal propelled Al Shamal to sixth in the standings and they will be keen to build on the shock triumph.

They opened their campaign with two draws but with momentum firmly on their side, will expect another win as they seek a place in the Round of 16.

The match will be held at the Basra International Stadium.

Former Iran midfielder Alidoosti dies

TEHRAN – Hamid Alidoosti, a former Iranian international footballer, has passed away after battling cancer in recent months.

Alidoosti spent most of his playing career at Tehran-based club Homa before moving to Germany to join FSV Salmrohr, gaining experience in European football. He also represented Daraei, Keshavarz and Saipa during his career.

At international level, he represented Iran national football team between 1977 and 1986, making 27 appearances and scoring 15 goals for the national team.

Following his retirement from playing, Alidoosti continued his involvement in football as a coach. He managed several clubs, including Paykan, Saipa, Homa and Tractor, and also coached Iran's youth and U17 national teams.

Tehran Times extends its deepest condolences to Alidoosti's family and the Iranian football community on his passing.

Amouzad: My goal was gold

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Rahman Amouzad, who claimed bronze in the 65kg weight category at the 2026 World Wrestling Championships, said his main target had been to win gold and vowed to make up for the disappointment next year.

Amouzad said: "I am happy since I was able to return home with a medal and bring happiness to my family and the Iranian people. My goal was to win gold, but unfortunately, I couldn't achieve it. I will make up for it next year."

Commenting on the officiating and the controversy surrounding his bout, he added: "I could have wrestled better, but even in the worst-case scenario, I should have been declared the winner. The time had expired, and under the rules, no warning or points should have been awarded. If the referee had blown the whistle with four seconds remaining, that would have been understandable, but the time was already up when the warning was unfairly given.

"I did not run away. My opponent pushed me, I circled around and returned to the center of the mat. The whole sequence did not even take a second."

Semnan's oral heritage: a living reflection of history and cultural identity



TEHRAN – Semnan province, with its ancient history and remarkable cultural heritage, is home to a rich collection of Iran's oral traditions, customs, traditional arts and local narratives.

These intangible cultural treasures, passed down through generations, reflect the historical identity and way of life of its people. Documenting and preserving them is essential to ensuring that the province's cultural legacy remains alive for future generations.

In a note, Fatemeh-Zahra Haghighi, a tourism lecturer and PhD student at Semnan University, highlights the importance of oral heritage as a means of connecting younger generations with their ancestors and understanding the historical and cultural roots of their homeland, Miras Aria reported on Monday.

Semnan's historical significance is evident in its numerous archaeological and architectural landmarks, including Tarikhaneh Mosque in Damghan, the Mirak, and Hissar archaeological mounds, and the thousand-year-old Seljuk-era minaret in Semnan. These monuments demonstrate the province's longstanding role in Iran's history. However, Haghighi emphasizes that preserving historical structures alone is insufficient. Traditional lifestyles, clothing, crafts, customs and personal accounts of the past must also be documented.

One effective approach is conducting oral history interviews with elderly residents, traditional artisans, master craftsmen, local researchers and cultural heritage practitioners. With their consent, interviews should be recorded in audio or video formats, carefully transcribed, classified and preserved in accessible archives. Cooperation with village councils, local associations, universities and cultural heritage activists can help identify individuals whose knowledge and memories represent valuable links to the past.

The province's linguistic diversity is another important aspect of its cultural identity. Often described as a "sea of accents," Semnan is characterized by a variety of languages and dialects, sometimes differing considerably between neighboring towns and villages.

For instance, distinct linguistic traditions can be heard in Semnan, Mahdishahr, historically known as Sangsar, and Shahmirzad. Similar variations exist across villages and districts, including Shahroud and Sorkheh. This diversity represents a valuable cultural resource that requires systematic documentation.

Recording everyday conversations, local vocabulary, proverbs, folk songs, stories and traditional expressions could help establish a comprehensive archive of the province's linguistic heritage. Without such efforts, some dialects may gradually disappear as younger generations adopt more widely spoken languages.

