Straight Truth

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Iran, Turkey agree to remove transit barriers, develop border cooperation

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Turkey's Minister of Trade, on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, reviewed solutions for developing economic and trade cooperation, facilitating truck traffic and the transit of goods and services, and removing existing obstacles at the shared borders. ▸ Page 4

The legacy of strategic patience

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON - Strategic institution building characterized Iran's strategic patience phase, whereas now is the moment of testing. The current transformations cannot be separated from the prolonged period that Iran experienced under the leadership of Sayyed Ali Khamenei. It was characterized by a policy of strategic patience and an avoidance of escalation into an all-out confrontation.

Since Sayed Ali Khamenei assumed leadership, emphasis was placed on building institutions, expanding them, strengthening their reach and consolidating their ability to endure. Despite the breaches and vulnerabilities to which they were exposed, this period witnessed the emergence of deeply rooted institutional, military, security and political structure. These have now become a fundamental part of Iran's ability to engage in confrontation. ▸ Page 5

Destroying south Lebanon with impunity

By Ali Minabi

TEHRAN – There was never any ceasefire in Lebanon, only a Lebanese government that signed one and an occupying army that never stopped bombing.

The latest wave was concentrated across southern Lebanon. Airstrikes hit Kfar Tebnit in the Nabatieh district and Al-Qusayr in Marjeyoun. Artillery shelled Ibl al-Saqi, where over ten shells landed near a spring, along with Al-Mansouri, Majdal Zoun, Kounine, Wadi Slouki, Wadi Zebqine, and Meis el-Jabal.

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) carried out an explosive demolition in Bani Hayyan, while bulldozers flattened houses in Zawtar al-Sharqiya and machine-gun fire was directed at Wadi al-Hujair, Wadi al-Slouqi, Beit Yahoun, and Zawtar al-Sharqiya itself. ▸ Page 5

Iranian TV series 'The White and Red Cypress' wins at ABU Prizes

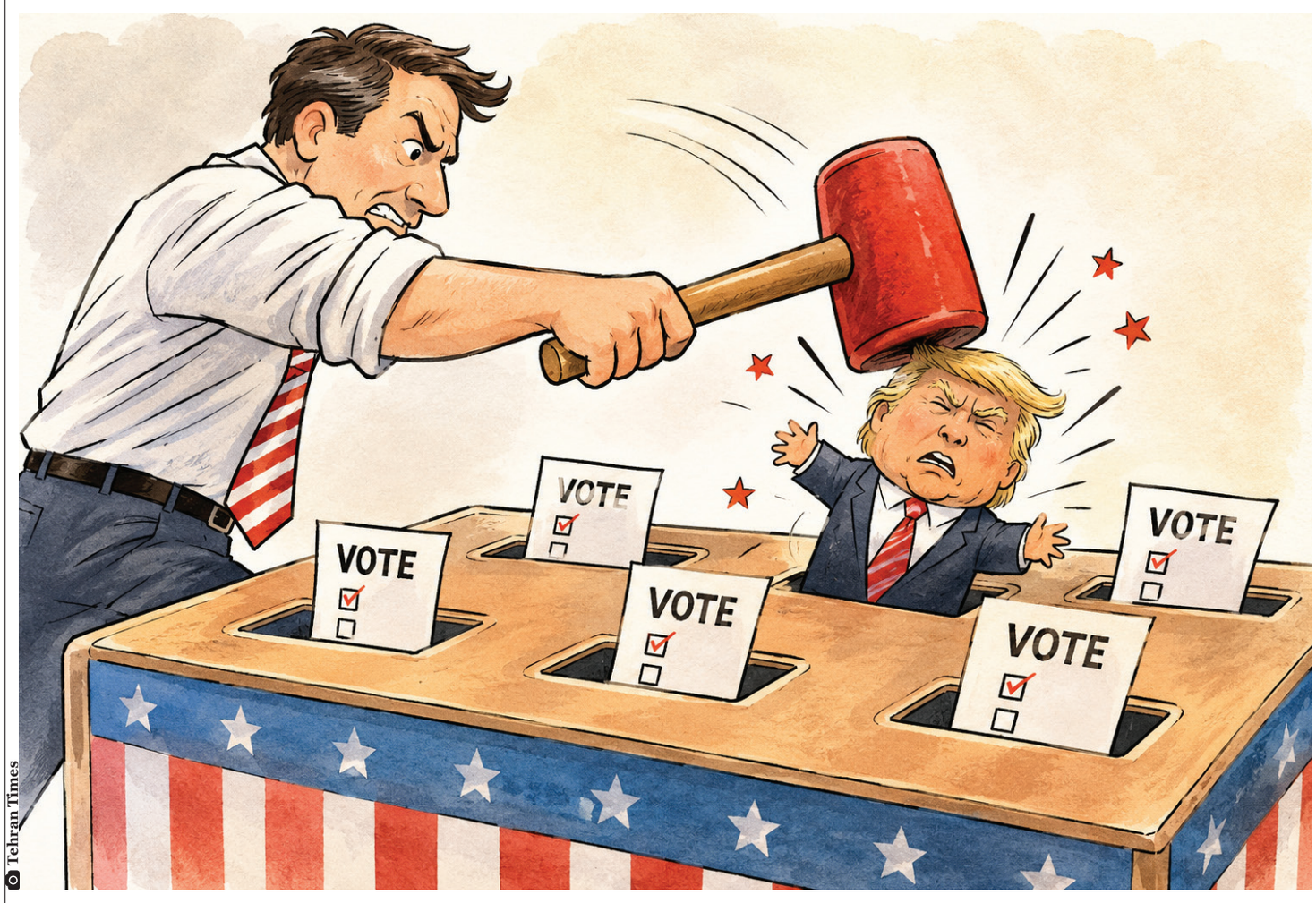
TEHRAN – Iranian television series "The White and Red Cypress" won an award at the 2026 Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Prizes.

The Iranian production, which depicts stories from the 40-day US-Israeli aggression against Iran, received the Best Screen Drama Award, IRNA reported.

The award went to the series' 11th episode, titled "Ancestral Hunt," directed by Mahmoud Karimi. It tells the story of a shepherd who shoots down an enemy drone using his Beretta rifle.

The award was presented to a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on November 1.

Mehdi Naqavian, head of IRIB's Sima Film Production Center, received the award and highlighted the extraordinary circumstances under which the series was produced and broadcast. ▸ Page 8



Operation Midterms Hammer

The Iran War Comes Home to Hit Trump at the Ballot Box

Washington once imagined that its war against Iran would be a swift demonstration of American military superiority. The tolls are now being collected at the polls.

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN - Washington once imagined that its war against Iran would be a swift demonstration of American military superiority. Months later, with the conflict still exacting a heavy economic and political price, the White House is discovering that wars do not always end when their architects declare victory. Sometimes, they come back home — and this time, they may arrive at the ballot box.

Call it Operation Midterms Hammer.

The name is a deliberate play on Operation Midnight Hammer, the US military operation launched against Iranian nuclear facilities in June 2025. That operation was presented by the Trump administration as a decisive blow against Iran's nuclear program. But the larger confrontation that followed has become a far more complicated affair, one whose consequences are now threatening to overshadow the Republican Party's campaign to retain control of Congress.

The irony is difficult to miss. A president who returned to the White House promising to put America first and steer clear of costly foreign entanglements has presided over an extensive war with Iran — a conflict that has continued far beyond the optimistic timelines initially offered by his administration. What was supposed to be a demonstration of overwhelming force has turned into a prolonged strategic and economic challenge.

And American voters are being asked to foot the bill.

The political warning signs have been accumulating for months. A September Reuters/Ipsos poll found that only 34 percent of Americans approved of the US strikes on Iran, while 82 percent believed the conflict was likely to continue for an extended period. The same poll found Democrats leading Republicans by eight points among registered voters on the generic congressional ballot, 43 percent to 35 percent. Trump's approval rating had also fallen to 32 percent. ▸ Page 3



Students who are martyred are never marked absent

By Akram Hosseini Shabestari

TEHRAN – This report goes beyond words. It is about a deeply emotional gathering. Every year on Aban 13 (November 4), Iranian students come together for their annual meeting with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. This year, however, the occasion was marked by a profound absence: the leader they had gathered to meet had been martyred.

Rain fell over the city. For a reporter, it was difficult to witness the destruction without being overcome by grief and tears. Yet, alongside the devastation caused by the attacks carried out by the United States and Israel, another scene stood out: children and teenagers who had gathered to show that they would continue building their country despite the attacks. ▸ Page 3

Qalibaf warns of unpredictable response to US aggression

TEHRAN— Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has warned that any military miscalculation by the United States would trigger an unpredictable and far-reaching response, stressing that Iran remains fully prepared to defend itself and will not yield to threats or excessive demands.

Addressing an open session of Parliament on Tuesday, Qalibaf said Washington's longstanding hostility toward Iran stemmed from the Iranian people's determination to preserve their independence and resist foreign domination.

He said Iran's resilience had left the United States and the Israeli regime at a loss over how to proceed, adding that their repeated attempts to force Iran into submission through threats and military action would fail. ▸ Page 2

Iran asserts control over Strait of Hormuz, outlines vision for regional security

TEHRAN — Iran has emerged as a new global power center through its control over the Strait of Hormuz, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Ali Abdollahi said, describing the strategic waterway as a key source of the country's influence and a factor reshaping the global balance of power. ▸ Page 2

Gharibabadi: Iran ready for any scenario as diplomatic exchanges with US continue

TEHRAN — Iran is prepared for any eventuality as diplomatic exchanges with the United States continue through mediators, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said on Tuesday, stressing that Tehran remains ready to defend itself against further aggression while pursuing a diplomatic solution.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony unveiling annual reports on human rights violations in the United States and Britain, Gharibabadi said communications through mediators were ongoing, with Iran's seven-day proposal serving as the basis for resolving outstanding issues through Qatar's mediation. ▸ Page 2

Has Tucker Carlson nuked Trump's midterm elections?

By Muhammad Akmal Khan

ISLAMABAD- Tucker Carlson has warned of a possible American nuclear attack on Iran, but the political bomb he has dropped may have landed much closer to home, on Donald Trump's Republican Party. His extraordinary warning, issued just hours before the November 3 midterm elections, raises a question that goes beyond another military confrontation: could a prominent conservative commentator be challenging Trump's political credibility at the most sensitive moment for his party?

Carlson claims that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pressing Trump to authorise a nuclear strike against Iran's underground Pickaxe Mountain facility, and that a decision could come by November 7. The allegation remains unverified. Yet its timing is politically significant. By raising the prospect of a post-election nuclear decision before Americans vote, Carlson has brought a potentially consequential foreign policy issue into the final hours of the campaign. ▸ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Shadow of Hormuz Strait on US midterm elections

Kayhan argued that issues related to Iran and the Strait of Hormuz have become a significant factor in the American midterm elections. According to the newspaper, the elections are taking place at a time when economic concerns linked to regional tensions are attracting considerable public attention in the United States. Based on polling trends, the paper suggested that Democrats are likely to secure a majority in the House of Representatives. It said that one of their strongest advantages against President Trump is what it describes as his failure to confront Iran. The article further argued that the continued pressure associated with developments around the Strait of Hormuz has affected economic conditions and living costs in both the United States and Europe. As a result, the paper maintained that Iran-related developments have turned into one of the central political issues influencing public debate and voter behavior during the election season.

Iran: Tehran's appropriate approach to new conditions

The Iran newspaper examined the country's position within a rapidly changing regional order. It argued that recent developments, particularly the conflicts that have reshaped regional dynamics, demonstrate the need for a reassessment of Iran's role and responsibilities. According to the article, making effective use of Iran's geopolitical advantages, reinforcing strategic partnerships, and expanding cooperation with regional and international actors could help strengthen national interests and preserve the country's influence. The paper emphasized Iran's strategic location, especially its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz, as well as the importance of diversifying trade and transit routes. It also highlighted stronger diplomatic and economic engagement as essential tools for maintaining influence. However, the article stressed that successfully using these opportunities requires a precise understanding of structural changes occurring across the region and the adoption of policies that reflect new political realities and evolving balances of power.