Haghighi also stresses that preserving oral heritage is a collective responsibility. By documenting the memories and experiences of older generations, communities can strengthen their cultural identity and ensure that their traditions, knowledge and historical narratives continue to reach future generations.

Domestic, intl. tours visit saffron farms in northeast Iran

TEHRAN – Fifteen domestic and international tourism tours have visited saffron farms and specialized saffron facilities in Torbat-e Heydarieh and Zaveh in northeastern Iran as part of agricultural tourism programs during the harvest season, a local tourism official said on Monday.

Ali Mohammadi, head of the departments of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts in Torbat-e Heydarieh and Zaveh, said the tours included visits to saffron fields, a flower market and a saffron research institute, offering visitors an opportunity to experience different aspects of saffron production, Miras Aria reported.

The official did not specify the number of foreign tourists participating in the tours, their countries of origin or the period during which the 15 tours took place.

Mohammadi said this year's programs were designed around the concept of a "complete product experience," allowing tourists to engage with the production process rather than simply observe the finished product.

The itineraries also included visits to the regional flower market, where visitors could explore the diversity of flower varieties and interact directly with farmers and distributors.

Tourists also visited the saffron research institute and specialized saffron laboratories, where they were introduced to scientific advances in improving saffron quality, modern propagation techniques and pest management.

Mohammadi said familiarization with saffron-based beverages and herbal infusions was another component of the tours, combining agricultural, scientific, commercial and culinary experiences.

He said the integrated approach could help strengthen the tourism profile of Torbat-e Heydarieh and Zaveh internationally while drawing greater attention to the region's rural tourism potential and tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Torbat-e Heydarieh and Zaveh are located in Khorasan Razavi province, one of Iran's major saffron-producing regions. Saffron, widely known as "red gold," is a valuable agricultural commodity used extensively in Persian cuisine and traditional cultural practices.

Iran is among the world's leading saffron producers, with cultivation concentrated largely in its eastern and northeastern regions. The annual harvest generally begins in early November, when the spice's purple flowers emerge across the fields.

Agricultural tourism during the harvest season provides opportunities for visitors to experience saffron picking and learn about its cultivation and processing, linking the region's agricultural economy with its tourism industry.

Last month, National Saffron Day, an annual festival held in various parts of Khorasan Razavi province, was officially registered as an international event on Iran's tourism calendar. A permanent secretariat was also established at the province's Chamber of Commerce to promote Iranian saffron and strengthen its value chain from production to export.

The festival features exhibitions, conferences and urban advertising campaigns, alongside plans for promotional caravans and tourism tours across the province.

Dafineh museum group to offer free admission to students on Student Day

TEHRAN – Students at all educational levels across Iran will be admitted free of charge to museums affiliated with the Dafineh museum group on Nov. 4, marking Student Day.

Hamidreza Soleimani, managing director of the museum group, announced the initiative, saying the program would provide students nationwide with an opportunity to explore the museum collections free of charge.

The museums will be open to visitors from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., allowing students to become more familiar with Iran's historical, cultural and artistic heritage.

The museums participating in the program include the Museum of Iranian Art, Dafineh Museum Campus, Time Museum, Ramsar Museum Campus, Noor and Light Museum in Yazd, Tar-o-Pood Museum in Yazd, National Museum of Art of Isfahan, Millennia of Art Museum in Kish Island, and the Iran Historical Cars Museum Cultural Center.



Tehran hosting International Tech Olympics with 11 countries taking part

TEHRAN – Technology experts from Iran and 11 other countries are competing in the final round of the third International Tech Olympics, which opened in Tehran on Monday and will run through November 4.

Participants from India, Turkmenistan, the Czech Republic, Pakistan, Belarus, Vietnam, Russia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria are taking part in the event either in person or virtually.

The three-day competition brings together technology professionals to showcase their skills, develop innovative solutions, and explore new possibilities in the field.

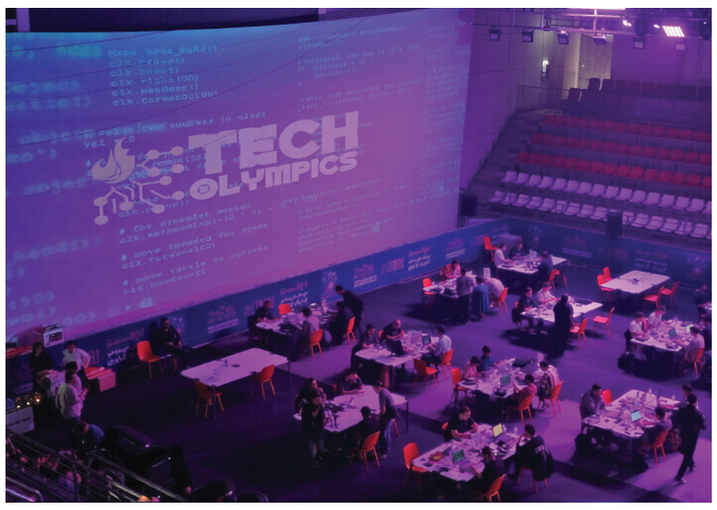
The event aims to assess scientific capabilities, identify talented individuals, strengthen problem-solving skills, promote networking among technologists, and build links between participants and industry, Borna News Agency reported.

This year, 10,000 Iranian and 3,631 foreign participants from 118 countries took part in the preliminary round of the International Tech Olympics. The number of international participants indicates a 98.2 percent increase compared to last year. In 2025, 1,238 individuals from 65 countries attended the preliminary round.

Hosted by Pardis Technology Park, the participants are competing in six key fields, including artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, programming, combat robots, Internet of Things (IoT), and drones. Each of these competitions consists of several leagues, covering different specialized areas within the field.

The AI Competitions provide a platform for challenging machine learning algorithms and data processing techniques against real-world datasets. Focused on emerging fields, the competitions aim to identify specialists who are advancing the frontiers of theoretical knowledge and practical application.

The Cybersecurity Competition is organized to identify talented individuals and creative minds in the field of cybersecurity. This



competition provides a unique opportunity for participants to test their technical capabilities against a wide range of diverse and exciting challenges.

The objective of the competition is to strengthen the culture of information security, encourage knowledge and experience sharing, and enhance preparedness for responding to cyber threats.

The Programming Competitions provide a great platform to assess problem-solving and coding skills at both national and international levels. Using intelligent and automated judging systems, these competitions create a transparent pathway for talent development and connect participants to the country's technology ecosystem.

Combat Robots is one of the most exciting sections of the Technology Olympics. For the first time, powerful combat robots from Russia and India will compete against Iranian robots.

The IoT competition serves as a platform to develop and implement intelligent solutions based on connected devices, sensors, and communication infrastructures. Focused on real-world applications in industry, agriculture, smart cities, and healthcare, the competition offers participants an opportunity to demonstrate their technical and innovative capabilities.

The FPV is a national competition focused on first-person view drone technologies. The event is centered around AI and flight algorithms, and professional FPV piloting. It provides a competitive platform for talented students and professional teams to demonstrate their technical and operational capabilities in the field of FPV drones.

On the sidelines of the Tech Olympics, a job expo featuring 20 top technology companies will be held for the first time. Moreover, a 'job station' will be established to facilitate job interviews, mentoring, and the introduction of qualified individuals to employers. Additionally, a hackathon focused on addressing real-world industry challenges will be held.

In 2025, over 1,100 participants from 65 countries, including Pakistan, Oman, Vietnam, Tunisia, India, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and Romania, attended the second international technology Olympics, held from October 27 to 30.