Khorasan: Smart nuclear approach needed

In an article, Khorasan discussed the debate surrounding the possibility of Iran developing a nuclear weapon. The newspaper argued that Iran's rivals carefully monitor any activity related to weapon production or highly enriched uranium and remain ready to respond to such developments. It suggested that potential vulnerabilities in security and intelligence structures could make any attempt at weaponization easier to detect. According to the article, this would reduce the risks associated with military action for Iran's adversaries and potentially increase the likelihood of preventive measures. The paper emphasized that the major issue is not the technical capability itself but the risks involved in pursuing such a course under current conditions. It therefore advocated strategic patience, arguing that restraint can increase uncertainty for opponents while preserving future options. In the newspaper's view, patience serves as a more effective approach than rushing toward a decision that could significantly raise tensions.

Jam-e-Jam: We have won the cognitive war

Jam-e-Jam focused on what it described as Iran's success in the field of cognitive warfare against the United States and Israel. The newspaper argued that influence over public opinion, political perceptions, and security calculations has become one of the most important dimensions of modern conflicts. According to the commentary, signs of uncertainty, division, and political disagreement can be observed within both American and Israeli societies. The paper said that these developments are reflected in political debates, election discussions, and public opinion trends. It also argued that Iran's performance in military, psychological, informational, and economic arenas has contributed to growing doubts among its enemies. The article maintained that disagreements over future policies, concerns about regional confrontations, and debates surrounding political leadership all indicate the effectiveness of Iran's approach. Consequently, it concluded that Iran has so far achieved a meaningful victory in the cognitive and psychological aspects of the broader confrontation.

Resalat: The West must become disappointed with Iran

Resalat addressed the long-standing tensions between Iran and the West. The newspaper argued that this dispute cannot be resolved either through Iranian surrender or through the expectation that Western powers will fundamentally alter their behavior. Instead, it maintained that meaningful change will occur only when the West concludes that Iran cannot be compelled to submit through economic pressure, military force, political influence, psychological campaigns, or other forms of coercion. According to the article, Iran should reach a position where its existence, interests, and independence are accepted as undeniable realities. The newspaper suggested that Western governments must ultimately recognize that they cannot eliminate Iran, absorb it into their preferred political framework, or break its political will. Once that understanding takes hold, the paper argued, relations could gradually move away from a model based on pressure and domination and toward a more stable framework grounded in pragmatic calculations, mutual recognition, and acceptance of political realities.

Qalibaf warns of unpredictable response to US aggression

From page 1 ▸ Referring to the military strategy determined by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, Qalibaf said Iran's Armed Forces were prepared to respond decisively to any potential attack.

"Our military and strategic response to any miscalculation by the enemy will be unpredictable," he warned, adding that Iran would not restrict its response to geographical boundaries and would undermine its adversaries' calculations and their material and non-material assets.



Qalibaf said Iran had delivered a firm and rational response to Washington, leaving the responsibility for preventing another war with the US government. He warned that any further strategic miscalculation would confront Washington with a new battlefield and leave it more desperate to find a way out.

He also stressed that national unity and cohesion were Iran's strongest assets in confronting future threats, describing them as the most effective means of deterrence. He dismissed suggestions of a lack of coordination among Iranian officials, saying the country's institutions were working together across military, diplomatic and public-service fronts.

Turning to domestic concerns, Qalibaf acknowledged the mounting pressure of inflation and price fluctuations on households. He said inconsistent pricing and inadequate market supervision had created opportunities for profiteering and exploitation of wartime conditions.

The speaker also raised concerns over prolonged queues of export, import and transit trucks at several border crossings, particularly in northwestern and southeastern Iran.

Iran asserts control over Strait of Hormuz, outlines vision for regional security

From page 1 ▸ In a message marking the National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance, Abdollahi said the confrontation between Iran and the United States had evolved beyond a military conflict, with broader implications for the international order.

He identified the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy chokepoint, and Iran's ability to determine the rules governing access to it as central to the country's growing strategic influence.

Abdollahi stressed that Iran did not seek war and regarded military power as a means rather than an end. He said the country's military doctrine had evolved from defense to offensive initiative and from crisis management to shaping a new regional order.

Five principles for lasting security

Outlining Iran's approach to lasting security, the general set out five principles, beginning with an end to the war on all fronts, particularly in Lebanon and Gaza. He said negotiations conducted alongside threats amounted to coercion rather than genuine diplomacy.

The other principles included the complete removal of sanctions and the release of Iran's frozen assets; compensation for the wars imposed on the country; recognition of Iran's sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz; and the establishment of indigenous security arrangements across West Asia.

On compensation, Abdollahi emphasized that Iran was a claimant, not a debtor. He also called for replacing the US security umbrella in the Persian Gulf with a "Hormuz mechanism," an arrangement grounded in regional security.

He said the five principles did not constitute a peace proposal made from a position of weakness, but rather a doctrine for shaping a new regional order from a position of strength and active resistance.

Military readiness and deterrence

Reaffirming the Armed Forces' readiness to confront threats, Abdollahi said intelligent military preparedness, supported by popular backing, was essential to achieving



maximum deterrence.

He warned that Iran was updating its target bank and bringing the material and non-material assets of its US and Israeli adversaries within range. Any threat, regardless of its nature or scale, would be met with an immediate and effective response, he said, adding that such a response would not be constrained by geographical boundaries.

Abdollahi reaffirmed the Armed Forces' commitment to the directives of the Commander-in-Chief, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei.

Gharibabadi: Iran ready for any scenario as diplomatic exchanges with US continue

From page 1 ▸ He said Tehran had received responses to the proposal and that a diplomatic understanding could be reached if Iran's requirements were met.

Gharibabadi stressed that Iran had neither sought nor initiated the war imposed on the country. If Washington was serious about pursuing a diplomatic solution, it must adhere to the conditions Iran had clearly outlined, he said.

Referring to incidents reported on Qeshm Island on Monday night, the deputy foreign minister said Iran remained in a state of war and considered the aggression against it ongoing. He described this as an important legal point, emphasizing that Iran retained its right to legitimate self-defense until the military aggression had ended completely and permanently.

Reaffirming Tehran's commitment to negotiations, Gharibabadi said Iran was pursuing diplomacy with full awareness of the lack of trust in the United States. He warned that if Washington chose another course, Iran would respond resolutely to defend itself.

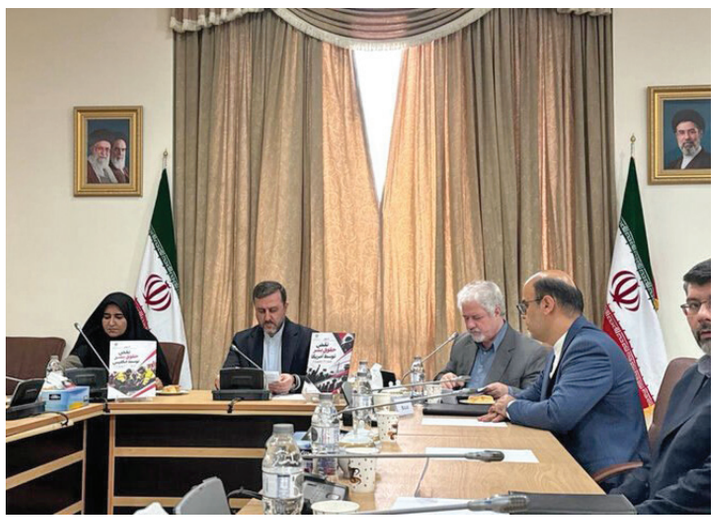
He also said Iran did not link its foreign policy to elections in other countries, describing the US midterm elections as an internal matter for Washington. Tehran was neither waiting for the outcome nor adjusting its policies accordingly, he added.

Iran questions US and British human rights record

At the same ceremony, Gharibabadi said the United States and Britain lacked the legitimacy to comment on human rights, citing widespread violations of the rights of their own citizens and people in other countries.

The annual reports, prepared by the Foreign Ministry in accordance with a resolution passed by the Iranian Parliament, examine human rights developments in both countries from September of last year through the current year. The report on the United States is more detailed, he said.

Gharibabadi said both governments must be held accountable by the international community and their own populations for human rights violations. He rejected any suggestion that Britain's record was less serious than that of the United States,



saying Washington was at the forefront of human rights violations worldwide.

He pointed to abuses involving prisoners' rights, freedom of expression, discrimination and racism, the treatment of immigrants, poverty and inequality in the United States.

The deputy foreign minister also criticized Washington's withdrawal from the Human Rights Council, saying it had done so in defense of the Israeli regime. He argued that the United States was increasingly evading accountability as its human rights violations mounted.

Gharibabadi said the reports were being released at a time when the United States continued to violate human rights in its dealings with independent nations, while Britain committed widespread abuses despite presenting itself as a champion of human rights.

He said the two countries should address their own records before presuming to lecture others on human rights.

US has failed to achieve its goals against Iran: VP

TEHRAN – The United States has failed to achieve any of its objectives against Iran, even through direct military aggression, First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref said on Tuesday.

Speaking during a visit to the National Cartographic Center, Aref said Washington had been unable to achieve its goals against Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, including through its latest military aggression against the country.

He praised the Iranian people's strong participation during and after the war, describing the country's human resources as its greatest asset and a cornerstone of future development planning.

Aref also paid tribute to the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, saying his legacy had contributed to the resilience and solidarity evident in Iranian society. He noted that nightly public gatherings had continued for more than eight months, sustaining the enthusiasm and spirit of unity witnessed at their outset.

Referring to November 4, Iran's National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance, Aref



reviewed developments since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He said foreign powers had initially expected the Revolution to be absorbed into the existing political order but had subsequently sought to undermine the newly established system through coups, conspiracies and the imposed war.

Aref said the Iranian people's unity, courage and active participation had repeatedly thwarted these efforts, demonstrating the country's resilience in the face of external pressure.

Three oil tankers explode and catch fire in Strait of Hormuz: IRGC Navy

TEHRAN – Three oil tankers exploded and caught fire after entering an unauthorized route through the Strait of Hormuz and striking sea mines, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the IRGC Navy said the incidents occurred in the early hours of the day, with the explosions and subsequent fires illuminating the night so intensely that fishermen in the eastern part of the strait could see the glow.

The statement said the tankers had switched off their navigation and identification systems before attempting to transit the strategic waterway via unauthorized routes. They subsequently struck sea mines, exploded, and caught fire off the southern coast of the strait, it added.

The IRGC Navy said Iranian regulations governing passage through the strait had been repeatedly communicated to all vessels through radio broadcasts and official notices.

It warned that vessels disregarding the regulations and cooperating with the US military in transiting unauthorized routes would face similar incidents.

The statement concluded that the situation in the Strait of Hormuz should be assessed based on developments on the ground, rather than what it described as archival footage circulated on social media by the CENTCOM commander, a terrorist commander.

Operation Midterms Hammer

The Iran war comes home to hit Trump at the ballot box

From Page 1 ▶ The latest numbers offer little comfort to the White House. A Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on November 2 put Trump's approval at 32 percent, close to the lowest level of his political career. Democrats led Republicans by 46 percent to 38 percent on the generic congressional ballot. Half of independent voters said their vote was intended to oppose Trump, compared with just 13 percent who said it was intended to support him.

The economy, meanwhile, remains the central concern for voters. The same poll found that 78 percent considered the cost of living a very important or top issue in deciding their vote. That is where the Iran war becomes especially damaging for the administration: even voters who do not follow developments on the battlefield are feeling the consequences of a conflict that has disrupted energy markets and contributed to the pressure on household budgets.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs found in its 2026 survey that 86 percent of Americans believed the war with Iran had been bad for the cost of living in the United States. More broadly, 68 percent said the war had not been worth fighting, compared with 31 percent who considered it worthwhile. Among independent voters, opposition to the war was particularly pronounced, with 76 percent saying its costs outweighed its benefits.



In other words, the war may not be the first issue voters mention when asked what matters most to them. But it has become part of the economic reality shaping their decisions.

That distinction matters. Elections are rarely decided by foreign policy in isolation. They are decided by the price of groceries, the cost of filling a car's tank, the security of employment and the general sense of whether a government is making people's lives better or worse. A war that pushes up those costs can become a domestic political problem even for voters who have little interest in the details of military operations thousands of miles away.

The administration's own political calculations appear to reflect this reality. A Reuters investigation in September reported that senior Trump aides were seeking to prevent the Iran conflict from escalating ahead of the midterms, fearing that a renewed military confrontation could deepen Republican electoral losses. One White House official was quoted as saying: "November is a priority." The administration's apparent preference was to keep the conflict relatively contained until voters had cast their ballots.

There is something revealing about that calculation. If the war were the unqualified success its political advocates have portrayed, why would the White House be so concerned about its visibility during an election campaign?

The problem for Trump is not simply that the war has lasted longer than anticipated. It is that the administration has struggled to translate military action into a clear and convincing political outcome. The stated objectives have shifted, the timeline has repeatedly changed, and the promise of a quick resolution has given way to a conflict whose economic and strategic consequences remain difficult to contain.

For Republicans, the danger is that the midterms will become a referendum on the gap between Trump's promises and the realities of his presidency. The president himself is not on the ballot, but his policies, decisions and public statements are. With the party defending narrow congressional majorities, even modest shifts among independent voters and disillusioned Republicans could prove consequential.

There is, of course, no guarantee that the Iran war alone will determine the outcome. Domestic issues, candidate quality, turnout and the broader political climate all matter. Nor does every American who opposes the war necessarily intend to vote against the president's party. But the available polling suggests that the conflict has become one more burden for Republicans to carry into an already difficult election.

The tolls of war are now being collected at the polls.

Operation Midnight Hammer was meant to send a message to Tehran. Operation Midterms Hammer may deliver a very different message to Washington: military power can destroy targets abroad, but it cannot shield a government from the political consequences of its decisions at home.

And unlike the bombs dropped on Iran, this one will be delivered by voters.

Has Tucker Carlson nuked Trump's midterm elections?



From Page 1 ▶ The identity of the messenger matters as much as the message. Carlson is not a Democratic politician or a conventional liberal critic of Trump. He was once among the most influential supporters of the conservative movement that helped bring Trump to power. His audience includes Americans attracted by Trump's promise to avoid costly foreign wars.

A similar warning from a Democratic leader might be dismissed by Republican voters as electioneering. Coming from Carlson, it raises a more uncomfortable question: is Trump moving towards the kind of military intervention he once promised to avoid?

Carlson does not need to establish that a nuclear decision has already been made for his warning to become politically relevant. It is enough to introduce uncertainty about Trump's intentions. Whether that uncertainty changes votes is another matter, but it creates a controversy Republican candidates must confront.

The electoral context makes this particularly important. A Reuters/Ipsos survey completed on October 26 put Trump's approval rating at 32 percent. Among registered voters, Democrats led Republicans by 47 to 36 percent in preferences for congressional control. The survey also identified widespread dissatisfaction with the cost of living.

Midterm elections are shaped not only by voters switching parties but also by turnout. A conservative unhappy with the possibility of another war may remain Republican yet feel less enthusiastic about voting. Conversely, the warning could motivate voters who favour a tougher policy towards Iran or regard Carlson's allegations as an attempt to undermine Trump.

There is also a contradiction between Carlson's warning and Trump's own statements. In an October 15 interview, the president explicitly rejected using nuclear weapons against Iran, saying, "I wouldn't use nuclear. We don't have to." He nevertheless discussed the possibility of further military action against Pickaxe Mountain. Carlson's allegation therefore raises questions about whether Washington's position has changed.

The proposed military objective deserves scrutiny. Carlson argues that the suspected underground facility is protected by rock too thick for conventional American weapons to penetrate. But even a nuclear strike would not guarantee the permanent destruction of Iran's nuclear capabilities. The depth and layout of the facility remain uncertain, while scientific expertise cannot be eliminated by bombing. The political and humanitarian consequences of crossing the nuclear threshold would be immense.

Washington also faces questions about its previous claims. After the June 2025 strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, Trump declared that the programme had been obliterated. Yet renewed military action followed in 2026, and further attacks are now being discussed. If earlier operations achieved their declared objectives, why is another strike necessary? If they did not, what guarantees would a nuclear attack provide?

Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear programme is intended for peaceful purposes and has rejected military threats as a means of resolving the dispute. From Tehran's perspective, the renewed discussion of attacks on nuclear facilities raises questions about Washington's commitment to diplomacy. Yet Carlson's intervention introduces another dimension: whether continued escalation against Iran is becoming a political liability for Trump within the United States itself.

The greater political danger for Trump lies within his own conservative movement. Carlson's warning directly challenges the president's promise to keep America out of costly foreign wars. It also raises questions about whether Netanyahu's demands are influencing Washington's decisions at the expense of American interests. For voters who embraced Trump's America First agenda, the possibility of a nuclear confrontation with Iran creates an uncomfortable contradiction.

Carlson's intervention could deepen existing divisions between conservatives who support military escalation and those who believe Trump has abandoned his commitment to avoiding foreign entanglements. Whether these concerns translate into lower Republican turnout or greater support for congressional oversight remains uncertain, but the warning has brought that disagreement into the final hours of the midterm campaign.

Could another attack nevertheless benefit Trump politically? Military operations can sometimes generate temporary public support when voters regard them as necessary and successful. Some conservatives may welcome stronger action against Iran. But a nuclear strike would be fundamentally different. Trump would have to explain why conventional force and diplomacy were insufficient, while confronting the possibility of regional retaliation, economic disruption and international condemnation.

Carlson has also placed Netanyahu's political interests at the centre of the debate. He alleges that the Israeli prime minister is pressing for escalation partly because of his difficulties following Israel's recent election. That interpretation remains Carlson's, not an established account of Netanyahu's motives. Even if renewed conflict offered Netanyahu a political advantage, it would not follow that the same decision served Trump's interests.

Carlson may be trying to prevent a nuclear decision by exposing alleged discussions to public scrutiny. He may also be challenging Trump's leadership. His precise motives cannot be established from the post alone. What is clear is that his warning has connected the possibility of nuclear escalation with an imminent American election.

The central issue is no longer only whether America might attack Iran. It is whether Trump's handling of that possibility is consistent with the promises on which he built his political movement.

On November 3, Americans will decide the balance of power in Congress. Carlson says a nuclear decision could follow by November 7. Whether his warning proves accurate or not, the proximity of those dates has made its political implications impossible to ignore.

Students who are martyred are never marked absent

Families of Minab's martyred students attend Tehran Students' Day gathering amid rain and missile damage

From Page 1 ▶ Although seeing the impact of the war, damaged streets and destroyed buildings was difficult even for the young attendees, one scene was particularly striking: students stood together, showing no apparent fear of rumors of further attacks and demonstrating their determination and resilience.

At the same time, the absence of children killed in the war was deeply felt. They would never return to their classrooms. They were the students of Shajareh Tayyebeh School in Minab. The presence of their bereaved families added a deeply human dimension to the gathering.

For many of those attending, the martyred Minab students were children who should have been sitting at their school desks, studying alongside their classmates. Instead, their families now attend gatherings where their children's places remain empty – an absence that neither the passage of time nor the end of a ceremony can erase.

One of the most moving moments of the gathering was a theatrical performance commemorating the martyred students. Its central message was simple but deeply powerful: "Students who are martyred are never marked absent."

The sentence transformed the familiar language of classroom attendance into an expression of remembrance and mourning. In an ordinary classroom, being marked absent means missing a day of school. But for children who have lost their lives, absence takes on an entirely different meaning. Through this simple distinction, the performance conveyed that these students remain present in the memories of their classmates and the wider community.

Another part of the gathering focused on a letter written by Alireza Bakhshi, a fifth-grade student, to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, and the response he received.

The exchange brought a student's voice into the public sphere and highlighted the significance of personal correspondence and a child's expression of affection at the gathering. In his response, the Leader addressed him as "My dear friend Alireza." The words deeply moved the young student and other attendees. The tears of joy among the students reflected their emotional connection with their young leader.

In the surrounding area, damaged buildings along Keshvar-Doust Street provided another visible reminder of the war's impact. The traces of missile strikes brought the reality of war beyond news reports and television images and into the city's everyday environment, where people live, walk and encounter the consequences of the attacks.

The rain, the grieving families, a student's letter and a sentence about classroom attendance formed four distinct images of the gathering. Together, they offered a picture of remembrance and solidarity, while also reflecting the profound sense of loss.

Students gathered at the patriotic students' assembly to reaffirm a commitment that extended beyond the ceremony itself: to remember the children who will no longer return to their classrooms, but whose names and memories remain alive among their classmates.

Tehran says US nuclear allegations are a pretext for pressure against Iran

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei has described allegations concerning Iran's peaceful nuclear programs as a fabricated pretext used by the United States to justify sanctions, economic restrictions and political pressure, stressing that Tehran will never accept diplomacy based on coercion, blackmail or unilateral demands.

Speaking at an event entitled "Confronting the United States: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" in Tehran on Tuesday, Baqaei said Washington's approach to Iran reflected a broader pattern of hostility rooted in decades of interference in the country's internal affairs.

He said no evidence had ever been presented indicating any diversion of Iran's nuclear programs towards non-peaceful purposes, despite years of repeated allegations. According to Baqaei, Washington has turned the nuclear issue into a major instrument of pressure against the Iranian people, while the narrative surrounding Iran's nuclear activities has become an established feature of US foreign policy, increasingly influenced by the Israeli regime.

The spokesperson argued that the confrontation between Tehran and Washington went beyond material interests, geopolitical rivalry and energy considerations, reflecting fundamentally different approaches to international relations, society and political philosophy.

Tracing the roots of US hostility to its role in the 1953 coup against Iran's democratically elected government, Baqaei said Washington had since pursued various policies aimed at weakening Iran and preventing it from developing its national capabilities and securing its rightful position in the international system.

He also drew parallels between current pressure campaigns and Britain's efforts in the 1950s to undermine Iran's nationalization of its oil industry, including referring the issue to the UN Security Council and portraying it as a threat to international peace and security. He said similar tactics had subsequently been employed against Iran over its peaceful nuclear programs.

Baqaei stressed that recognizing the historical roots of the confrontation did not mean rejecting diplomacy. Rather, he said, diplomacy remained an essential instrument for safeguarding national interests and should operate alongside Iran's defensive capabilities.

He accused Washington of using diplomatic engagement not to pursue genuine negotiations but to impose its demands, exert pressure and dictate terms, adding that even the United States' close partners were subjected to such an approach.

"The Iranian nation will never succumb to this approach," he said, adding that statements threatening to return Iran to the Stone Age further exposed the hostile nature of US policies.

Baqaei also said Qatar and Pakistan continued their mediation efforts between Tehran and Washington, while emphasizing that Iran remained committed to diplomatic solutions without compromising its national interests or accepting coercive terms.

He concluded that efforts to contain Iran through sanctions, political pressure and allegations against its nuclear programs had failed and would continue to fail, given the country's accumulated experience, capabilities and strength.

Imports through northern sea borders increase by 76%

TEHRAN- The Minister of Transport and Urban Development said: In the first six months of the year, despite the closure of the southern ports, a 76% increase in imports through the country's northern sea borders was recorded.

According to IRNA, Farzaneh Sadegh, on Tuesday session of the parliament during the review of the Civil Committee's report on evaluating the performance of the bodies responsible for border and transit crossings, with a focus on smoothing and facilitating the movement of the freight transport fleet, said: Due to the trade change and the event that occurred at the southern ports and the unjust siege that took place, the arteries of the country's foreign trade underwent a paradigm shift in light of these problems, and with this event and this increase in trade, thanks to the planning carried out at other borders of the country, the movement of goods was not halted even for an hour.