More than 12,000 individuals from Iran and 65 countries participated in the preliminary round of the international Tech Olympics, indicating that the number of participants has doubled compared to the first international technology Olympics held last year. In 2024, over 6,300 participants from Iran and other countries took part in the Olympics.

National document on advanced material science, technology

The national document for the development of advanced material science and technology was unveiled on January 20.

Approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution in the last month of the Iranian year 1403 (March 2024 – March 2025), President Masoud Pezeshkian signed and declared the document on December 25, 2025, IRNA reported.

The national document acts as a comprehensive roadmap for the promotion of advanced materials in the country. It aims to improve Iran's position in the global science and technology arena and contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.

Improving the country's ranking in science and technology, particularly advanced materials and modern techniques for materials processing, enhancing the export of knowledge-based products in advanced materials sector, boosting productivity and lowering environmental impacts of Iranian-made products, improving the quality of life and enhancing social impact, completing the value chain with an approach to reducing raw material sales are among the main objectives of the document.

"It is the first comprehensive scientific document in the field of advanced materials; it lays the foundation for the development of other documents such as quantum and artificial intelligence (AI)," IRNA quoted Ali-Baqer Taherinia, an official with the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, as saying.

Highlighting the growing importance of advanced materials sciences and technology in the economic, health, nutrition, and other sectors, the official expressed the hope that the implementation of the document would be beneficial to the country as it plays a critical role in gross domestic product (GDP) and sustainable development.

Given the country's progress in publishing scientific articles in advanced materials and modern techniques for materials processing, proper management is essential for the country to gain a meaningful share of the advanced materials market.

The Vice-Presidency for Science, Research, and Technology will put the document into force, Taherinia further noted.

Strategic medicine reserves in good shape: FDA chief

TEHRAN – Iran's strategic pharmaceutical reserves remain at satisfactory levels, with sufficient stocks of raw materials and finished medicines across the production and distribution chain, the head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said, stressing the country's capacity to maintain medicine supplies over the long term despite import challenges.

Mehdi Pirsalehi made the remarks on Monday, saying that although importing medicines through alternative routes takes longer and has become more expensive, the country has maintained an adequate stock of essential pharmaceutical products and production inputs.

Speaking about the current import situation, Pirsalehi said medicines were being brought into the country through various routes. However, the longer transportation times and higher costs had made procurement more complicated, particularly for medicines subject to special controls.

He emphasized that appropriate channels must continue to be identified to ensure the uninterrupted supply of such products.

"Fortunately, the country's pharmaceutical reserves, both in terms of raw materials and finished medicines, are at satisfactory levels," Pirsalehi said, according to IRNA.

He added that the strategic stocks held by the government, together with inventories throughout the pharmaceutical production and distribution chain, were in good condition, providing the country with considerable resilience in meeting its medicine requirements over an extended period.

Domestic production strengthens pharmaceutical resilience

The country's pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity is a major component of its efforts to secure a stable supply of medicines. Iran has spent decades developing its domestic pharmaceutical industry, expanding production facilities and investing in scientific expertise, technology and the manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

According to figures previously announced by the Food and Drug Administration, more than 97 percent of pharmaceutical items consumed in the country are manufactured domestically in terms of volume. Domestic manufacturers also account for more than 80 percent of the pharmaceutical market in terms of value.

The industry has more than 200 active pharmaceutical companies, while approximately 70 percent of pharmaceutical raw materials are produced inside the country, according to figures released by Pirsalehi in earlier remarks.

The development of biotechnology-based medicines, monoclonal antibodies, recombinant medicines, radiopharmaceuticals and nanotechnology-based products has further expanded the country's manufacturing capabilities. These advances have helped reduce dependence on imported finished medicines, particularly in several specialized therapeutic fields.

A pharmaceutical market built on domestic capabilities

The scale of domestic production is also reflected in the country's pharmaceutical market. According to Iran's 2025 pharmaceutical statistics, domestic products accounted for nearly 98.87 percent of the market by volume, while imported medicines represented approximately 13.86 percent of its total value. The difference reflects the relatively higher cost of many imported and specialized pharmaceutical products.

The growth of local production has been supported by the expansion of knowledge-based companies and investment in pharmaceutical research and development. In particular, the biotechnology sector has enabled domestic manufacturers to produce medicines that previously required imports, including certain treatments for cancer, blood disorders and other complex diseases.

Iran has also developed capabilities in radiopharmaceuticals, with more than 70 diagnostic and therapeutic products reported by the Food and Drug Administration. These products represent an important area of technological development, combining nuclear science, pharmaceutical research and specialized medical applications.

Iran has significantly expanded its domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity over recent decades, reducing its dependence on imported finished medicines and strengthening its ability to meet national healthcare needs.

According to a report, the country has pursued a series of biotechnology and pharmaceutical development projects aimed at expanding local production and reducing foreign currency expenditure. The projects included the production of 27 biological medicines, the development of 12 vaccines and the manufacturing of 90 pharmaceutical raw materials through knowledge-based companies.

The report also highlighted the role of major pharmaceutical companies in developing priority products, including biopharmaceuticals, vaccines, pharmaceutical ingredients, probiotics and chemical medicines. At the time, Iran's pharmaceutical industry was reported to produce around 97 percent of medicines consumed domestically.

The expansion of biotechnology has been particularly important, enabling Iranian researchers and manufacturers to develop advanced medicines and strengthen domestic capabilities in specialized pharmaceutical fields.

Developing local production of active pharmaceutical ingredients and intermediate materials remains another strategic priority, as it can reduce reliance on foreign suppliers and improve the resilience of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

Greek academic delegation explores opportunities for cooperation with Iran

TEHRAN – A delegation of Greek academic officials has visited the University of Science and Culture and the Iranian Cultural and Creative Industries Park to explore scientific and technological capacities and identify opportunities for strengthening academic ties between the two countries.

The meeting on Monday focused on turning academic relations into practical programs, including student exchanges, joint research projects, cooperation in economics and management, and the development of professional training courses, IRNA reported.

The officials also discussed the capacity of the University of Science and Culture to become a member of the Black Sea Universities Network (BUSN), which could lay the ground for expanding academic interactions in regional scientific cooperation.

They also talked about the possibility of benefiting from the Greek embassy to facilitate academic ties and sign memoranda of understanding with Greek universities.

During the meeting, Ali Sadollah, an official with the University of Science and Culture, detailed the capacities of the university in different fields like engineering, humanities, law, art, architecture, tourism, and life sciences, noting that more than 320 international students are majoring at this university.

Noting that the University of Science and Culture is cooperating with more than 30 universities in 14 countries, He announced readiness to foster collaborations with Greek universities through exchanging students, conducting joint research projects, and holding international conferences.

The official also highlighted the university's cooperation with specialized institutions affiliated with the Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research (Jahad-e Daneshgahi), including Royan Institute, Ibn Sina Institute, and the Science, Soft Technology, and Cultural Industries Park.

The importance of the Iranian Cultural and Creative Industries Park in this international collaboration lies in its ability to link academic and research capacities with the ecosystem of creative businesses and cultural industries, which in turn facilitates the expansion of collaborative efforts into domains like cultural economy, innovation, soft technologies, and development of international cultural activities.

On October 28, the delegation visited Shahid Beheshti University to explore ways to expand academic ties between the two countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran ranks first in key scientific output among Islamic countries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mehr / Amir-Mehdi Asadi

Farmers harvest tomatoes using water-efficient irrigation

Farmers in Fariman County, in northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, are harvesting tomatoes from local farms as the region's agricultural season begins.

Drip irrigation is used on about 50 percent of the land under tomato cultivation in Fariman, improving water efficiency and reducing agricultural water consumption.