She added: Accordingly, with field synergy through repeated visits by members of the Civil Committee, road transport, and experts, deputies, and directors of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the Customs Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Planning and Budget Organization, supervisory and security bodies, and maximum accompaniment by the private sector, this was done at key terminals including Bazargan, Dogharoun, Rimdan, Vashmaq, Sarakhs, Nordouz, Razi, Tamarchin, Poldasht, and the northern ports.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development emphasized: The challenges we have at border terminals in the trailer and road sectors are not related only to this year, last year, and the past 10 years. Incidentally, because of these very challenges, the country's terminals and borders, in Article 57, Paragraph (A) of the Seventh Development Plan Law, with foresight and a vision aimed at solving the problems, a legal resolution was adopted regarding the formation of the Transit Headquarters.

Sadegh emphasized: These challenges have existed, and their most important issue is not unified management but integrated management, which was addressed in the Transit Headquarters.

Stating that the ministry is planning and taking measures to improve infrastructure and transport diplomacy in order to reform the processes that must be carried out, she said: In all the continuous meetings and follow-ups, especially those held by the Civil Committee, these issues were raised in detail, some of which were confidential. But they have been reviewed item by item in all committees.

The Minister of Transport and Urban Development emphasized: Despite all the problems we had at the southern ports and the siege that took place, a paradigm shift occurred with special orders from the President, and more than 85% of the entry and exit of goods that was through the southern ports was replaced at the borders separately.

Sadegh recalled: In the first six months of the year, despite the closure of the southern ports, a 76% increase in imports through the country's northern sea borders was recorded, a 41% increase in imports through road borders, and a significant increase in imports through rail origins. There was a 10% growth in exports from the northern ports, a 9% growth in exports through road border crossings, and a 53% growth in exports through rail lines.

Iran, Pakistan ministers stress facilitating goods transit, expanding trade cooperation

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Pakistan's Minister of Commerce, on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Istanbul, reviewed solutions for developing economic and trade relations between the two countries, facilitating goods exchanges, and removing transit obstacles at shared borders.

Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a meeting with Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of Commerce of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, emphasized the need to raise the level of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and facilitate transportation and goods transit processes.

At the meeting, while reviewing existing capacities for expanding trade exchanges, the two sides emphasized pursuing practical solutions to remove existing obstacles in the path of trade and goods transportation between Iran and Pakistan.

Reviewing the problems and obstacles to truck traffic at the Rimdan border, making more effective use of the Mirjaveh border's capacity, and providing the possibility of smoother movement and transportation of goods between the two countries were among the topics raised at the meeting.

The parties also emphasized the need to strengthen border infrastructure and develop the capacity of free zones and border areas with the aim of facilitating trade and increasing economic exchanges.

The continuous and coordinated operation of border customs offices and the improvement of executive mechanisms at the entry and exit points of the two countries were among the other axes discussed at the meeting.

At the meeting, the two sides emphasized that improving customs coordination and facilitating executive processes can help smooth the flow of trade between the two countries by reducing the time and cost of clearance and goods transfer. Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Pakistan's Minister of Trade also, referring to the economic capacities of the two countries, emphasized the need to increase the volume of trade exchanges, especially in the fields of agricultural products, foodstuffs, and other goods needed by both sides.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Vietnamese ambassador to Iran pays working visit to Kashan in Isfahan province

TEHRAN- On 31 October and 1 November 2026, Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran Nguyen Luong Ngoc paid a working visit to Kashan, Isfahan Province. During the visit, he met with Mr. Mojtaba Raei, the governor of Kashan, and toured local rosewater and carpet production facilities.

At the meeting, Mr. Raei described Kashan as an industrial center, particularly known for carpet manufacturing. According to figures shared during the meeting, Kashan has 12 industrial estates and approximately 1,700 carpet production facilities. Other local economic activities include industrial assembly, food processing, egg production and the cultivation of medicinal plants. The area also has a long tradition of rose cultivation and rosewater distillation, attracting tourists during the rose season in May and June. Kashan is also home to higher education institutions and numerous historic buildings.

Raei expressed his hope that the Embassy would help promote local businesses, facilitate business connections and encourage Vietnamese tourists to visit Kashan. The Ambassador spoke highly of Kashan's industrial and tourism potential and expressed his readiness to help identify partners and strengthen exchanges and economic cooperation between the two sides.

Kashan is a historic city in northern Isfahan Province. Among its notable heritage sites is Tappe Sialk, also known as the Sialk Hills, where evidence of human settlement dates back approximately 7,500 years. The site contains pottery, metal artefacts and architectural remains from ancient communities and was included on UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List in 1997. In 2025, Kashan joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of architecture.

Iran, Turkey agree to remove transit barriers, develop border cooperation

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Turkey's Minister of Trade, on the sidelines of the 42nd session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, reviewed solutions for developing economic and trade cooperation, facilitating truck traffic and the transit of goods and services, and removing existing obstacles at the shared borders.

Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a meeting with Omer Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Turkey, emphasized strengthening customs and border cooperation between the two countries.

At the meeting, the two sides agreed to establish a joint working group and hold continuous meetings among directors of border customs offices with the aim of reviewing, following up, and resolving executive and operational problems.

Facilitating truck traffic and drafting a timetable for the transit of goods and services between the two countries were among the other important axes of the meeting. The parties also emphasized the need for round-the-clock, 24-hour operation of border customs offices with the aim of increasing exchange capacity, reducing truck stoppage time, and accelerating trade processes.

At the meeting, the situation of the Bazargan border and the existing issues and problems at this important trade crossing received special attention. The Turkish side's ongoing plan to renovate and modernize customs offices and its impact on traffic and goods transit processes were also discussed and exchanged.

In this regard, the two sides emphasized the need for coordination to facilitate passage and prevent disruption in the flow of trade.

Activating and effectively using the capacity of other shared borders for the movement of trucks and passengers, as well as managing and facilitating the passage of sensitive consignments, were among the other topics raised at the meeting. The parties emphasized maximum use of the capacity of border crossings and the creation of necessary coordination to smooth traffic at these borders.

The formation of a joint working group for the two countries' free trade and industrial zones was also raised in the negotiations. In this area, the parties emphasized accelerating the review of documents and proposals related to this working group and preparing the ground for the start of its activities.

In another part of the negotiations, the problems and obstacles facing the activities of Turkish companies in Iran were reviewed, and emphasis was placed on the need to follow up and resolve the issues of these companies and provide suitable conditions for the continuation and development of their economic and investment activities.

At the end, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Turkey's Minister of Trade, emphasizing the importance of economic and trade relations between the two countries, stressed the continuation of dialogue, strengthening coordination among executive and customs bodies, and following up on agreements through joint mechanisms with the aim of facilitating trade, developing transit, and expanding economic cooperation.



Turkey became Iran's first export destination; positive trade balance of $654 million

Iran-Turkey trade in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 21), reached $7.914 billion with 10.3% growth; Iran's exports increased by 56.1%, and Turkey became the country's first export destination; imports declined.

According to a report by the Mehr News Agency, review of Iran's foreign trade statistics in the first six months of 1405 shows that the value of trade exchanges with Turkey rose from $7.173 billion in the same period last year to $7.914 billion. Accordingly, trade between the two countries increased by about $741 million.

This growth occurred while Iran's total foreign trade value decreased from about $54.666 billion in the first half of 1404 to $41.798 billion in the same period this year. On this basis, Turkey's share of Iran's total foreign trade increased from 13.1% to 18.9%.

Of course, the increase in Turkey's share is not solely due to growth in bilateral exchanges; the decline in the value of Iran's trade with other trading partners also contributed to raising this share.

One of the most important developments in Iran-Turkey trade in the first half of this year was the change in the composition of the two countries' exchanges in favor of Iran's exports.

In the first six months of 1404, Iran's imports from Turkey accounted for 61.7% and exports to Turkey for 38.3% of the value of bilateral trade. But in the same period of 1405, the share of Iran's exports increased to 54.1%, and the share of imports decreased to 45.9%.

A review of export details shows that the value of goods exported from Iran to Turkey rose from $2.744 billion in the first half of last year to $4.284 billion in the first six months of this year. Accordingly, Iran's exports increased by about $1.54 billion and registered 56.1% growth.

This performance occurred while the total value of Iran's exports in the same period decreased by about 25%, and exports to Turkey, contrary to the general trend of the country's exports, increased significantly.

On the other hand, the weight of exported goods to Turkey also rose from about 5.057 million tons to 7.172 million tons, indicating 41.8% growth. Also, the average customs value per ton of exported goods increased from about $543 in the same period last year to $597.

A comparison of these indicators shows that the main part of the growth in export value to Turkey was due to an increase in the volume of exported goods; estimates indicate that about three-quarters of the increase in export value is related to the growth in the weight of goods, and the remaining part is related to the increase in average unit export value.

On the other side, Iran's imports from Turkey in the first half of 1405 declined in value. The value of imports fell from $4.429 billion in the first six months of last year to $3.63 billion in the same period this year, equivalent to about $799 million and an 18% decrease.

However, a review of the weight of imported goods presents a different picture of the import trend. The weight of imports from Turkey not only did not decrease but increased from about 3.626 million tons to 3.81 million tons; thus, the weight of imported goods grew by 5.1%.

Along with the increase in weight and decrease in import value, the average customs value per ton of imported goods also fell from about $1,222 to $953.

This difference shows that a decline in import value does not necessarily mean a decrease in the volume of imported goods or a uniform drop in product prices, and a change in the composition of imported goods, including an increased share of heavier goods with lower unit value, can be effective in reducing the average value per ton.

Iran's trade balance with Turkey became positive

The combined increase in exports and decrease in imports caused Iran's trade balance with Turkey to become positive in the first six months of this year, after registering a significant deficit in the first half of last year.

Based on published statistics, Iran had a trade deficit of $1.685 billion with Turkey in the first half of 1404; but in the same period of 1405, this situation changed, and the two countries' trade balance reached a surplus of $654 million.

Accordingly, Iran's trade balance with Turkey improved by about $2.339 billion. Of this improvement, about $1.54 billion resulted from increased exports, and about $799 million resulted from decreased imports.

On this basis, about 66% of the improvement in the trade balance came from increased exports, and 34% came from decreased imports. Therefore, the growth of Iran's exports is considered the most important factor in turning the trade deficit into a surplus in exchanges with Turkey.

Changes in bilateral Iran-Turkey trade also changed Turkey's position among Iran's export destinations.

In the first half of 1404, Turkey was Iran's fourth export destination after China, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates; but in the first six months of this year, with increased exports to Turkey and decreased exports to the other three major destinations, Turkey rose to first place among Iran's export destinations.

According to customs statistics, the value of Iran's exports to China in this period decreased by 52.5%, to the UAE by 49.4%, and to Iraq by 30%. In contrast, Iran's exports to Turkey increased by 56.1% and reached $4 billion and 284 million.

As a result, Turkey's share of the total value of Iran's exports increased from 10.6% in the first half of last year to 22% in the first six months of this year.

Of course, Turkey's rise in rank is not limited solely to export growth to this country; the decline in exports to other major destinations also played a role in this ranking change—a matter that further highlights the importance of diversifying export markets and maintaining access to the Turkish market.

In total foreign trade as well, Turkey obtained the position of Iran's second trading partner. In the first six months of 1405, the UAE ranked first with $8.982 billion, and Turkey with $7.914 billion, and China with $7.808 billion took second and third places, respectively.

The gap between the value of Iran's trade with Turkey and China was only about $106 million; therefore, relatively limited changes in exchanges in later periods could swap the positions of these two countries.

In the import sector, Turkey also remains Iran's third import origin after the UAE and China.

Bazargan tops customs for exports to and imports from Turkey

A review of customs details of Iran-Turkey trade shows that Bazargan Customs was the most important point of registration for exports to Turkey. In the first six months of 1405, out of a total of $4,284,020,000 in Iran's exports to Turkey, $1,643,630,000 was registered at Bazargan Customs. Accordingly, Bazargan ranks first among export customs with a 38.3% share.

After Bazargan, Tabriz Customs with $293,880,000, Lamerd Special Economic Zone with $285,470,000, Rafsanjan Special Economic Zone with $266,860,000, and West Tehran Customs with $180,520,000 ranked next.

These five customs offices accounted for a total of 58.1% of the value of Iran's exports to Turkey, and the share of other customs offices was $1,795,660,000, equivalent to 41.9%.