Iran produced approximately 3.23 million tons of tomatoes in 2024, ranking 11th among the world's largest tomato-producing countries, according to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:26 Dawn: 5:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:29 (tomorrow)

Labkhand Theater to host Brian Hill's "The Story of My Life"

TEHRAN – Labkhand Theater Complex in Tehran will host the play "The Story of My Life," which is a chamber musical for two performers with music and lyrics by Neil Bartram and a book by Brian Hill from November 8.

Saeed Honaramuz has directed the play and the cast includes Houman Kiaee and Mojtaba Rajabi Memar, ILNA reported.

The show follows two childhood friends from age six to 35. Successful author Thomas Weaver returns to his hometown to deliver the eulogy for his childhood friend Alvin Kelby and cannot find the words. Alvin appears as a memory and guides him through the collected stories of their friendship, from their first meeting at age six to their falling-out shortly before Alvin's death. Revisiting these episodes, Thomas comes to see how deeply the friend who stayed behind in their hometown shaped his life and his writing.

It premiered at Canadian Stage in Toronto in autumn 2006. It had a brief Broadway run at the Booth Theater in 2009.

The Broadway production closed after only a few performances but received four 2009 Drama Desk Award nominations, including Outstanding Musical as well as music, lyrics and book. With just two roles and a small band, the piece has since been widely produced, in North America as well as in South Korea and the German-speaking countries.

As an actor, Brian Hill spent three seasons at the Shaw Festival, won a Dora Award for the role of Frankie in the original Canadian cast of "Forever Plaid," and appeared among other roles as Raoul in "The Phantom of the Opera" and as Joe in "Sunset Boulevard".

As a director, he was resident director of "The Lion King" in Toronto and on Broadway and associate director of the Broadway production of "The Little Mermaid"; he was also the original director of the early developmental productions of "Come from Away".

As a book writer, Hill works with composer Neil Bartram, for example on "The Story of My Life," and on "The Theory of Relativity," "The Adventures of Pinocchio," "Something Wicked This Way Comes," and Disney's stage version of "Bedknobs and Broomsticks". He also wrote the new book for the musical "October Sky" at the Old Globe Theater and revised the book of "Brigadoon" for the Goodman Theater.

"The Story of My Life" will remain on stage through December 11 at the Labkhand Thjeater Complex, located at No. 417, Taleqani Street, between Naderi and Vesal-e Shirazi streets.

Cartoon of Day



The Shoe Drops
Cartoonist: Frago from Spain

Iran and Armenia: A Bond Beyond Neighborly Ties

By Hessam Heidarzadeh



© Mkhitar Khachatryan / Armenpress News Agency

TEHRAN- At first glance, what connects Iran and Armenia may appear to be geographical proximity and the geopolitical considerations that come with it. A closer look at the history and culture of the two countries, however, reveals a relationship that goes far beyond the conventional ties between neighboring states. For centuries, Iran and Armenia have not merely existed side by side; they have been part of each other's historical, cultural, and social developments. This shared presence can be traced in architecture, language, art, social traditions, and even the collective memory of their peoples. These ties have endured despite changing political borders and shifts in power.

One of the most intriguing examples of this historical interconnection can be found at the Garni Temple, one of Armenia's most important historical landmarks. As one of the few surviving examples of classical architecture from antiquity in the Caucasus, the temple is more than an ancient monument belonging to Armenian history. Its walls bear traces of different languages and cultures. Epigraphic research has identified inscriptions in Kufic script, as well as an inscription in Persian written in the Naskh script, at the site. Some of these inscriptions date back to the ninth and tenth centuries. Among them is a Persian inscription attributed to Bahram, a stonemason from Tabriz. These details offer a clear indication of the extent to which Iranian language and culture were present in the Armenian lands at different points in history. Naturally, the existence of such traces does not mean that the historical identities of the two countries are identical. Rather, it points to the shared historical layers that have developed between them over the centuries.