In the import sector, Imam Khomeini Port Special Economic Zone, with $724,800,000, was the largest origin for registering imports from Turkey. After that were Bazargan Customs with $433,720,000, Tehran Customs with $348,380,000, Imam Khomeini Airport City Free Zone with $329,850,000, and Mazandaran-Amir Abad Free Zone with $228,650,000.

The total value of imports registered at these five customs offices reaches about $2,065,400,000, equivalent to 56.9% of Iran's total imports from Turkey. Other customs offices also registered $1,566,570,000, equivalent to 43.1% of imports.

The difference in weight and value of imports registered at different customs offices also shows that the composition of imported goods is not the same at customs origins; for example, the value of imports registered at Imam Khomeini Airport City is high compared with its weight, while at Imam Khomeini Port the weight of imported consignments is higher.

Sustainability of trade growth with Turkey depends on export diversification and infrastructure strengthening

The overall changes in Iran-Turkey trade in the first half of 1405 indicate the strengthening of Turkey's position in Iran's foreign trade; however, a review of the statistical details shows that to assess the sustainability of this trend, in addition to the value of exchanges, attention must also be paid to the composition of exported and imported goods, continuity of demand, and transportation capacities.

Therefore, although Iran-Turkey trade grew in the first half of this year contrary to the declining trend of the country's foreign trade, and the trade balance also changed in Iran's favor, maintaining these achievements will depend on removing trade barriers, diversifying exports, identifying goods effective in trade growth, and strengthening border infrastructure, especially at the Bazargan crossing.

Destroying south Lebanon with impunity

From page 1 ▶ Drones flew over Beirut's southern suburbs, a psychological escalation far from any front line. None of these locations is the supposed "pilot zone" that the Lebanese government signed up to in direct talks with Tel Aviv. The IOF is not even pretending to defend settlements in the north; it is punishing entire southern Lebanese communities.

The U.S.-brokered "framework agreement" signed on June 26 designated Zawtar al-Gharbiya, the twin village of Zawtar al-Sharqiya, as a pilot zone for gradual IOF withdrawal.

Residents returned; the Lebanese army deployed. But Zawtar al-Sharqiya, meters away, was explicitly excluded. The IOF remains there, and in the latest wave, it demolished houses and fired machine guns into the adjacent valleys.

The regime's military itself stated the area is "not part of the pilot area." Residents describe the dividing line between the two villages as "the Berlin Wall."

When displaced families returned to zones designated at Froun and Srifa, they found the IOF had never occupied those areas in the first place. The regime was credited with withdrawing from land it never held, while tightening its grip on the territory it occupied.

The pilot zone is not a step toward peace. It is a stage set and allows the regime to claim compliance while continuing to seize, demolish and empty the areas it intends to occupy. One village is made safe for the cameras. The next is bombed for control.

The framework agreement was not imposed on Lebanon from nowhere. Beirut chose to negotiate directly with an occupying regime and signed on to a mechanism whose terms were known in advance: no timetable, no binding Israeli obligation, no reciprocity.



In doing so, the Lebanese government lent its own signature to a process that has since been used to legitimize an open-ended occupation.

While Israeli violations are the primary fact, they were made easier by a Lebanese leadership that accepted a deal structured to fail and then watched the south burn while insisting the mechanism was working.

In the so-called pilot zones the small villages of Froun, Srifa and Zawtar al-Gharbiya, the Lebanese army was already present in Froun and Srifa, where there had been no IOF occupation to withdraw.

In Zawtar al-Gharbiya, the Lebanese army moved in after the IOF pulled back from the town center, though IOF troops remain on the outskirts. What the framework has actually produced is more demolished houses.

Lebanon has filed a formal complaint with the UN Security Council documenting thousands of IOF ceasefire violations. Beirut accuses the regime of clear violations of Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 war and requires IOF withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

No punitive action has followed. The regime operates with the confidence of a party that has learned that documentation without consequence is just paperwork. The pattern is now mechanical: the IOF strikes, Lebanon files, the Security Council adjourns. Impunity is not a failure of the system. It is the system working as designed.

The comparison is no longer rhetorical. Regime officials have invited it themselves: Defense Minister Israel Katz has described the demolition campaign in the south using the "Rafah and Beit Hanoun model in Gaza." Homes are being systematically destroyed to clear ground the IOF holds by force.

The scale differs; the logic does not. In both occupied regions, destruction is used as a tool of demographic pressure: to make life impossible and a return unthinkable. What is happening in southern Lebanon is not a security operation that got out of hand. It is a slow, methodical erasure conducted with the confidence that no one will stop it.

Since March 2, IOF attacks in Lebanon have killed 4,389 people and injured 12,428, displacing more than one million. In the latest wave, bulldozers in Zawtar al-Sharqiya destroyed homes while families stood and watched. That is the strategy: not a single massacre that would force the world to react, but a daily grind of destruction that the world can learn to ignore.

The June 26 framework agreement is not a neutral ceasefire. The agreement does not contain the word "withdrawal." It imposes no binding timetable on the occupying regime, grants it "considerable discretion" over any renewed occupation, and places every concrete obligation on Lebanon. Shortly after signing, Netanyahu and his ministers stated publicly that they had no intention of leaving Lebanon. As one analyst put it, the agreement "creates a structure that allows the Israelis to remain in southern Lebanon indefinitely."

The territorial ambition is not hidden. Katz has said that the IOF will hold Lebanese territory up to the Litani River indefinitely, roughly one-tenth of Lebanon, while Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared that "the Litani must become our new border with the state of Lebanon."

Beyond the military occupation lies a civilian ambition: a movement called Uri Tzafon, "Awake, North Wind", campaigns for permanent regime settlements in southern Lebanon. One of its founders described the sequence without euphemism: "The [IOF] goes in, conquers, and clears. And afterwards we must not withdraw, but settle."

The regime's campaign in southern Lebanon is not a response to Hezbollah fire. Hezbollah has not been striking. Not at the IOF in southern Lebanon or at the regime. It is not a defensive necessity. The Lebanese land being razed to the ground runs to the Litani. It is not a temporary measure. Israeli ministers describing it say so themselves.

What exists instead is a one-sided war against a captive population, conducted under the cover of an agreement Beirut should never have signed and Washington intentionally enforced. The "pilot zone" is a fig leaf. The UN complaints are filed and forgotten. The threats to seize Tyre, Sidon, and Nabatieh and blockade Beirut and Tripoli are not contingencies; they are announcements.

The legacy of strategic patience



From page 1 ▶ This does not mean that these institutions were immune to infiltration. Rather, the central point is that the accumulation of institutions and capabilities over many years enabled Iran to reach a stage where it could sustain confrontation, despite attacks and losses.

However, the policy of strategic patience did not leave behind institutional legacies alone. It also contributed to the emergence of a political current that believes in maintaining this policy and avoiding direct confrontation. This is based on the conviction that patience and negotiations may be less costly than war.

Consequently, the developments witnessed in the current Iran-US. confrontation place this political current before a difficult test. This is as realities on the ground undermine the belief that avoiding confrontation is the most effective option under all circumstances.

Under the circumstances faced during the leadership of Sayed Ali Khamenei, strategic patience was the fundamental approach for continuing the mission. However, when war becomes inevitable, confrontation and diplomacy must become the central approaches, rather than continuing to tolerate violations and acts of aggression.

The more this approach loses its influence over decision-making, the greater Iran's and the Axis of Resistance's ability to move from a policy of absorbing pressure, to one of imposing corresponding costs on their adversary.

Herein lies the paradox: the period during which institutions were established under the banner of strategic patience, may prove to be the very period in which these institutions are used to change the rules of confrontation. The institutions have developed the capacity to withstand pressure and operate under increasingly complex conditions.

Iran has not merely confronted the attacks; it has also adapted to the conditions of war and drawn lessons from the realities imposed by the confrontation. The significance of this lies in several interconnected areas. This includes the following: understanding the enemy's methods, such as how the United States and the Israeli occupation entity select their targets, determine the timing of their strikes and identify what they consider to be the centers of gravity. These are areas they believe the destruction will weaken or paralyze the resistance's ability to respond.

Protecting domestic capabilities: reassessing the means of protecting facilities and military, security and political centers, while addressing the infiltrations and vulnerabilities that may emerge during the confrontation.

Assessing the enemy's capacity for attrition: monitoring the volume of ammunition, resources and operational capabilities consumed by the enemy, as well as its ability to sustain mobilization, deploy forces and bear the associated costs.

Managing domestic resource consumption: balancing available resources against the demands of sustaining the war, and establishing priorities in a way that prevents Iran's capabilities from being depleted prematurely.

Strengthening domestic manufacturing: developing domestic manufacturing, production and replenishment capabilities, thereby giving Iran greater capacity to sustain the confrontation.

Distributing decision-making centers: strengthening the ability to make decisions and maintain operations even if certain leadership centers come under attack.

Military decentralization: distributing capabilities and responsibilities across multiple centers, ensuring that the targeting of a single location does not paralyze the entire system.

Rebuilding forces through accumulated knowledge: drawing on the information accumulated about the enemy's methods, strengths and weaknesses to rebuild and develop forces based on a realistic understanding of the nature of the confrontation.

Assessing potential targets: studying the types of targets that the enemy may seek to strike and preparing for the possibility of attacks by distributing risks. This is rather than assuming that military and political infrastructure will remain beyond the reach of targeting.

The significance of these factors lies in the opportunity they provide Iran to move beyond simply absorbing attacks and towards developing its methods of confrontation, based on practical experience. War does not merely expose weaknesses, it also reveals the extent to which each side is capable of learning, adapting and reorganizing its capabilities.

Living costs, housing, and employment uncertainty have united protesters across Europe

Countries across Europe have been swept by a wave of protests by young people angry at the spiraling cost of living who have little trust in traditional institutions, France 24 reported.

While local grievances have fueled the fire, the movements that brought hundreds of thousands to the streets of France, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Germany at the weekend are all linked by shared continent-wide issues such as sky-high housing costs, poor pay and the climate crisis.

School and university students have found themselves at the front line of these protests.

The spark was lit in mid-September, when French high school students took to the streets to demand better and more facilities, and an end to an opaque university admissions system.

"It's a European movement but France served as the catalyst," said Sylvain Boulouque, a historian of social movements.

After weeks of rallies, the French protests drew at least 550,000 people on October 17, with the largely peaceful demonstrations swiftly eclipsed by episodes of looting, arson and clashes with the police.

Four days later in Greece, more than 10,000 people rallied across several cities, with some bearing placards with slogans written in both Greek and French.

"The problems are shared between various European countries," insisted one protester, Filippos Armen, a physics student at Thessaloniki's Aristotle University.

Across the continent, many people have found themselves face-to-face with "a model that has run out of steam", said Belgian sociologist Geoffrey Pleyers.

"What they're being offered is, at best, a job, and for many, a precarious one," said the specialist in social movements at the Catholic University of Louvain.

At the same time, their studies no longer guarantee the standard of living their parents enjoyed, as a result of high housing costs and the risks linked to the climate crisis.

In many of the protests, as in Spain, Portugal and Greece, housing is "a central element" because it is directly tied to purchasing power and "an ever-more unequal distribution of wealth", the researcher added.

On the other hand, political scientist Mariam Martinez-Bascunan argued that "discontent is fueled more by uncertainty than by poverty".

Speaking to Spain's RTVE television, the professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid pointed to the "contagion effect" of images of protests in France and of tent encampments of housing rights activists in Portugal.

For Boulouque, "young people are acutely conscious of the weight of the debt and environmental problems" left by previous generations and have "the feeling of being sacrificed" as a result.

Boulouque, who also teaches in a high school, pointed to an unexpected side effect of the ban on mobile phones in French classrooms: "Students began to socialize again and lifted their heads to see just how far their working conditions have worsened".

In Germany, the possible reintroduction of military service at a time of tensions with Russia has also led many young people to join the protests.



Protesters march through the streets of Cologne. [Ina Fassbender/AFP]

The youth protests have struck a nerve with the wider public, at a time when Europe is gearing up for a wave of key elections in Spain, France, Italy and Greece over the coming year.

The French students were joined by the Yellow Vest movement, which organized a previous round of protests against the cost of living in 2018-19, while in Italy, drivers and farmers opposed to the high price of petrol joined the young demonstrators at Friday's rallies.

Another shared grievance is the widespread feeling of not being listened to, which is leading to an increasing "distance" and "dissociation" between ordinary people and the state, said Pleyers.

On top of that is the sense that society has become unequal and unfair.

"Young people whose parents live comfortably have a more comfortable life and, conversely, those who come from more precarious backgrounds have a much harder life today," Pleyers added.

What to know about the crisis around Poland's Constitutional Tribunal

Judges at Poland's Constitutional Tribunal are meeting Tuesday to decide its future, following the suspension of the court president in a dispute with the government and a battle over the future of the rule of law.

Protesters have gathered daily outside the court in Warsaw since the suspension of the tribunal's top judge, Bogdan Swieczkowski, who was appointed under the nationalist-conservative PiS party when it was in power 2015-2023.

The pro-European government of Donald Tusk accuses Poland's President Karol Nawrocki, who is aligned with PiS, of blocking judges elected by the parliamentary majority from taking up their posts at the tribunal, the Associated Press reported.

Swieczkowski has called his suspension a "coup d'etat."

On Friday, riot police encircled the building while the most senior of the newly elected judges announced Swieczkowski's suspension from inside.

Nawrocki, who was on a visit to Senegal, turned his plane around to return to Warsaw, joining the protesters outside the tribunal.

Here's what to know.

The current crisis around the Constitutional Tribunal is the latest round in a long-term battle between the pro-European government led by Prime Minister Donald Tusk and the main opposition party, Law and Justice (PiS), which seeks to return to power in elections next year.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israeli forces demolish five Palestinian businesses in West Bank

Israeli forces accompanied by heavy machinery raided the Haska Road area northwest of Hebron in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, demolishing five Palestinian-owned commercial businesses, local sources said.

Israeli forces routinely demolish Palestinian homes and structures on the grounds that they lack construction permits. Palestinian, Israeli and international rights groups say such permits are rarely granted to Palestinians, while Israeli settlement construction continues to receive approvals.

Nearly 750,000 Israeli occupiers live in 156 illegal settlements and around 360 outposts across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, according to Palestinian figures.

Palestinian estimates showed that Israeli occupiers carried out 1,369 attacks across



the occupied West Bank in October, up 111.6% from 647 attacks in September.

In June, 14 UN special rapporteurs warned that the sharp rise in violence by Israeli occupiers, with state support and complicity, posed an existential threat to Palestinian communities, Middle East Monitor reported.

SPORTS

Iran ready for AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran will play Pakistan in their opening match of the AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 qualifiers.

The young Persians are drawn in Group D along with Laos, Jordan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Iran will face Pakistan at the New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane, Laos on Nov. 11. Armaghan Ahmadi's side will also play Sri Lanka on Nov. 14, before facing Jordan and Laos, slated for Nov. 17 and 20, respectively.

The winner of the group will qualify for the AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027.

The mission to reach the AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 gets underway on Nov. 8 for the 35 teams in the 22nd edition of the Qualifiers.

The cast has been split evenly into seven groups to contest a single round-robin centralized league format until November 20, with only the winners advancing to the 22nd edition of the Finals in May 2027.

There, they join the nine AFC representatives from the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2026 who have automatically qualified: Australia, China, Japan, Korea Republic, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Among the hopefuls, 13 are aiming to qualify for the first time: Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chinese Taipei, Guam, Lebanon, Macau, Maldives, Mongolia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palestine, Philippines, Sri Lanka.

AFC postpones Saudi Arabia's 2027 Asian Cup

TEHRAN - Following extensive discussions and close consultation with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has confirmed that the upcoming edition of Asia's crown jewel, originally to be held from Jan. 7 to Feb. 5, 2027, will now take place from Dec. 23, 2027, to Jan. 21, 2028.

The Organizing Committee for AFC Asian Cup approved to reschedule the flagship national team tournament in light of the current exceptional circumstances arising from developments in the region, including substantial logistical complexities and travel disruptions. The new dates of the tournament will be presented to FIFA for approval.

Exceptional circumstances have been created for the organization and delivery of the Competition as originally scheduled, making the postponement necessary in the interest of all participating teams, officials, spectators and other stakeholders.

The AFC commends SAFF and the LOC for their commitment to delivering a world-class tournament for the Continent's players and fans. The AFC will continue to work closely with the LOC, Participating Member Associations and its valued sponsors and broadcast and commercial partners and all stakeholders to stage a showpiece befitting the stature and operational excellence synonymous with Asia's most prestigious men's national team competition, while minimizing the impact of the postponement.

Further updates will be communicated through the AFC's official channels.

Judo athlete Karimi wins silver at 2026 Youth Olympic Games

TEHRAN – Iran's Sobhan Karimi claimed the silver medal in the men's 81kg judo competition at the 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games after narrowly losing to Slovenia's Maks Cebulj in the final.

Karimi, Iran's sole representative in judo at the Games, put up a strong fight in the gold medal bout, but Cebulj edged him out with a single yuko score in a closely contested final to secure the gold medal for Slovenia.

Egypt's Aly Elramly and Bulgaria's Ivan Nikolchev claimed the bronze medals in the category.

Despite his podium finish, Karimi admitted that he was disappointed not to have won gold, having set his sights on the top of the podium.

"I am not that happy with this medal. I don't think it is very good. I'm not satisfied with silver because I wanted the gold medal. But thank God, I won silver and will return home with a medal," he said.

The young Iranian judoka described the competition as a valuable learning experience, particularly in dealing with difficult moments under pressure.

"It was a new experience for me, and it was a difficult moment. I learned how to find a better solution when I find myself in a difficult situation," Karimi added.

Looking ahead, he vowed to work harder and intensify his training in order to improve his performance and achieve greater success in future competitions.

"I am going to work harder and train more to become better. I want to return to my hometown and celebrate with my family because they have supported me a lot," he said.

Karimi also revealed that he had switched off his mobile phone before the competition to avoid distractions and remain fully focused on his performance.

"I turned off my cell phone because I didn't want to talk to anyone. I wanted to concentrate on my match," he concluded.

Former Iran captain Hassan Habibi dies

TEHRAN – Hassan Habibi, former captain and head coach of Iran's national football team and former coach of Pas football club, passed away in Tehran after a prolonged illness.

Habibi, one of the most influential figures in Iranian football, was the first captain to lead Team Melli to the AFC Asian Cup title in 1968. Widely respected for his leadership, dignity and professionalism, he passed away just one day after the death of former Iranian footballer Hamid Alidoosti.

Habibi rose to prominence during the emergence of modern football in Iran. As a captain and natural leader, he played a significant role in guiding a generation of young footballers who went on to shape the future of the national team.

Many of these players came from the Charsad Dastgah neighborhood in southern Tehran, which at the time supplied a large number of players to the national team. They were later divided between two of Iran's most prominent clubs, Taj (now Esteghlal) and Pas Tehran, and went on to achieve major success in domestic and international football.

Habibi also served as head coach of Iran's national team during the qualifying campaign for the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Although Iran secured qualification under his leadership, the team ultimately did not participate in the final tournament following the country's decision to boycott the Games.

At club level, Habibi also coached Esteghlal and Pas Tehran, leaving his mark on two of the most historic clubs in Iranian football.

During his playing career, Habibi was a commanding and uncompromising central defender, renowned for his strength, authority and leadership. His natural captaincy and commanding presence made him a respected figure in every team he represented.

He was also the first Iranian football coach to obtain an international coaching qualification, marking an important milestone in the development of coaching standards in the country.

Habibi is widely regarded as one of the ten most influential figures in the history of Iranian football. His contribution to the game spanned nearly four decades, during which he played an important role as a player, captain and coach.

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

Iran, India explore reviving historic Spice Route



TEHRAN - Iran and India are exploring new cultural, tourism and economic cooperation through an initiative to revive the historic Spice Route, with Kerman province emerging as a focal point for the proposed partnership.

Proposals include holding a joint meeting between Iranian provincial officials and Indian diplomatic representatives in Kerman, inviting Indian officials to the 18th Iran festival of nomadic and regional music, and establishing a sister-city relationship between Mahan in Kerman province and Bidar in India's Karnataka state.

Mohammad Jahanshahi, an official with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, told the Tehran Times on Tuesday that the proposals were discussed at a meeting between Kerman Chamber of Commerce officials and Rajesh Poonappa, second secretary for commercial and cultural affairs at the Indian Embassy in Iran.

Jahanshahi said the meeting focused on advancing the Spice Route initiative and exploring shared capacities for developing cooperation in historical, cultural, tourism and economic fields.

He described the historic commercial route as a potential platform for broader bilateral engagement, saying its significance extends beyond its historical background and could contribute to a new framework for relations between the two countries.

"Historical corridors and routes can serve as platforms for developing relations and interaction between countries," Jahanshahi said, adding that the Spice Route could play a similar role in Iran-India relations.

He also highlighted the longstanding connections between the two civilizations, saying historical evidence points to at least 5,000 years of interaction between Iran and India.

According to Jahanshahi, Kerman has several historical assets that could help promote the initiative, including the Hindu Caravanserai in the city's historic bazaar. The building is regarded as evidence of the commercial and cultural links between the two countries and could provide a setting for interpreting their shared heritage.

Efforts to advance the initiative

Jahanshahi said several measures have been taken in recent years to advance the Spice Route initiative, including the establishment of a national Spice Route secretariat at the Kerman Chamber of Commerce.

Tourism rallies between Kerman and India and food tourism festivals organized under the Spice Route theme have also been held as part of efforts to develop the initiative.

The proposal has additionally been presented to Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and introduced to India and other BRICS members at a meeting in Jaipur, Jahanshahi said.

He described these activities as preliminary steps toward establishing broader cooperation along the proposed route.

At the recent meeting, Kerman officials also called for a joint gathering involving Indian embassy representatives and provincial authorities. The proposal received a positive response from the Indian side, he said.

Seyyed Mehdi Tabibzadeh, head of the Kerman Chamber of Commerce, invited Indian diplomatic officials to visit the province and outlined its economic and commercial capacities. He also expressed Kerman's readiness to expand bilateral relations and pursue the Spice Route initiative through its historical and cultural assets.

Proposal for an Indian consulate in Kerman

Another proposal raised during the meeting was the establishment of an Indian consulate in Kerman.

Jahanshahi said participants suggested that the consulate could symbolically be based at the Hindu Caravanserai in the city's historic bazaar, turning the heritage structure into a symbol of the longstanding cultural and historical ties between Iran and India.

The proposal was discussed as part of broader efforts to strengthen diplomatic, commercial and cultural engagement between the two countries.

Indian participation in regional music festival

The 18th Iran festival of nomadic and regional music was also discussed during the meeting, given the Spice Route's role as one of the festival's principal themes.

Jahanshahi said six foreign countries have been invited to participate in this year's festival. Pirooz Arjmand, secretary of the event, formally invited Indian embassy officials to attend the cultural and musical gathering.

The festival is expected to provide an opportunity to highlight the historical connections between Iran and India through music and cultural exchange.

Talking about the sisterhood proposal, Jahanshahi said it aims to establish closer ties between the two cities and promote cooperation in cultural, tourism and economic fields.

He said the initiative is being pursued within the framework of the Spice Route project, with the goal of expanding people-to-people and institutional connections between Iran and India.

Diplomatic visit planned for December

Jahanshahi said Indian embassy representatives are expected to visit Kerman on Dec. 5-6, corresponding to the 14th and 15th of Azar in the Iranian calendar.

The planned visit is expected to focus on two main activities: attending the festival of nomadic and regional music and holding a one-day Spice Route meeting hosted by the Kerman Chamber of Commerce, with the participation of provincial executive officials.

Jahanshahi expressed hope that the meetings would help move the initiative beyond preliminary discussions and toward practical cooperation and implementation.