Elsewhere in this lush landscape, in the heart of Yerevan, stands a building that may be regarded as one of the most tangible symbols of the historical presence of Iranian culture in Armenia: the Blue Mosque. Commissioned by Hussein Ali Khan, the ruler of Yerevan at the time, the mosque was built in 1765–1766 and is considered a notable example of Iranian mosque architecture of its period. Architecturally similar to, and bearing the same name as, another mosque built in Tabriz around the same period, the Blue Mosque has stood for more than two and a half centuries. Today, it is the only active mosque in Armenia.

The building's history during the Soviet era is also noteworthy. At a time when the Soviet Union's strict secularist policies stripped many religious buildings of their original functions and led to the destruction of several historic mosques in Yerevan, the Blue Mosque escaped demolition. Historical accounts and official Armenian tourism sources refer to the role played by Yeghishe Charents, a prominent Armenian poet, and a number of the country's intellectuals in preventing its destruction. Charents' place in this account is particularly significant because his connections with Iran went beyond an interest in Persian culture and literature. His family had roots in the city of Maku, and his works later attracted attention in Iran and were translated into Persian. Although the mosque was converted into a history museum and subsequently put to other uses during that period, the original structure survived. Following Armenia's independence, it was also restored with Iran's participation and support, eventually resuming its religious function. The significance of this episode lies not simply in the survival of a historic building, but in the fact that intellectuals and cultural figures from one society made efforts to preserve a monument belonging to the religious and architectural tradition of another. Such an experience cannot be explained solely in political terms. It reflects an appreciation of historical and cultural heritage that transcends religious and identity-based boundaries.

This historical connection, however, is not limited to Iranian monuments in Armenia. Looking back toward Iran, we encounter the other side of the same story: the centuries-old presence of the Armenian community in Iran and its contribution to the country's cultural and social development. The historic relocation of Armenians from Old Julfa to Isfahan under Shah Abbas I and the establishment of New Julfa in the early seventeenth century marked one of the most significant chapters in this history. Taking place against the backdrop of the Safavid–Ottoman wars and Shah Abbas's population policies, this relocation eventually led to the emergence of one of the region's most important Armenian commercial and cultural centers. Over time, Armenian merchants from New Julfa expanded their extensive trading networks as far as India and Europe, while also establishing churches, schools, cultural centers, and social institutions. Vank Cathedral in Isfahan, one of the most prominent legacies of this period, remains one of the most important religious and cultural centers of Iran's Armenian community.

This presence was by no means confined to Isfahan's New Julfa. Northwestern Iran is also home to some of the most important historical Armenian monuments, including St. Thaddeus Monastery, also known as Qara Kelisa, St. Stepanos Monastery, and the Chapel of Dzordzor. These sites were collectively inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2008. What is particularly interesting about UNESCO's description of these monuments is its emphasis on the interaction between Armenian architectural traditions and Iranian, Byzantine, and Orthodox cultures. In other words, even from the perspective of international heritage institutions, the history of Armenian architecture in Iran cannot be examined without taking into account its interaction with Iran's broader cultural and civilizational environment.

Yet perhaps more significant than buildings and historical monuments is the experience of communities that have lived alongside one another for centuries. Iran's Armenian community is not simply a religious minority with a long historical presence. At many points in the country's history, it has been an influential part of Iran's cultural, artistic, scientific, and social developments. A look at some of the individuals who have left a lasting mark on contemporary Iranian culture and history is enough to illustrate this point.

In cinema, Samuel Khachikian stands among the most important figures in the history of Iranian filmmaking. Through his innovations in crime and thriller films, he had a considerable impact on the visual language of Iranian cinema. Loris Tjeknavorian, meanwhile, is a renowned composer and conductor whose work has earned him recognition in Iran and around the world. In sports, Andranik Eskandarian and Andranik Teymourian are among the footballers who have represented Iran's national team at different times. In science, Alenoush Terian, an Iranian-Armenian physicist and a pioneer of astronomy and solar physics in Iran, holds a special place.

These individuals are merely a few examples from a much longer list. More importantly, their contributions to Iranian culture and society cannot be separated from their Iranian identity. Khachikian's films form part of the history of Iranian cinema, just as Terian's scientific achievements are part of the history of science in Iran. In many fields, the Armenian community has been present not on the margins, but at the heart of Iran's cultural and social developments. This is a form of coexistence in which religious and ethnic differences have not prevented the emergence of a shared social identity and experience.

This historical and social experience appears to have also influenced how the two peoples perceive one another. For many Armenians, Iran is a familiar neighbor with a long history of cultural and historical connections. Likewise, for a considerable number of Iranians, Armenia is more than a neighboring country north of the Aras River. It is associated with names, historical landmarks, neighborhoods, and personalities that have become part of Iran's cultural memory. Of course, it would be inaccurate to make a single generalization about the views of all people in either country. Nevertheless, these historical and social foundations have created favorable conditions for mutual understanding and the development of trust between the two societies.

The potential of these ties to contribute to the future development of bilateral relations should not be overlooked. Cultural and social relations can become a genuine asset in bilateral affairs only when they move beyond the commemoration of shared history and translate into practical cooperation. Cultural tourism, joint efforts to restore and preserve historical monuments, academic exchanges, joint film and media productions, and the translation and promotion of each country's literature are just some of the areas in which cooperation could be expanded on the basis of this historical legacy. Under such circumstances, mutual understanding between the two peoples can complement official relations between the two governments, giving them greater depth and durability.

Iran and Armenia do not need to start from scratch in getting to know one another. Parts of each country's history can be found in the heritage and monuments preserved on the other's soil. The Blue Mosque in Yerevan and the historic Armenian churches in Iran, the Persian inscriptions at Garni and the Armenian quarter of Isfahan are just a few examples of this reality. Perhaps the most valuable aspect of this relationship is that, despite religious, linguistic, and political differences, the possibility of interaction and coexistence between the two societies has endured over the centuries. If properly recognized and put to use, this historical asset can serve as one of the most important foundations for Iran–Armenia relations in the years ahead.

Kirstin Ferguson's "Blindspotting" available in Persian

TEHRAN – The Persian translation of the book "Blindspotting: How to See What Others Miss" written by Kirstin Ferguson has been released in bookstores across Iran.

Fatemeh Ahmadian Alashti has translated the book and Qoqnoos Publishing House has brought it out in 287 pages, ILNA reported.

Intellectual humility, intellectual curiosity, and cognitive flexibility can transform the way you lead, think and grow. In "Blindspotting," originally published in 2025, award-winning leadership expert Dr. Kirstin Ferguson reveals how the best leaders aren't those with all the answers – they're the ones who can say, "I don't know . . . yet."

In today's fast-paced, polarized world, adaptability is the key to success. Whether you're leading a global company, managing a small team, or simply striving for personal growth, "Blindspotting" equips you with practical tools to navigate uncertainty, foster stronger teams, and spark breakthrough innovation.

Through compelling stories and cutting-edge research, Ferguson uncovers the hidden forces shaping our decisions – often without us realizing it. This isn't just a leadership book – it's a game changer for anyone who wants to see the world, and themselves, with fresh eyes.

Kirstin Ferguson is a company director, columnist, keynote speaker, and executive coach. Beginning her career as an officer in the Royal Australian Air Force, Kirstin has held roles that have included chief executive officer of an international consulting firm, and acting chair and deputy chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. She has sat on boards of both publicly-listed and privately-listed companies for more than a decade.

She has a Ph.D. in leadership and culture, as well as honors degrees in law and history. She is an adjunct professor at the Queensland University of Technology Business School, where she was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Year in 2020, and is a Sir Winston Churchill Fellow. She was included on Thinkers50 Radar List in 2021 and shortlisted for the Thinkers50 Distinguished Achievement Award in Leadership.

Kirstin writes a weekly column on leadership and work in the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, and is also a contributor to the Australian Financial Review and Forbes.