The proposed revival of the Spice Route seeks to draw on the historical commercial and cultural connections between the two countries while creating opportunities for contemporary tourism, trade and cultural exchange.

Maqbarat-o-Shoara: A literary sanctuary in Tabriz



TEHRAN - Nestled in the historic Sorkhab district of Tabriz, Maqbarat-o-Shoara, or the Mausoleum of Poets, is one of the city's most distinctive cultural attractions.

The memorial complex commemorates generations of Persian poets, mystics, scholars and prominent figures whose lives and works have contributed to Iran's literary and intellectual heritage.

Located along Seghatoleslam Avenue in the Sheshghelan neighborhood, the mausoleum stands east of the tombs of Seyed Hamzeh and Ghaem Magham. Beyond its architectural significance, it offers visitors an opportunity to explore Tabriz's deep literary roots and its longstanding role as a center of Persian culture.

The monument is also a reminder of the historical importance of Tabriz, a city that has served as a political, cultural and commercial hub throughout various periods of Iranian history.

A cemetery rooted in history

The precise date of the establishment of Maqbarat-o-Shoara remains unknown. One of its earliest recorded references appears in Nozhat ol-Gholoub, a geographical and historical work by Hamdollah Mostowfi. He mentions the cemetery in the Sorkhab district, one of Tabriz's oldest urban neighborhoods, alongside Charandab.

The burial ground, which was once known by several names, including Haziratoshoara, Haziratolghozat and Sorkhab Cemetery, remained in use for centuries. However, its historical fabric suffered extensive damage from military incursions, natural disasters and flooding.

The Ottoman attack on Tabriz toward the end of the 10th century AH was among the events that contributed to the cemetery's deterioration. Subsequent earthquakes, particularly those recorded in 1193 and 1194 AH, further damaged the site.

Despite the destruction, the cemetery's cultural significance endured. Efforts to preserve and revitalize the complex gained momentum in the 1970s. In 1971, following a newspaper competition to select an architectural design, the proposal submitted by architect Gholamreza Farzanmehr was chosen. Construction of a new symbolic monument subsequently began, transforming the historic burial ground into a prominent cultural landmark.

Resting place of literary figures

Maqbarat-o-Shoara is closely associated with some of the most celebrated names in Persian literature. Asadi Tusi, who lived from 999 to 1072, is regarded as the first poet buried at the complex.

Other distinguished figures associated with the cemetery include Khaghani, Qatran Tabrizi, Anvari Abivardi, Zahiroddin Faryabi, Homam Tabrizi, Falaki Shirvani and Shams al-Din Sajasi.

Although many original tombstones and burial structures have disappeared, their association with the site has secured its place in the cultural memory of Tabriz.

The burial of Mohammad Hossein Shahriar, one of Iran's most influential contemporary poets, further strengthened the mausoleum's literary significance. Shahriar, renowned for his Persian and Azerbaijani Turkic poetry, was the last poet interred at the complex. His presence has helped renew public interest in the cemetery and establish it as an important destination for literary enthusiasts.

A cultural stop in Tabriz

For travelers exploring Tabriz, Maqbarat-o-Shoara provides a compelling complement to the city's historic Grand Bazaar, the UNESCO-listed architectural masterpiece, and the celebrated Blue Mosque.

The mausoleum's striking contemporary architecture, historical associations and literary atmosphere make it an appealing destination for visitors interested in Iran's cultural heritage.

A visit to the complex offers more than an encounter with a monument. It provides a glimpse into the literary traditions that have shaped Tabriz and its identity over centuries, making Maqbarat-o-Shoara an essential stop for those seeking to understand the cultural character of northwestern Iran.

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Subject: Extended Tender Invitation – Meropenem Sodium Carbonate (1,000 KG)

We would like to inform you that the submission deadline for our tender for the supply of Meropenem Sodium Carbonate has been extended.

For further details, please refer to the link below:

https://www.owzan.com/tenders

Kindly submit your quotation and Proforma Invoice no later than 10:00 AM on 09 November 2026, either by email to

tender@owzanmarket.com

or in a sealed envelope delivered to the Security Office of Owzan Company.

Biosphere reserves showcase harmony between humans and nature

TEHRAN – November 3 is observed as International Day for Biosphere Reserves, highlighting the role of these areas as examples of harmony between people and nature. Biosphere reserves are valuable territories where biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, and the sustainable development of local communities are pursued together.

These areas serve not only as sanctuaries for plant and animal species and natural ecosystems, but also as settings for scientific research, environmental education, and the testing of nature-friendly approaches to development.

At a time when climate change, habitat destruction, and biodiversity loss have become major threats to life on Earth, biosphere reserves are gaining increasing importance. They demonstrate that nature conservation and the livelihoods and well-being of human communities can be pursued along a shared path.

International Day for Biosphere Reserves was approved at UNESCO's 41st General Conference in 2021 and was celebrated for the first time worldwide on November 3, 2022. The date was chosen to coincide with the 50th anniversary of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, launched in 1971 to promote a balanced relationship between people and the environment and to link scientific research with nature conservation and sustainable development.

Biosphere reserves were established under this programme, with the first sites joining the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 1976. They are defined by three main functions:

* Conservation: Protecting biodiversity, genetic resources, ecosystems, and natural and cultural heritage.

* Sustainable development: Promoting economic and social activities that are compatible with environmental protection and improving the livelihoods of local communities.

* Scientific and educational support: Conducting research, monitoring environmental changes, providing education, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience.

An important feature of biosphere reserves is their division into three main zones: a core area subject to the strictest protection, a buffer zone where environmentally compatible activities are permitted, and a transition area where human settlements and sustainable development activities take place.

The designation of this day aims to raise public awareness of the importance of biosphere reserves, showcase successful nature conservation initiatives, and emphasize the need for local communities to participate in sustainable land management. This is because environmental protection cannot be achieved solely by restricting human activities; it requires striking a balance between human needs and nature's capacity.



Iran's 14 biosphere reserves: invaluable natural treasures

With a rich history of nature conservation, Iran is home to 14 biosphere reserves, each representing a unique natural treasure.

The country's 14 reserves include Arasbaran, in the lush foothills of the northwest; Arjan and Parishan, in the southern Zagros region; Geno, known for its distinctive climatic conditions and varied elevations in the south; Golestan, a jewel of the Hyrcanian forests in the north; Hara, with its remarkable mangrove forests in the Persian Gulf; Kavir, with its vast and mysterious desert landscapes; Lake Urmia, one of the country's most prominent natural landmarks; Miankaleh, along the shores of the Caspian Sea; Touran, a habitat and refuge for the Asiatic cheetah; Dena, in the snow-covered heights of the Zagros Mountains; Tang-e Sayad and Sabzkouh, with their mountainous landscapes and abundant springs; Lake Hamoun, in the country's vast eastern region; Qamishlou and Dalan Kuh, in the heart of the central plateau; and Kopet Dagh, in the northeast.

These remarkable landscapes, ranging from the Hyrcanian and Arasbaran forests to the towering peaks of the Zagros and Alborz mountain ranges and renowned wetlands, provide vital habitats for a wide variety of plant and animal species and other components of biodiversity.

In recent years, efforts to protect this invaluable heritage have moved beyond conventional approaches to conservation, increasingly incorporating community participation, collective knowledge, and collaborative management. Smart habitat monitoring using camera traps and modern technologies is being combined with the restoration of damaged ecosystems based on indigenous knowledge, helping address the pressures facing natural environments.

As part of efforts to strengthen these mechanisms and improve the management of the country's biosphere reserves, a draft executive regulation on biosphere reserves has been prepared through a fully participatory process, nearly 50 years after the establishment of the country's first reserve. The draft is currently awaiting review and approval by the government's Legal and Judicial Commission.

As the country's first comprehensive set of dedicated regulations for managing biosphere reserves, the document aims to establish clear management mechanisms, improve coordination among relevant organizations, and strengthen local communities' participation. It also provides for the establishment of new biosphere reserves by the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, potentially expanding the country's capacity to protect biodiversity.

Iran's 14 biosphere reserves are more than geographical areas on a map. They are living symbols of the country's natural heritage and reminders that respect for nature, collective wisdom, and local community participation can help secure a future full of life and hope for generations to come.

Tehran, Baghdad consider ways to deepen academic, scientific co-op

TEHRAN – Iranian and Iraqi officials have discussed ways to strengthen academic and scientific cooperation, promote the exchange of specialized expertise, and expand partnerships between universities and research institutions in the two countries.

The discussions took place during an academic session titled "Horizons of Scientific and Professional Development," organized by the Association of Iraqi Graduates of Iranian Universities in Baghdad.

Iran's scientific counselor in Iraq, Mohammad-Javad Najafi, the head of Iraq's Center for Strategic Affairs, Salah Boushi, and a number of Iraqi graduates of Iranian universities attended the meeting.

The session provided an opportunity to explore avenues for closer academic collaboration and the exchange of scientific and professional experience.

Addressing the event, Najafi described the Iraqi graduates from Iran as valuable assets playing a key role in fostering scientific and technological collaborations, developing joint research projects, exchanging knowledge and experiences between the two countries.

The official urged the graduated students to maintain ongoing contacts with their respective universities in Iran.

For his part, Boushi expounded on the role of graduates from Iranian universities in the scientific and professional development of Iraq. He highlighted that the value of higher education is manifested through problem-saving capabilities, enhancement of organizational productivity and the provision of service to the society, noting that obtaining an academic degree serves as the initial step for developing competencies and acquiring professional skills.

The official also called it essential to benefit from scientific achievements of universities in major research project, and emphasized the need to boost synergy among higher education system, the requirements of labor market, and the country's development priorities.

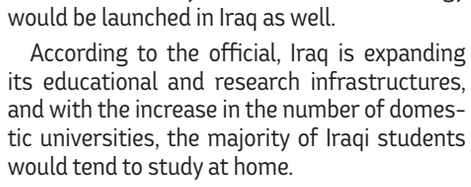
Also, Iraqi students shared their perspectives, concerns regarding post-graduate issues, and provided some suggestions.

Iraq seeks broader scientific ties with Iran

On October 20, Iraqi Ambassador to Iran Yasser Abdulzahra Al-Hajjaj stressed that scientific cooperation between the two countries should extend beyond student recruitment to include joint research projects, exchanges of professors and researchers, and stronger technological ties.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On October 18, Najafi, and Iraqi Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Haider Abd Dahed, discussed ways to strengthen academic cooperation between universities in the two countries, with a focus on problem-solving approaches and addressing domestic and regional needs.

Collaboration on problem-oriented research, the provision of scholarships, the facilitation of educational issues for students, and preparation for the 'Third Iran-Iraq Science Week' were the key topics discussed during the meeting, IRNA reported.

Iran explores opportunities to enhance sci-tech ties with Japan

TEHRAN – Iranian officials have discussed ways to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation with Japan through joint programs and greater use of their respective research and scientific capabilities.

During a meeting on Monday, Iran's newly appointed ambassador to Tokyo, Mohammad-Reza Nazeri, and head of the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, Amir-Hossein Mirabadi, explored opportunities to expand bilateral collaboration, Mehr News Agency reported.

The discussions focused on developing joint programs and making better use of the scientific and technological capacities of both countries.

Japan highlights boosting ties with Iranian universities

In January, Japanese Ambassador Tamaki Tsukada highlighted the importance of strengthening scientific ties with Iranian universities across areas, especially emerging technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and advanced materials.

Science and industry are the two main indicators of power in the 21st century, which play a critical role in scientific diplomacy, IRNA quoted Tsukada as saying.



He made the remarks in a meeting with Mahmoud Shokrieh, the chancellor of Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST). The ambassador said the scientific capabilities and capacities of Iran have never been truly presented to Japan, and that it is his main responsibility to do so. He also announced readiness to foster interactions between the IUST and Japanese universities.

For his part, Shokrieh elaborated on the University's achievements in science, research, and industry. He proposed exchanging professors and students, conducting collaborative educational courses and scientific projects, establishing joint laboratories, and cooperating in science and technology parks.

Referring to the consortium of the top five universities of technology in Iran, namely the University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Amirkabir University of Technology, Sharif University of Technology, and Iran University of Medical Sciences (called UT5), the official said the consortium can lay the ground for the expansion of scientific interactions between the best Iranian universities of technology and Japanese universities, which was well-received by the Japanese side.

In 2025, the deputy minister for information, communications, and technology (ICT), Ehsan Chitsaz, and the Japanese vice-minister for international affairs and communications, Imagwa Takuo, highlighted the need to expand technological cooperation in key sectors including artificial intelligence (AI), digital economy, and the development of sustainable communications infrastructure.

During a meeting held in Tokyo, the officials explored avenues to further enhance collaborations, IRNA reported.

Establishing the 'Iran-Japan digital innovation center', cooperating on policymaking for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, and platform regulation, as well as training experts in the digital economy through holding joint university courses were among the discussed topics.

Takuo, for his part, announced Japan's readiness to foster digital ties with Iran, saying that Iran is pursuing a digital transformation path focusing on local and long-term considerations. Japan supports this approach and is fully prepared to implement cooperation projects by evaluating Iran's constructive proposals.

The two sides also agreed to establish a joint executive working group to follow up on the implementation of the agreements reached.



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Volunteer veterinarians provide free services to villagers

A team of volunteer veterinarians has visited villages across Fars Province to provide free treatment and educational services, aiming to prevent livestock diseases, support farmers› livelihoods, and strengthen agricultural production in rural areas.

The initiative also seeks to raise awareness among local livestock owners about animal health and disease prevention, helping improve livestock farming and promote more sustainable rural livelihoods.

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NOVEMBER 4, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Often your utterances and expressions of your face leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:25 Dawn: 5:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:30 (tomorrow)

Iranian TV series 'The White and Red Cypress' wins at ABU Prizes



Mehdi Naqavian (L), head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) Sima Film Production Center, received the Best Screen Drama Award at the 63rd Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) General Assembly and Associated Meetings for the Iranian television series "The White and Red Cypress" on November 1, 2026, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

TEHRAN – Iranian television series "The White and Red Cypress" won an award at the 2026 Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Prizes.

The Iranian production, which depicts stories from the 40-day US-Israeli aggression against Iran, received the Best Screen Drama Award, IRNA reported.

The award went to the series' 11th episode, titled "Ancestral Hunt," directed by Mahmoud Karimi. It tells the story of a shepherd who shoots down an enemy drone using his Beretta rifle.

The award was presented to a representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on November 1.

Mehdi Naqavian, head of IRIB's Sima Film Production Center, received the award and highlighted the extraordinary circumstances under which the series was produced and broadcast.

"This series was produced and aired during the 40-day war waged against the people of Iran by the Zionist regime and the United States," Naqavian said.

"The reason for Israel and the United States' hostility towards Iran is that Iran wants to live independently and enjoy its freedom," he added.

Naqavian also expressed hope that the day would come when media organizations around the world could operate independently and freely.

"The White and Red Cypress" is an episodic drama series, with each instalment telling a standalone story connected to the 40-day US-Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28.

One of its most distinctive features is that filming took place while the war was still unfolding, with production continuing under wartime conditions and amid aerial bombardments.

The project brought together a number of Iranian directors, including young filmmakers, each responsible for directing an individual episode. The series began airing before the war ended and continued to be broadcast afterwards.

The second season was broadcast after the end of the war, while the third focused on the activities of Iran's Law Enforcement Command (FARAJA) during the 40-day war. The fourth season is currently in pre-production and is expected to enter production soon.

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) recognizes outstanding achievements in broadcasting, storytelling, creativity, and innovation across the Asia-Pacific region.

The prestigious awards honor broadcasters, producers, and creative professionals whose exceptional work continues to elevate industry standards, inspire audiences and demonstrate the power of media to inform, educate, and connect communities.

The ABU Prizes recognize excellence across a diverse range of categories, including radio, television, and digital media, highlighting the evolving landscape of broadcasting and the remarkable talent within the ABU membership.

This year's winning entries reflect the creativity, dedication, and technical expertise of broadcasters who continue to push boundaries and deliver compelling content. From impactful documentaries and engaging drama productions to innovative digital storytelling, the awards showcase the breadth and diversity of talent across the region.

Beyond recognizing individual achievements, the ABU Prizes serve as an important platform for encouraging innovation, promoting knowledge, sharing and strengthening professional standards within the broadcasting community.

As the media landscape continues to evolve, the ABU remains committed to recognizing exceptional talent, celebrating creative achievements and encouraging the next generation of broadcasting excellence.

'The Bridges of Madison County' audiobook released in Iran



TEHRAN- The audiobook of "The Bridges of Madison County," the bestselling novel by American author Robert James Waller, has been released by Avaye Chirok, a major institute that produces audiobooks in Iran.

Translated into Persian by Mansoureh Vahdati Ahmadzadeh, the audiobook features the voices of Bahman Vakhshour and Tahereh Rafat. The print edition of the novel was published in Persian by Afraz Publications.

First published in 1992, the novel tells the story of a brief but profound romance between Francesca Johnson, an Italian-American farm wife living in Madison County, Iowa, and Robert Kincaid, a traveling photographer working for National Geographic. Their four-day encounter in the 1960s brings together two people whose lives take an unexpected turn through their meeting.

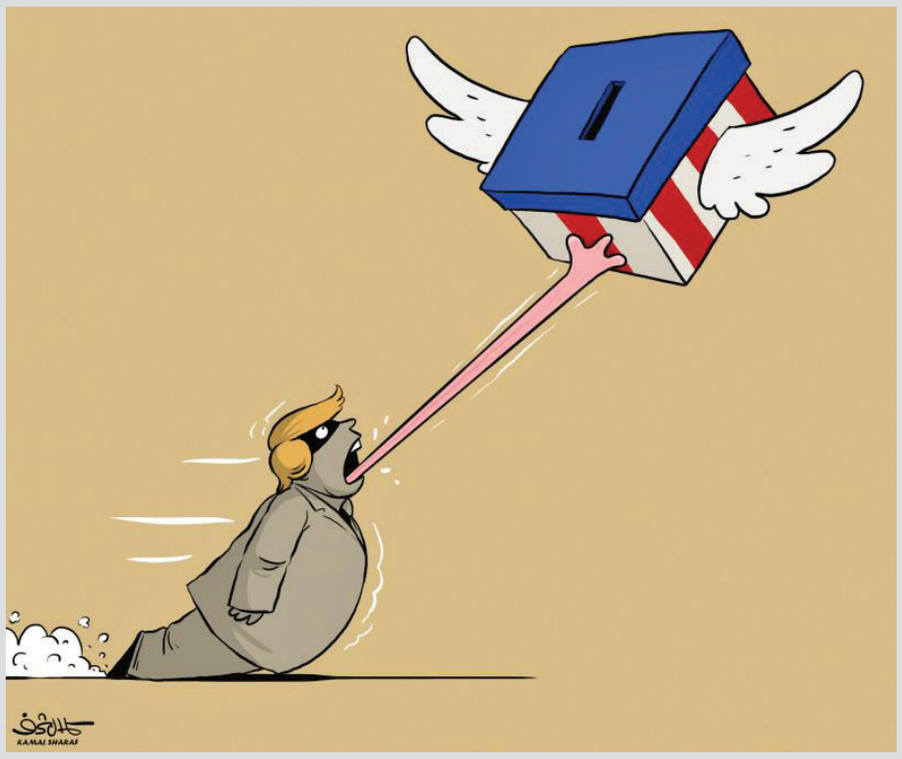
The novel explores themes of love, loneliness, personal sacrifice and the conflict between individual desires and family responsibilities. Its portrayal of an intense yet fleeting relationship has made it one of the best-known works of contemporary romantic fiction, with more than 50 million copies sold worldwide.

The story was adapted into a 1995 film directed by and starring Clint Eastwood, alongside Meryl Streep, further expanding the novel's international popularity.

Waller (1939–2017) was an American novelist, musician and university professor. He studied at Iowa State University and received a doctorate in business from Indiana University Bloomington in 1968. He later taught at Iowa State University, where he also served as dean of its College of Business. "The Bridges of Madison County" became his best-known work and a major international bestseller.

The audiobook, with a running time of five hours and 15 minutes, was produced by Bahman Vakhshour, with editing and sound design by Hasti Sadeqi.

Cartoon of Day



The Long-Tongue Campaign
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Musical composition by Iranian artists wins at Global Music Awards



TEHRAN – The musical piece "Nature's Enigma:706" composed by Pouria Ghelichkhani, with orchestral arrangement by Ahmad Mirmasoumi, has won a Silver Medal at the 2026 Global Music Awards in the US.

The composition has received the medal in the Best Cinematic New Age Music category, IRNA reported.

It should be noted that in the Cinematic New Age section of this competition, the silver medal is defined as the highest level of medal, and this achievement is actually considered the highest medal that can be received in this music category.

"The main idea and melody of this piece was born from the intersection of the anxiety of the war days with the continuous dance of the sea waves. The waves that come from afar touch the shore for a moment and before the shore gets used to their presence, they return to the sea's embrace and the shore is like a woman kneeling before the glory of the sea in the twilight of the silent and enchanted world watching it. The wind ruffles her hair on her face, but she continues to stare, and thus the name 'Nature's Enigma' was formed for this work," Ghelichkhani wrote in a post on social media on November 1.

"Continuing his path, Master Mir Masoumi, with his magical arrangement and musical vision and experience, gave the mystery of nature a new dimension and expression," he added. "We also sincerely thank the esteemed musicians of the work, especially Babak Riahipour, Ali Jafari Pouyan, Hamed Kermani, and Alireza Darya".

"And in the end, this award is dedicated to the great nature of our beloved Iran. To a land whose ecosystems are numbered, but which still hopes to hear its voice. Perhaps this piece is also an attempt in the direction of a concern that I have had with me for many years: the connection of art and the environment to convey the voice of nature to humans, sometimes through the lens of a camera, sometimes with a pen of erosion, and sometimes with the language of music," he noted. "The tools may change, but the mission is the same: to tell the story of nature before its voice is lost in the noise of the world".

Established in 2011, the Global Music Awards is a well-known international music competition which celebrates independent musicians. It is widely recognized by industry insiders as giving legitimacy to highly talented artists.

Iranian short film 'Pasta Alfredo' selected for Zaragoza Film Festival



TEHRAN- Iranian short film "Pasta Alfredo," written and directed by Leila Noee, has been selected to compete at the 31st edition of the Zaragoza Film Festival (FCZ) in Spain.

Produced by Seyyed Roham Rasouli, the film will screen at the international event, which is scheduled to take place in Zaragoza from November 19 to 28.

A 2025 production, the nine-minute drama shows Niloufar, a 14-year-old girl from a middle-class urban family in Iran, who is recovering from a serious illness—one that no longer confines her, yet has led her to withdraw from the outside world by choice.

Within a household marked by emotional distance—a restless mother, an irritable father—she longs to rekindle warmth and connection. On a quiet afternoon, she prepares a symbolic birthday party for her cat and cooks pasta, small gestures of care in a space that has forgotten tenderness. But as her gestures fade into silence, loneliness draws her deeper into the dark.

The cast includes Mohanna Seyyedi, Saeed Nejati, Sima Khanvakili, Barbod Farshidzadeh, and Mohammadreza Aryansadr.

Leila Noee is a filmmaker from Mashhad with a Master's degree in Media Management and a background in cultural journalism. For years, she worked as a writer and editor in the field of arts and culture, where her passion for human-centered storytelling—especially narratives involving children and adolescents—led her toward filmmaking.

After completing specialized training at the Soureh Film Club and the Iranian Youth Cinema Society, she embraced cinema as a medium to explore her social, cultural, and emotional concerns. Her films reflect a deep interest in everyday realities, emotional nuance, and the inner lives of young people. "Pasta Alfredo" is her second short film.

Founded in 1995, the Zaragoza Film Festival has developed into a platform for promoting independent, emerging and auteur cinema, bringing together filmmakers, film industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from Spain and other countries.

The festival focuses on supporting emerging talent and encouraging diverse cinematic perspectives through its various competitive sections and international programs.